



GeoForAll

Monthly Newsletter



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Editorial



Nikos Lambrinos
 Chief Editor
 Dept. of Primary Education
 Aristotle Univ. of Thessaloniki
 Greece

First of all I would like to wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. We all need strength to overcome the high demands of the digital era we live in. This sounds strange because one of the advantages that digital technology was promoted for is more free time for the people, which I have never enjoyed. On the contrary, I have less free time because there is always the excuse of “high speed modern technology which allows us to do more in less(!) time.” But please don't think that I am complaining about this. Most of the things we do are because we want to do them. Take for example how many people have been motivated by the making of Geo4All, and since then, how many have been involved in various Geo4All activities. Not to mention how many people are implicitly involved in spreading the news of Geo4All by reading our Newsletter in their “free time.”

How could we reach those people without being digital?

Last month I asked Jason Sadler (our webmaster) to give me some data about the number of downloads our Newsletter gets. The numbers show that the Newsletter has been approved by our community, and each issue has its own dynamic. It is well done, taking into account that this is the first year of publication, and to be honest, just the half of the year. So, not bad for 6 months of publicity. Maybe we can do better if we promote our Newsletter to our students and show them that they can be part of the Newsletter if they want, if they send information to the Chief Editor or the Co-Editor of their region about their work at the University/school. We have examples to show them (Vol. 1, no.3). Also, as Suchith Anand posted in one of his emails, there are many activities undertaken by the members of the network which are worth the publicity. This way we can make our work known to many people around the world and let teachers, educators, trainers, and students join us.

Have a pleasant reading
 Nikos Lambrinos
 Chief Editor



Editorial Board

Please refer to the appropriate person according to the following table:

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GeoForAll Regional Chairs and Contact Information

North America Region

Chairs: Helena Mitsova (USA), Charles Schweik (USA), Phillip Davis (USA) Subscribe at mail list

<http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-northamerica>

Email: na.gfa.chair@osgeo.org

South America Region

Chairs: Sergio Acosta y Lara (Uruguay) and Silvana Camboim (Brazil) Subscribe at mail list

<http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-southamerica>

Email: sa.gfa.chair@osgeo.org

Africa Region

Chairs: Rania Elsayed Ibrahim (Egypt), Serena Coetzee (South Africa) and Bridget Fleming (South Africa)

Subscribe at mail list <http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-africa>

Email: africa.gfa.chair@osgeo.org

Asia Region (including Australia)

Chairs: Tuong Thuy Vu (Malaysia/Vietnam) and Venkatesh Raghavan (Japan/India) Subscribe at maillist

<http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-asiaaustralia>

Email: asia.gfa.chair@osgeo.org

Europe Region

Chairs: Maria Brovelli (Italy) and Peter Mooney (Ireland) Subscribe at mail list <http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-europe>

Email: eu.gfa.chair@osgeo.org

GeoForAll Themes

▪ OpenCity Smart

➤ Chairs: Chris Pettit (Australia), Patrick Hogan (USA)

➤ Mail list: <http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-urbanscience>

➤ Website: <http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/OpenCitySmart>

▪ Teacher Training & School Education

➤ Chairs: Elżbieta Wołoszyńska-Wiśniewska (Poland), Nikos Lambrinos (Greece), Adrian Manning (UK)

➤ Mail list: geoforall-teachertraining@lists.osgeo.org

➤ Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/GeoForAll_TeacherTraining_SchoolEducation

▪ GeoForAll (GeoParaTodos) Themes in Spanish

➤ Chairs: Sergio Acosta y Lara (Uruguay), Antoni Pérez Navarro (Spain)

➤ Mail list: Spanish: geoforall-spanish@lists.osgeo.org

➤ Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/GeoForAll_Spanish

▪ CitizenScience

➤ Chairs: Peter Mooney (Ireland) and Maria Brovelli (Italy)

➤ Mail list: <https://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-geocrowd>

➤ Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Geocrowdsourcing_CitizenScience_FOSS4G

▪ AgriGIS

➤ Chairs: Didier Leibovici (U.K.) and Nobusuke Iwasaki (Japan)

➤ Mail list: <https://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-agrigis>

➤ Website: <http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/AgriGIS>



2. Lab of the Month

University of Pretoria, South Africa

By Suchith Anand



Suchith Anand,
Nottingham Geospatial
Institute, University of
Nottingham, UK

Dear Geo4All Colleagues,

Let me take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Happy New Year 2016. It is also my great pleasure to introduce our colleagues at CGIS, University of Pretoria as our "Geo4All" Lab of the Month in the New Year.

