

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) Profile

GSDI Association

The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) (<http://gsdi.org>) is an inclusive organization of organizations, agencies, firms, and individuals from around the world promoting international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure developments that will allow nations and their citizens to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance.

INTERESTS

The GSDI Association is dedicated to international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure developments that would allow nations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance.

The **Mission** of the GSDI Association is to:

- serve as a point of contact and effective voice for those in the global community involved in developing, implementing and advancing spatial data infrastructure concepts,
- foster spatial data infrastructures that support sustainable social, economic, and environmental systems integrated from local to global scales, and
- promote the informed and responsible use of geographic information and spatial technologies for the benefit of society.

The **Goals** of the GSDI Association are to:

- support the establishment and expansion of local, national, and regional (multi-nation) spatial data infrastructures that are globally compatible,
- provide an organization to foster international communication and collaborative efforts for advancing spatial data infrastructure innovations,
- support interdisciplinary research and education activities that advance spatial data infrastructure concepts, theories and methods;
- enable better public policy and scientific decision-making through spatial data infrastructure advancements;
- promote the ethical use of and access to geographic information;
- foster spatial data infrastructure developments in support of important worldwide needs such as improving local to national economic competitiveness, addressing local to global environmental quality and change, increasing efficiency, effectiveness, and equity in all levels of government, and advancing the health, safety and social wellbeing of humankind in all nations.

The GSDI Association by concentrating on specific strategic tasks aspires to:

- more closely align its organizational activities by addressing member needs and societal needs identified and prioritized by its organizational and individual members,
- provide more effective communication mechanisms to better enable its members to work collaboratively, and
- achieve visible and measurable outcomes in furtherance of the core missions and goals of the organization.

The organization was formally incorporated in 2002 in the Commonwealth of Virginia and formed exclusively for educational, scientific, and research purposes. The current business address is GSDI Association, 946 Great Plain Ave. PMB-194, Needham, MA 02492-3030 USA.

HISTORY

GSDI has successfully conducted regular world conferences every 12-18 months since 1996 which attest to the growing global influence of the Association. Past conferences have included, Bonn (Germany, 1996), Chapel Hill (USA, 1997), Canberra (Australia, 1998), Cape Town (South Africa, 2000), Cartagena (Colombia, 2001), Budapest (Hungary, 2002), Bangalore (India, 2004), Cairo (Egypt, 2005), Santiago (Chile, 2006), St. Augustine (Trinidad, 2008) and Rotterdam (Netherlands, 2009).

(<http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences>).

The next world conference, GSDI-12 will be held in Singapore, 19-22 October 2010 will be a joint conference with the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia & the Pacific (PCGIAP), <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi12/>.

See also the roster of past presidents <http://www.gsdi.org/associnfo/presidents>

MEMBERSHIP

The GSDI Association has two classes of membership: *full members* and *individual members*. Full members (http://www.gsdi.org/Mbrs_Spnrs) include organizations such as government agencies and organizations, private companies, industry organizations, academic institutions, not-for-profit organizations, and similar organizations that influence the development of spatial data infrastructures at national, regional, and international levels. Individual members (<http://www.igeoss.org/>) are those individuals that are members of the International Geospatial Society (IGS).

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Council, Board of Directors and Executive Committee

The GSDI Association Council consists of the delegates from the Full Member institutions. All powers not explicitly vested by these bylaws in the Board of Directors are retained by the Council.

Powers exclusively reserved to the Council in other sections of these bylaws include, but are not limited to electing individuals to serve on the *Board of Directors*, and altering the bylaws. Meetings of the Council shall be held every twelve to eighteen months, with the dates and places selected by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors is the main administrative body of the Council with the purpose to provide leadership for and to represent the Council between Council meetings and to coordinate the activities of the Council.

By a vote of the majority of all the Directors in office, the Board of Directors may designate an *Executive Committee* consisting of the President, President-Elect, and immediate Past President, which shall have authority to act for the Board of Directors in between meetings of the full Board.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Much of the work of the organization is planned and accomplished through standing committees whose memberships are made up from delegates of full member organizations and IGS members.

The standing committees include:

Legal and Socio Economic Committee

http://www.gsdi.org/standingcomm?project_id=302

Outreach and Membership Committee

http://www.gsdi.org/standingcomm?project_id=303

Societal Impacts Committee

http://www.gsdi.org/standingcomm?project_id=305

Technical Committee

http://www.gsdi.org/standingcomm?project_id=301

PUBLICATIONS

The GSDI Association publishes monthly newsletters (<http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters>) for major regions of the world as follows:

- SDI-Africa Newsletter (English)
- SDI-Asia & Pacific Newsletter (English, Chinese)
- SDI-Latin America & Caribbean Newsletter (English, Spanish)

The proceedings of all past global conferences (<http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences>) are published openly on the web and the organization's books and videos (<http://www.gsdi.org/publications>) are typically published under Creative Commons licenses.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

The organization supports an annual small grants program to support national or sub-national activities that foster partnerships, develop in-country technical capacity, improve data compatibility and access, and increase political support for spatial data infrastructure and earth observations application development. Priority is given to projects in developing nations and countries with economies in transition.

The organization also supports the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (<http://www.GIKNet.org>) which purpose is to connect geospatial (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geospatial>) leaders and innovators across all disciplinary domains and sectors across the world.