

Date

Wednesday 18 July 2007

Title of session

Workshop 1 - Capacity Development

Name of presenter/chair

Co-chairs: Iain Greenway, Chief Executive, Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland  
Prof Martien Molenaar, Rector, International Institute for Geo-Information Science & Earth Observation, The Netherlands

Presenter: Yola Georgiadou, Associate Professor, International Institute for Geo-Information Science & Earth Observation, The Netherlands

Rapporteurs

Colin Henderson, Ordnance Survey and Selena Patton, Defence Geographic Centre

Presentation title: Capacity to use GI and Geo-ICT in public governance

Up until now mapping has been a stable business, but now there are different ways of producing and accessing information which requires a re-orientation of the industry.

In this case, Capacity Development is a combination of the capacity to produce geographic information and the capacity to use it and Geo-ICT in public governance.

In order to target limited resources, a strategy is required to determine how to access the situation in any circumstance. The best people to generate results are those closely involved, but it would be interesting to determine if a pattern emerges. There is always a trade-off as to how many people can be reached with donor interventions, predicting who could benefit most would assist other companies in deciding their strategy.

After the Malawi case study there was a discussion about the capacity to use GI. There are three spheres of influence; political, public administration and society. The political sphere is where decisions are made. The public administration sphere is dominated by professionals while the society sphere is where the interaction has an impact. All political thinking has a spatial footprint, but often there is little or no understanding of spatial information and its impact. It is important that awareness of the availability of spatial information and its use is raised. Effective decision making relies on the interaction of the three spheres.

Questions	Answers
<p>A two year project run in Kenya ended yet the government did not maintain the project. How do you get governments to onward maintain the project?</p>	<p>Many projects supported by large companies have contractual agreements with the government before starting.</p> <p>You see this in many projects. The knowledge moves out when the project finishes, so perhaps a knowledge centre should be established within the scope of the project. Donors need a contract with the government to ensure knowledge is sustained.</p>
<p>Yola Georgiadou (The Netherlands) Based on her experience there is a lot of capacity in the bottom part of the capacity grid, but you may also see progress in the capacity to conceptualise.</p>	
<p>Augustus Livingstone Cassell, (Montserrat) Volcanic eruptions have been occurring on the island so GIS was acquired by the Ministry of Agriculture. The benefits from this system are a better tax administration. High resolution maps of the country are needed to monitor the volcanic activity, but the biggest issue is staffing. Once the staff have been trained in GIS they leave to join the more lucrative private sector.</p>	
<p>Juan Vidal, (Chile) A person that really needs something has more will than 100 people, will power must be understood. Organisations need money but in countries like Chile you have to teach after the first push. Initiatives need to be sustained. Free data may be given but it is not enough, you must train and politicians must understand the benefits. Many agree with the policies but there are other priorities for government before cartography.</p>	
<p>We have to work with other professionals to understand this complex phenomenon. There are cultural issues so trust is paramount. We must understand the social society.</p>	