The University of Pretoria is a multi-campus public research university in Pretoria, South

Africa. The first African open source geospatial laboratory, under the auspices of the ICA-OSGeo Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), was established at the Centre for Geoinformation Science (CGIS) at the University of Pretoria in South Africa in 2012.

CGIS engages in open source research for geospatial software and data, either using open source geospatial software and data as tools in research, or contributing to the software and data through research. Open source software and data are also used in formal tertiary education and continued education courses at the university. Other research themes in CGIS are forensic geography; space geodesy, earth and atmospheric observation; and spatial data infrastructures. CGIS is led by Dr Serena Coetzee who is also the chair of ICA's commission on SDI and standards, and the Africa chair of the "Geo for All" initiative.



CGIS also runs very successful professional courses in Open Source GIS and Geospatial technologies ranging from introductory level to more

advanced courses covering GIS in greater depth.

University of Pretoria has developed as a hub for fostering interactions and cross-disciplinary collaborations, and not only between South African students and faculty; it is also the Africa hub of the global GeoForAll initiative.

We are hopeful that the momentum created by our colleagues in Pretoria will spread to more universities in Africa and benefit hundreds of students in the future. It is very important to have open source GIS and standards-based solutions (OGC, ISO TC 211) to achieve widespread application of geotools at a grassroots level, especially in developing countries. Open source GIS provides accessibility, low cost solutions, and lowers the entry barriers for the use of geospatial technologies for all. On behalf of the Geo4All community, we thank Serena Coetzee and all colleagues at the University of Pretoria for their help and for their contributions to the Geo4All initiative.

Open principles in geoeducation (open educational resources, free and open software, open data, open standards, etc.) are key for true empowerment of staff and students globally and for making geospatial education and opportunities accessible to all. Access to quality education and opportunities is key for getting rid of extreme poverty and enabling broadly shared prosperity for all.

Millions of globally connected minds working together on the common mission of enabling Open Education opportunities for everyone will be key for making these developments possible. An idea whose time has come is the most powerful force in the universe, and the time for "Access to quality education opportunities for everyone" has arrived. We look forward to working and building collaborations with all interested in this education mission.

Best wishes,
Suchith Anand





3. Events

Christmas GRASS GIS potential contributors meeting in Raleigh

by Vaclav Petras and Michael Reno

The local GRASS GIS community in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA is pleased to announce a successful meeting, held on Saturday December 19, 2015, dedicated to learning about how to contribute to GRASS GIS. The meeting took place at the inspiring James B. Hunt Jr. Library at the North Carolina State University Centennial Campus. Though it is true that a free and open source project such as GRASS GIS necessitates many types of non-coding contributions, including documentation and tests, this event focused on describing the tools and processes associated with making contributions to the codebase itself. Bug fixes and enhancements, both in C and Python, were generally considered. These themes and others will continue to be discussed at the first follow up meeting of 2016, planned for late January.

4. Conferences

Asia

March 2016

1. 2-4 March, 2016. International Conference on Radar and Imaging Technology (ICRIT 2016). Beijing, China. www.engii.org/conf/ICRIT/2016Mar/

The paper submission deadline of ICRIT 2016 has been extended to December 14, 2015.

July 2016

2. 25-27 July, 2016. International Conference on Surveying, Mapping and GeoInformation (ICSMG 2016). Suzhou, China. More details at <http://www.engii.org/ws2016/Home.aspx?id=754>

Europe

April 2016

3. 17-22 April, 2016. EGU General Assembly, Vienna, Austria. Deadline for abstract submission is January 13. There are two sessions waiting for contributions: a) ESSI2.8 : Quality-checked Software as a safe investment in Science: Lessons from Open Source communities. Conveners: Peter Löwe (TIB Hannover), Massimiliano

