

Date

Monday 16 July 2007

Title of session

Welcome to the Cambridge Conference 2007

Name of presenter/chair

Chair: Vanessa Lawrence, Director General and Chief Executive, Ordnance Survey

Rapporteurs

Jenny Harding, Ordnance Survey and Nicholas Hutchings, Defence Geographic Centre

Vanessa Lawrence welcomed delegates to the Cambridge Conference 2007, the largest ever with more than 220 delegates from 70 countries. Under the theme this year of 'Expanding horizons in a shrinking world' the key focus of the conference is geospatial information, the importance of what we do as mapping and cadastral organisations and how this work underpins nations. From its beginnings in 1928, the conference continues to be a unique event bringing together representatives of national mapping agencies and cadastres from around the world. Held every four years it is now a truly global event. Each event produces 'resolutions' aimed at moving forward the agendas of delegates' countries. Those from the 2003 conference were compiled into an Aide Memoir to be used at the opening of the 2007 conference and in the interim have been used by conference colleagues around the world to move their geospatial agendas forward. Key points of progress were summarised on resolutions for the role of the NMA, beyond the map paradigm, linking the summits on sustainable development and the information society, multi diversity and Initiative overload. The future of NMOs and geospatial information appears bright, with greater use by the citizen and national infrastructures. As a result of increasingly rapid development in the geospatial field, a four year gap between conferences was felt to be too long and so the Cambridge Conference Exchange was introduced in 2005. Practical outcomes were achieved at the Exchange, with realisation of the collective power of the NMA group to learn from each other and consider how knowledge, experience and equipment can be accessible to all. The GSDI group was thanked for its resolution to provide support for the development of SDIs across the world through creation of a global GI Knowledge portal. Ian Dowman and Harlan Onsrud were acknowledged for making the vision a reality. Portal development is currently focused on

identifying requirements for information. Similarly within the Africa Research Network web site is a portal for the capture of requirements from NMAs.

Within the theme of 'Expanding horizons in a shrinking world' the 2007 conference looks forward to discussions of how technology is changing our world, the impacts of global trends, how employees view us and what employment means.

Sponsors of the conference were thanked for their support and their role in providing assisted places at the conference acknowledged.

Insert questions and answers on next page.

