

Date

Thursday 19 July 2007

Title of session

Plenary: Beyond Mapping - Geo-enabling Government and the Citizen

Panel session

Name of presenter/chair

Session facilitator: Steve Guptill, Senior Research Physical Scientist, United States Geological Survey

Panel members: Karen Siderelis (USGS);  
David Maguire (ESRI);  
Stig Enemark (FIG)  
Trevor Shaw (National Land Agency, Jamaica)  
Juan Vidal Garcia-Huidobro (Military Geographic Institute of Chile)

Rapporteurs

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

Steve Guptill posed the question: 'What is the most major impediment you (your organisation) face, and how would you deal with it?'

Panel responses:

Trevor Shaw: Resistance to change. We will not succeed if we try to hold on to the present and the past.

Juan Vidal Garcia-Huidobro: Possibly the speed of change externally is too fast. As NMOs we need to keep in mind the quality of information; new systems may neglect quality and integrity of information. We need to keep awareness that NMOs have a role to play in providing good data for different purposes, and in showing how to focus government effort to address national problems.

Karen Siderelis: The overriding challenge is the tension between resistance to change and increased levels of expectation of users. It is a challenge to balance this tension, and many possibilities of how to do this have been discussed at this conference (e.g. partnerships, keeping up with technology enabling change). Adaptive management, learning from experience, also plays an important part.

David Maguire: NMOs need to 'think out of the box', engage with business strategy towards what is needed in the years ahead. Think about what the organisation can do to help address key national and global problems.

Stig Enemark: NMOs should look at building integrated systems - this is an institutional as well as technical issue.

Steve Guptill comment: Historically we have been limited by technology, but technology is now not such a limitation. (Steve) proposed a new role for NMAs and invited the panel to comment on whether they agreed with it or not:

Suggested new role: To provide a geospatial framework and technology for the association of information by all (a bottom up approach rather than a top down approach to information creation).

David Maguire: Yes

Stig Enemark: Yes but there is a role for NMAs concerning quality of information.

Trevor Shaw: Yes, this would probably lead to more comprehensive data coverage and would make people happy.

Juan Vidal Garcia-Huidobro: Yes, but who would be responsible for the content of that information and decisions based on the information.

Karen Siderelis: Yes, this would probably be a viable future, but NMAs need to do more than providing information and infrastructure. It is important that NMAs are advisers to government on good use of geographical information.

Questions	Answers
<p>Tyrone Leong (Trinidad &amp; Tobago): (comment) Responding to change can require re-engineering of processes, which can take a long time to achieve. Infrastructure or organisations can make it difficult to respond quickly to change. NMOs are not normally good at business practices such as dealing with contractors or responding to change.</p>	
<p>Haim Srebro (Survey of Israel): (comment) A missing factor in the panel discussion was the contribution that information users and politicians could make to how NMAs need to change.</p>	
<p>David Cowen (University of South Carolina): (comment) Interaction with information is the future (e.g. Google type</p>	<p>David Maguire (comment): Google type approach will be good for some things and not for others - it doesn't</p>

approach), and, agree, we do need to stop and think about how to do things differently.	provide all that is needed.
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