Cannata (SUPSI), Margherita Di Leo (JRC), Raffaele Albano (UNIBAS). <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2016/session/21740>

b) ESSI3.5/GI1.5 - Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) for Geoinformatics and Geosciences. Conveners: Jens Klump (CSIRO), Dominik Reusser (PIK), Peter Löwe (TIB Hannover), Markus Neteler (Fondazione Edmund Mach), Edzer Pebesma (IFGI). <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2016/session/20149>

May 2016

4. 24-29 May 2016: 10th Spanish FOSS4G & 2nd edition of the International QGIS User and Developer Conference as well as QGIS Hack Fest in Girona, Spain. So, a whole week to teach and learn about Free and Open Source Geospatial Technologies. More details at <http://www.sigte.udg.edu/jornadassiglibre/en/>

5. 25-27 May 2016: The 14th International Conference of the Geological Society of Greece, in Thessaloniki, northern Greece. The conference addresses all subjects of Earth Sciences: GIS, geoinformatics, Remote Sensing, etc. More details in www.ege2016.gr

6. May 30 – June 3: Under the auspices of the 2016 Dutch Presidency of the European Council, this major 5-day conference is coming to The Hague, The Netherlands. Taking place at the World Forum Convention Centre from 30 May to 3 June 2016, **European Space Solutions** will bring together business and policy makers with users and developers of space-based solutions. Don't miss the opportunity to learn about innovations that harness information from the European flagship space programmes, Galileo and EGNOS (satellite navigation) and Copernicus (Earth observation), and the EU's Horizon 2020 research programme, for a wide range of applications and services, gather insights about current developments, and discuss what is possible and needed in the future. More details in www.european-space-solutions.eu

June 2016

7. 21-24 June 2016: International conference and a series of workshops entitled:

"GeoMLA: Geostatistics and Machine Learning Applications in Climate and Environmental Sciences", at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Civil Engineering Belgrade, Serbia. More details in <http://geomla.org>

The Conference will take place on June 23-24, the



workshops on June 21-22.

Important dates: a) March 1st 2016 - abstract submission, b) April 15th 2016 - early registration deadline.

July 2016

8. 12-19 July 2016: ISPRS XXIII Congress, in Prague. More details at <http://www.isprs2016-prague.com/> There are two sessions of particular interest by our community:

Submission for papers is now open!

ABSTRACT type submission for the [ISPRS Archives \(deadline\)](#) 7 January 2016.

For details please see here: http://www.isprs2016-prague.com/program/calls/paper_submission

a) Special Session: SpS10 - FOSS4G: FOSS4G Session (chairs: Maria A. Brovelli, Helena Mitsova, Krishnan Sundara Rajan)

Keywords: Free and Open Source Software for Geoinformatics (FOSS4G), geospatial research platform and systems for developing new applications crossing the new frontiers towards the Internet of Places, Big Geospatial Data processing and analytics, and complex simulations essential for understanding and managing the earth systems, human societies, and their interaction

b) Theme session: THS16: Recent Developments in Open Data

(chairs: Maria A. Brovelli, Hae-Kyong Kang, Hiroichi Kawashima)

Keywords: Open data, Linkedopendata, e-Government, Geospatial, Web

For those who need more information may contact Maria Brovelli (maria.brovelli@polimi.it)

c) Session THS17: Smart cities

(Chairs: Chris Pettit & Arzu Coltekin)

keywords: Geodesign, urban planning, visualisation and spatial analysis of urban phenomena, energy use, walkability, pollution, health, infrastructure, population, aging.

North and Central America and the Caribbean

January 2016

9. 5-8: [Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences](#)

Kauai, Hawaii, USA

February 2016

10. 22-25: [URISA GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference](#)

Savannah, Georgia, USA

11. 22-25: [NSGIC Midyear Conference](#)

Annapolis, MD, USA

March 2016

12. 19-20: [LibrePlanet](#)

Boston

May 2016

13. 2-5: [FOSS4G North America](#)

Raleigh, North Carolina, USA [FOSS4GNA Call for Proposals](#) open. Early bird submission deadline is January 22, final submission deadline is February

October 2016

14. 2-5: [69th Canadian Geotechnical Conference](#)

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Abstract Submissions due 29 January.

