

Note from the President

The mission of URISA BC is to be a primary forum for the geospatial community in British Columbia by providing education for professional development, networking opportunities and leadership to the community.

We have demonstrated leadership by coordinating with other organizations to grow the geospatial community. Our seminars have had an outreach component to encourage those who are not GIS professionals but need to use GIS technology to learn about GIS applications in such diverse areas as planning, transportation, asset management, and emergency response. Our December 2004 seminar on GIS in Planning and Transportation attracted 170 participants from the Planning and Transportation community. We intend to reach out to professionals involved in emergency response and public GIS at our June 2005 seminar.

The educational seminars attracted over 300 people over the last year. This is a testament that GIS professionals and those interested in GIS technology from diverse backgrounds are seeing URISA BC as a primary forum for geospatial technology in British Columbia.

In addition to the seminars, URISA BC's website allows members to stay connected. www.urisabc.org We provide several services for our growing geospatial community such as job postings and a newsletter.

Board members have created relationship with several professional organizations where there is a mutual interest in

developing the use of GIS technology. These organizations include PIBC, GITA, MISA, and GIACA.

URISA BC is fortunate to have highly dedicated board members that volunteer their time to lead our association.

This year URISA BC had a representation at the Geo Tec 2005 conference in Vancouver. Several participants signed up to be on our mailing list and expressed interest in GIS Certification. Further information on certification can be obtained from the two executive members that are currently GISCI certified professionals (see Certification section in this newsletter).

The knowledge and experience of its members are URISA BC's greatest assets. We hope that you will help spread some of that wealth by participating in chapter activities. I encourage you to become one of the "movers and shakers" for our geospatial community.

URISA BC can encourage our community to grow, but only if YOU, our members, participate in URISA BC activities and contribute your support. It is your participation that enables URISA BC and URISA International build a professional community. Here are some things you can do:

- Let URISA BC Executive know your opinions of our seminars
- Ask your colleagues to join URISA BC
- Attend URISA BC Board meetings and volunteer

My term as the URISA BC president will end as of August 30, 2005. As of September 1, 2005, Jonathan Mark, City of

Vancouver will be assuming the role of the President. I plan to remain on the board and make further contributions to the GIS community.

I want to thank the current URISA BC Executive and our membership for giving me great support during this year.

Gurdeep Singh
URISA BC President 2004-2005

URISA BC Seminar

Taking GIS to the Public

URISA BC is hosting a seminar entitled Taking GIS to the Public. The purpose of the one-day seminar is to showcase how GIS and other technologies are being used for public participation and in emergency situations. The seminar is made up of two tracks; GIS for the Public and Emergency Response.

GIS for the Public: GIS for the Public is the topic of the first four presentations of the day. Two municipal presentations focus on how GIS is used to enhance other municipal web-based applications. These are followed by two provincial presentations on publicly-accessible land and map repositories. Attendees should be able to gather a number of ideas about how GIS can play a role in disseminating a variety of forms of information. The underlying data and technology used will be highlighted.

GIS and Emergency Response: GIS and Emergency Response is the topic for the final five presentations of the day. The presenters bring several different perspectives from provincial, municipal, and

private sectors. Again, participants will be exposed to a variety of uses of GIS and mapping technologies, all focused on improving our ability to respond to emergency situations of different types.

Seminar Sponsors





Out there with you.



www.esricanada.com



GLOBAL CADD SYSTEMS



INTEGRATED LAND AND RESOURCE REGISTRY



URISA's Exemplary Systems in Government (ESIG) Award

The EXEMPLARY SYSTEMS IN GOVERNMENT AWARDS, inaugurated in 1980 by the

Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, recognize extraordinary achievement by government agencies in the use of automated information systems. This achievement is defined as the effective application of computer technology that can be measured in terms of improved government services and increased benefits to citizens. The award competition is open to all public agencies at the federal, state/provincial, regional and local levels. **Deadline for submissions is June 20, 2005.**

ESIG Award winners are recognized in two separate categories: **Single Process Systems** and **Enterprise Systems**. For further information: http://www.urisa.org/ESIG_Awards/ESIG_information.htm

Integrated Land and Resource Registry

Using SPATIAL TECHNOLOGY, the Integrated Land and Resource Registry (ILRR) project will deliver an INTEGRATED SOLUTION to viewing and stats using all Crown and private land in British Columbia. The ILRR employs GIS and other technologies to contain and display information on over 240 types of Crown land interests and tenures, regulated uses of the land, land and resource restrictions and reservations (e.g. Parks), administrative boundaries, and locations of private land.

Electronically accessible to governmental agencies, industry and the public at large, the ILRR will solve many challenges by

creating one efficient registry of Crown land rights, interests, designations, and boundaries, improving certainty of ownership and interests, increasing consistency and reducing turn-around time in decision-making, supporting future economic development and reducing risk.

The ILRR can be used for searching interest records using map or interest information, creating reports (status report, detail & summary), creating, saving and sharing query parameters, sharing query parameters with others in an agency or e-mail to those outside, requesting notifications of change, and notifying data custodians of potential data quality issues.

