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Reinvigorating the Australian Spatial Data Infrastructure

At first glance, the Australian Spatial Data Infrastructure (ASDI) is an abstract concept. However, it is a key driver of much of ICSM's work and the basis for many of the ICSM Working Group work programs.

Fundamentally, the Australian Spatial Data Infrastructure (ASDI) is a national framework for linking users with providers of spatial information. The ASDI comprises the people, policies and technologies necessary to enable the use of spatially referenced data through all levels of government, the private sector, non-profit organisations and academia.

Since its inception in the early-1990's the spatial environment has changed significantly, including the development of:

- on-line systems (eg Google Earth) which bring a form of spatial data to everyone
- autonomous devices that know, think and communicate (sensor networks)
- progressive institutions (eg OGC) which reduce the barriers to sharing spatial data
- web services which improve the ability of applications to access spatial data

ICSM is working towards redefining the vision for the ASDI to ensure it continues to play a significant role in the provision of spatial services in the future. To this end ICSM has commissioned Geomatic Technologies to conduct a review of the ASDI and have been specifically tasked with reviewing:

- building support for the national vision
- providing mechanisms for contribution of and access to information and services
- establishing and maintaining governance arrangements
- reviewing the current data and systems

A draft report has been circulated within ICSM and a final report should be available in January 2008.

Geographic Names of Australasia

The Committee on Geographical Names in Australasia (CGNA) has produced an informative brochure on place naming in Australia and New Zealand. Significantly, it outlines the achievements of CGNA in ensuring the integrity of place names.

Beyond the creation of CGNA's flag ship product – the *Australian Gazetteer* (http://www.ga.gov.au/map/names), their achievements also include development of national guidelines for the recording of indigenous place names and playing a pivotal role in protecting the use of place names on the internet. For more information, the brochure can be viewed at http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/cgna/CGNA_Brochure.pdf or a printed copy can be obtained from cgna@ga.gov.au.

Tidal Stalwart Retires

For 25 years John Broadbent has diligently worked to promote a wider understanding of the application of tidal theory amongst spatial professionals.

John Broadbent Garry West (*ICSM Chairman*)

While John's focus has been on coordination and standardisation of the tidal regime within Queensland, his influence has been much broader. He has made significant contributions to the development of national standards for tidal data collection and exchange formats. In addition, his research into the accuracies of tidal predictions in secondary ports and his tireless efforts in publishing this work provides a lasting legacy to his dedication and vision.

see: http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/tides/tides_msl.html.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON TIDES AND MEAN SEA LEVEL

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ICSM Working Groups Expand

With the addition of a new Working Group relating to the development of a new Australia wide, high resolution Digital Elevation Model (DEM) ICSM now has 13 active Working Group's. This represents a total membership of over 150 people.

Current ICSM Working Groups

All-Hazards Symbology (AHS)
Formed in 2006 to assist in the development of an Australian/New Zealand set of symbols to be used by Emergency Management, Counter Terrorism and Critical Infrastructure Protection agencies.

Australian Spatial Data Infrastructure (ASDI)
Formed in 2007 from an informal group which was reviewing the future directions of the ASDI.

Cadastral Reform (PCCR)
Formed in 1999 to assist in the development of a coordinated approach to cadastral reform.

Data Framework (DFTSC)
Formed in 2001 to manage the maintenance, implementation and further development of the existing ICSM Harmonised Data Model.

Electronic Lodgement and Transfer of Survey Information (ePlan)
Formed in 2003 to develop a national cadastral digital data transfer standard.

Geodesy (GTSC)
Formed in 1992 to provide advice on geodetic issues and to maintain a compatible geodetic infrastructure across Australia and New Zealand. At various times a number of issue specific geodetic working groups have existed concurrently with GTSC – for example GDA implementation.

Geographical Names of Australasia (CGNA)
Formed in 1984 and adopted as an ICSM Working Group in 1993. Its role is to coordinate, promote and communicate the consistent use of geographic place names.

Imagery (IMAGERY)
Formed in 2006 to monitor emerging technical issues associated with remotely sensed data, especially digital photography.

National Digital Elevation Model (ELEVATION)
Formed in 2007 to offer technical assistance in the development of a high resolution national digital elevation database.

Native Title Working Group (NTWG)
Formed in 2001 to contribute to increased 'certainty' in identifying native title rights and interests, and to develop a data model for native title information.

Roads (RWG)
Formed in 2005 to resolve national issues associated with the consistency of capturing and ease of dissemination of digital roads related information

Tides and Mean Sea Level (PCTMSL)
Formed in 1979 and adopted as an ICSM Working Group in 1990. Its role is to coordinate national databases of tidal records; as well as develop national standards and best practice guidelines for tides and mean sea level related matters.

Topographic Information (PCTI)
Formed in 2003 to promote the minimising of duplication of effort and developing consistent approaches to data collection, management and delivery in topographic information (with emphasis on mapping).

Next ICSM Meeting

ICSM's next meeting is scheduled for 21-22 May, 2008 in Alice Springs.