South America

March 2016

15. Third Call to participate in the "9th International Congress of Geomatics," GEOMÁTICA 2016 to be held in Havana, Cuba, from 14 to March 18, 2016. GEOMÁTICA 2016 will be held as part of the 16th International Convention and Fair Informática 2016, which this year has the theme "Connecting Societies" Important !!! Send the papers. We count on your participation. <http://www.informaticahabana.cu/en/eventos/show/91>

Tercera Circular para participar en el IX Congreso Internacional de Geomática, que tendrá lugar en La Habana Cuba, del 14 al 18 de Marzo del 2016. GEOMÁTICA 2016 se desarrollará en el marco de la XVI Convención y Feria Internacional Informática 2016, que en esta Edición tiene como tema central "Conectando Sociedades" Importante!!! Enviar las Ponencias. Contamos con su participación. <http://www.informaticahabana.cu/eventos/show/91>



6. Courses

- [Triangle Area GIS](#) is a “collaboration site for multidisciplinary GIS users in the Triangle” area of North Carolina. They offer free webinars throughout the year in many GIS and mapping areas, as well as paid training and group meeting planning space.
- Certificate Program in QGIS at Langara College in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Langara College will be starting a new 5 course certificate program in Geographic Information Systems using QGIS and other FOSS software, starting January 2016.

The courses are:

GISC 1001 - Intro to Geospatial Technology using QGIS

Explore the world of geographic information systems (GIS) with QGIS, an Open Source software program that offers a free, but powerful, alternative to commercial GIS programs. Topics include symbology, raster and vector data models, and map composition. The course also provides background theory of GIS concepts such as projections and geocoding.

GISC 1002 - Spatial Analysis using QGIS

Gain proficiency at using analysis techniques to solve problems that are commonly found in the GIS field. Practice exercises will include both vector and raster data models. These techniques are applicable to a wide range of disciplines.

GISC 1003 - Data Acquisition and Management using QGIS

Explore the world of geographic information systems (GIS) with QGIS, an Open Source software program that offers a free, but powerful, alternative to commercial GIS programs. Topics include symbology, raster and vector data models, and map composition. The course also provides background theory of GIS concepts such as projections and geocoding. This is a hands-on course, no programming required.

GISC 1004 - Intro to Cartography using QGIS

Explore fundamental concepts in cartography. Successful students will be able to employ design principles to create and edit effective visual representations of data in different formats. Specific

topics include the ethical and appropriate application of map scale, map projections, generalization, and symbolization.

GISC 1005 - Intro to Remote Sensing using QGIS

Explore the world of remote sensing. Topics include the physical principles on which remote sensing is based, history and future trends, sensors and their characteristics, image data sources, and image classification, interpretation, and analysis techniques.

For more information please see:

<http://langara.ca/news-and-events/langara-news/2015/151120-geographic-information-systems-launch.html>.

7. Training programs

- MOOC usuarios: <http://web.gvsig-training.com/index.php/es/quienes-somos-2/noticias-2/145-the-free-mooc-cycle-gvsig-for-users>.

This free (open in continuous form) MOOC cycle "gvSIG for Users" (in English) is offered by gvSIG Association, in collaboration with GISMAP, and it is made up of three different Modules:

Module 1: "Introduction to GIS"

Module 2: "Layer Editing"

Module 3: "Raster Analysis" (starting in Autumn 2015).

- MOOC scripting: <http://web.gvsig-training.com/index.php/es/quienes-somos-2/noticias-2/140-massive-online-open-course-de-introduccion-a-scripting-en-gvsig-2-1>

Massive Online Open Course (MOOC-free and continuously open enrollment) about “Introducción a Scripting en gvSIG 2.1” 2nd. edition (Spanish only).

Curso Abierto Masivo en línea (MOOC-modalidad de inscripción gratuita y abierta continuamente) de “Introducción a Scripting en gvSIG 2.1” 2a. edición (en español solamente).

- GeoForAll educational inventory system, a place where to search and share educational materials: http://www.osgeo.org/educational_content.