A collaborative project led by the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, the ILRR was developed in partnership with 19 provincial government rights-granting agencies. Federal and municipal government representatives, industry leaders, professional associations and non-government organizations were also key contributors to the project's success.

As displayed by the diagram below, the ILRR will be implemented in an iterative approach across British Columbia - the Northeast by 2005, the South by 2006 and the West by 2007.



<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/irp/>

GIS Professional Organizations in the Pacific Northwest

Challenges and Opportunities to Build communities

The 3 Day 2005 Washington GIS Conference presented by the Washington State Chapter of URISA (WAURISA) May 9-11 offered many interesting and informative presentations and workshops. The conference was well organized and definitely worth attending. I sat on the panel discussion regarding GIS Professional Organizations.

This moderated panel discussion focused on the community of GIS professionals and users in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) and the various organizations and user groups that help support their professional needs.

The panel discussion was successful in its goal to stimulate dialog between representatives of various GIS-related professional organizations and user groups, as well as to provide a forum for the user community itself to communicate their priority GIS professional organizational needs.

Each panel member provided an overview of their organization followed by moderated discussion and audience questions. The panel consisted of local 'grass roots' user groups as well as state/provincial/regional chapters of the national professional organizations URISA, GITA and ASPRS. A quick summary of some of the discussion follows below.

Cost to be a member of these organizations?

ASPRS and GITA do not charge individuals to participate in local groups. Membership in regional chapters is limited to members of their national group. In essence, the local chapter is a benefit of belonging to the national organization. For URISA the national membership and local chapter memberships are separate.

Local grass roots organizations are a no-cost local substitute for those who cannot get the funding to attend these national, chapter seminar, and conference events. They also provide access to GIS professionals who have attended national events and want to share the knowledge they have gained.

What is the ideal relationship between local grass roots user groups and the local chapters of national organizations?

Some expressed a vision of a three-tiered environment whereby each tier would meet unique needs on a complimentary basis. In this vision the National group is the top tier, while state and provincial chapters coordinate a transitional link to the local 'grass roots' user groups.

The focus of the local grass roots user groups is on local issues and local networking. These groups were described as potential 'starter' organizations for those new to a region or new to the GIS field. Local GIS user groups have a role to prepare those with interest and motivation to move up to participate in larger associations at the state, provincial, regional or national level.

With the three-tiered structure many issues surface at local GIS user group meetings and 'bubble up' to state/provincial chapter meetings where they are subjected to wider discussion and analysis. The state/provincial or regional chapter has a better chance of distilling 'best practices' in response to the issue. This structure benefits the local group as alternate or best practices trickle back down.

All three groups (local grass roots state/provincial/regional and national) benefit from straddle members. That is members whose interest and participation straddles across two or even three of the tiers. These members seem to be the key in helping to ensure that strengths of each tier are leveraged for the mutual benefit of all members and the GIS community.

The wrap up:

Everyone attending the panel discussion showed great interest in the long-term viability and effectiveness of all three tiers of our GIS groups. This led attendees to the conclusion that these groups are viewed as important components that contribute to a healthy professional environment.

Karen Stewart

BCIT Bursary

Stacy Meech is the URISA BC scholarship winner for this year. Congratulations Stacy!



GIS Certification

If you would like to learn more about the GIS Certification please visit the GIS Certification Institute website:

www.gisci.org



The purpose of the GIS Certification Institute is to provide those professionals who work in the field of geographic information systems with a formal process that will:

- allow them to be recognized for professional practice
- establish standards
- encourage professional development
- encourage professional skills and ethical performance

Two URISA BC Executive members are currently GISCI certified. If you need additional information please contact:

Karen Stewart
kstewart@tol.bc.ca
 Perry Holmes
pholmes@city.langley.bc.ca

Featured Website: Surrey

City of Surrey Launches COSMOS - Surrey Mapping On-Line System



This new eGovernment service is part of the City's continuous effort to offer easy and

convenient access to City information via the Internet.

COSMOS provides access to a vast amount of the spatial information that is maintained and managed at the City such as Land Development, Utilities, Parks and Land Use. COSMOS will allow users to:

- Quickly locate specific address or points of interest (parks, libraries, schools, etc.)
- View High Resolution Aerial Photography
- Browse and query infrastructure data such as water, drainage, sanitary, and transportation
- Browse Zoning and OCP boundaries
- Create your own maps, and print or add them to an email
- Retrieve As-built drawing numbers

The implementation of COSMOS reflects a best practices review of various Canadian and US cities, research of customer needs and expectations, technology needs, preparation of GIS data, and detailed acceptance testing. The basic goals COSMOS was designed to address include:

- Greater flexibility and scalability to respond to changing business needs;
- One access point for real time spatial information for both the public and staff; and
- Greater self-serve data and information for external clients.

Future enhancements planned for COSMOS includes an

eBusiness extension that will provide a self-serve option to download digital copies of GIS data, further strengthening our commitment to being 'Open for Business'.

COSMOS can be accessed through the City's website <http://cosmos.surrey.ca/>

Advertisements

Do you want to reach the hundreds of readers of our newsletter? Please contact Karen Stewart at: kstewart@tol.bc.ca