- Registration for online gvSIG -Training courses is now open. They are part of the courses offered by the Certification Program of the gvSIG Association. Unlike previous editions, the registration mode is open for most of the courses, so students can enroll and start the course at any time they want. The courses currently available are:

General gvSIG courses (1)

Applied gvSIG courses (5)

Geoprocessing and Spatial Analysis courses in Spanish and Portuguese (5 in Spanish, 5 in Portuguese)

gvSIG extensions/addons (6)

Geospatial DataBases (1)

Free i3Geo course (1)

By participating in any of these courses you get credits for the gvSIG Certification Program that allows you to qualify for "gvSIG User" and "Expert gvSIG User" certification. More information [here](#).

Ya están abiertas las inscripciones para los cursos a distancia de gvSIG-Training, que forman parte de la oferta del Programa de Certificación de la Asociación gvSIG. A diferencia de las convocatorias anteriores, la modalidad de inscripción pasa a ser de matrícula abierta para la mayoría de los cursos, por lo que el alumno podrá matricularse y comenzar el curso cuando lo desee. Los cursos disponibles actualmente son:

Cursos gvSIG general (1)

Cursos gvSIG aplicado (5)

Cursos Geoprocesamiento y Análisis Espacial, en español y portugués (5 en español 5 en portugués)

Extensiones gvSIG (6)

Bases de Datos Geoespaciales (1)

Curso i3Geo gratuito (1)

Al participar en cualquiera de estos cursos obtienes créditos del programa de certificación gvSIG que te permite optar a la certificación "gvSIG Usuario" y "gvSIG Usuario Experto".

Más información [aquí](#)

11. Free books, newsletters, etc.

Proceedings of the FOSS4G Conference that took place in Seoul in September, 14-19, 2015. [You can download the book from here](#)

This Tutorial about Remote Sensing (from the Telecan project <http://www.pct-mac.org/registroficha?id=5d2aa781-0619-48b4-b397-1febb3a58d65>) has a technical and business sense and has the overall goal of stimulating the use of remote sensing and to create value added products and services, in addition to improving the training and skills of the project partners and the business and research sector in remote sensing (in Spanish).

Este Tutorial de Teledetección Espacial (producto del proyecto Telecan <http://www.pct-mac.org/registroficha?id=5d2aa781-0619-48b4-b397-1febb3a58d65>) tiene una orientación técnica y empresarial, siendo su objetivo global, además de mejorar la formación y las capacidades de los socios del proyecto y del tejido investigador y empresarial en materia de teledetección, el estimular el uso de la teledetección y la generación de productos y servicios de valor añadido: http://www.grss-ieee.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/ES_TUTORIAL_COMPLETO.pdf

The International Cartographic Association (ICA) has published The World of Maps, a book produced to accompany the International Map Year. The prospect of the book is to broaden the knowledge of cartography and geographic information among the general public, especially among school children: <http://mapyear.org/the-world-of-maps-book/>

La International Cartographic Association (ICA) ha publicado el libro "El mundo de los mapas", en el cual, nos acerca al conocimiento de la cartografía y la información geográfica en general. "El mundo de los mapas" se ha publicado para conmemorar el Año Internacional del Mapa, que se celebra este 2015 y en el 2016. El mundo de los mapas se ha traducido al español a través de la Sociedad Española de Cartografía (SECFT), por J. M. García-Courel, en un trabajo coordinado por Pilar Sánchez-Ortiz, en colaboración con Antonio F. Rodríguez y Laura Carrasco, pertenecientes al Instituto Geográfico Nacional de España IGN: http://mapyear.org/files/wom/IMY_WoM_es.pdf.



12. Article

Abbreviations

by Nikos Lambrinos, Chief Editor

More abbreviations are added thanks to those sent by Siki Zoltan from Hungary.

For those who would like to support this effort, please send any abbreviations to the Chief Editor (labrinos@eled.auth.gr).

AAG: Association of American Geographers

AGS: American Geographical Society

AM/FM: Automated Mapping/Facilities Management

ASPRS: American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

AURIN: Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network

CAD: Computer Aided Design

CLGE: The Council of European Geodetic Surveyors

COGO: Coordinate geometry

CRS: Coordinate Reference System

DAAC: Distributed Active Archive Center (of NASA)

DEM: Digital Elevation Model

DWG: Design file format

DXF: Drawing Interchange File

EOS: Earth Observation Science

EOSDIS: Earth Observing System and Data Information System

EPSG: European Petrol Survey Group (used in projection IDs)

ESA: European Space Agency

EUROGI: European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information

FOSS: Free and Open Source Software

FOSS4G: Free and Open Source Software For Geospatial

GCP: Ground Control Point

GNSS: Global Navigational Satellite System

GPS: Global Positioning System

GPX: GPS Exchange Format

HOT: Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team

ICA: International Cartographic Association

INSPIRE: Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe

ISPRS: International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

KML: Keyhole Markup Language

LiDAR: Light Detection and Ranging

LOC: Local Organizing Committee

LOD: Level Of Detail

MoU: Memorandum of Understanding

NAD: North American Datum

NGA: National Geospatial Intelligence Agency

OER: Open Educational Resources

OGC: Open Geospatial Consortium

OSGeo: Open Source Geospatial Foundation

OSM: OpenStreetMap

RCMRD: Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development

SDI: Spatial Data Infrastructure

SQL: Structured Query Language

STSM: Short Term Scientific Missions

TIN: Triangulated Irregular Network

UAV: Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

USGIF: United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation

WCS: Web Coverage Service

WFS: Web Feature Service

WGS: World Geodetic System

WMS: Web Map Service

WMTS: Web Map Tiles Services

WPS: Web Processing Service



13. Scholarships for students and staff

Call for grant applications for the Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme; Education and ICT (e-learning) Doctoral Programme, and Network and Information Technologies Doctoral Programme coming soon. Prepare your application in advance.

The deadline for applications for the doctoral programmes is 31 January 2016. The UOC is offering grants for these three doctoral programmes for 2016/2017 academic year: the Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme, the Education and ICT (e-learning) Doctoral Programme, and the Network and Information Technologies Doctoral Programme. To be eligible for the UOC Doctoral Grants Programme, students must be full-time and physically present at the University's premises.

The conventional duration of the grants is three years, which can in some cases be extended to a fourth year of postdoctoral work. Grants require annual renewal. Renewal is contingent on the student achieving the training and research objectives established in each case. One of these objectives is to complete the doctoral thesis within a maximum of three years, after which students can apply for a further one-year postdoctoral grant.

The programme will offer the possibility to develop Industrial Doctorates, with grants for the best applicants with agreements with companies. Doctoral students undertaking an industrial doctorate will have a university supervisor and a tutor at the company.

Prospective applicants can find information on the application procedure, and on the content and organization of each doctoral programme on the website. We recommend you contact the researcher who is in charge of the thesis proposal you are interested in and ask him for advice (e.g. by sending them a draft of the application letter).

Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme [here](#):

Education and ICT (e-learning) Doctoral Programme:

<http://studies.uoc.edu/web/estudia/en/doctoral-programmes/education-ict/presentation>

Network and Information Technologies Doctoral Programme [here](#):

The deadline for applications is 31 January 2016. Prepare your application in advance.

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya Doctoral School

For more details you may contact Antoni Perez Navarro [aperezn@uoc.edu]

17. Ideas / Information

1. [California OSGeo](#) has a new website to keep track of news and updates. The 2015 annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for 23 January 2016. Location and other details to be determined.
2. European Space Imaging announced that the company has signed an additional multi-year framework supply contract with the European Commission for the provision of very high-resolution (VHR) satellite data and associated services in support of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). For more information go to <http://spatialnews.geocomm.com/dailynews/2015/dec/16/news2.html>
3. OGC Announces Standard that Makes Complex Environmental Data Easier to use in GIS. For more information go to <http://spatialnews.geocomm.com/dailynews/2015/dec/16/news4.html>
4. We are very glad to announce two (2) new Labs of our Network (108 in total):
 - a) Geographic Information Science and Systems Research Group, School of Information Technology and Computing, American University of Nigeria.
The main activities of the Lab consist of (but are not limited to) Open-source Web mapping, participatory Geoweb, and spatial multi-criteria decision analysis tools; research, teaching and consulting using QGIS and other OSGeo software. The contact person for the Lab will be Prof. Kalum Priyanath Udagepola (kalum.udagepola@aun.edu.ng).
 - b) OSGeo at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand has been officially launched on 25 Dec 2015. The contact person for the lab will be Dr. Sarawut Ninsawat. More details in the coming issue.