

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: Iain Greenway

Name of rapporteur

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

Presentation title: Using GI in Northern Ireland governance: Progress & Challenges

Since the peace agreements in Northern Ireland investment in infrastructure has increased. The MOSAIC vision sees the 26,000 public servants in Northern Ireland having access to geographic information at their desktops. A pilot project used the utility companies to demonstrate the real financial benefits of having spatial data. They were able to display the positions of buried assets from multiple utility companies on a single map. When a company wants to dig in a given area they are able to see all assets on one map rather than having to go to each individual company for their data.

The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service decided they needed 30 more ambulances and associated staff as they were only currently reaching 50% of their emergency calls within the required 8 minutes. The ambulance stations were mapped against the incidence of emergency calls and, using spatial analysis, a better distribution of ambulance stations was determined that provided more efficient coverage. This meant that they could now achieve 70% of the target which means that fewer new resources are required. A good place to start is always to look at existing resources and their location, simple reallocation of resources often yields better results at a minimum cost.

The Education and Library board needed to close some schools due to reduced pupil numbers. This would prove more difficult due to the ethnicity of the area; children may not travel to their nearest school on religious or political grounds. With the right data, GIS can map the most suitable places to keep schools and show graphically to school governors the need to close schools that

may not be required in the future.

The challenge is to have all the relevant data available to those who need it and to create awareness that a geospatial solution can help support decision making.

Questions	Answers
<p>Jean Dotse, (Ghana) said that they spoke of progress but no funds to support the sharing of information.</p>	<p>There are ways to save money. OSNI and their land registry are merging but they need money up front to realise the benefits. The vision is important. GIS should be as common as micro station is.</p>
<p>Feng-Tyan Lin, (Taiwan) For rich cities and governments GIS is not a problem. For smaller and poorer areas GIS is very expensive. These areas should partner with rich companies, such as utilities, who have a need for GIS to help invest in and maintain the systems as it is in their interest to do so.</p>	<p>More creative financial models should be sought as they often provide the best way to establish systems and data. In Great Britain one such creative model was used when Ordnance Survey created digital versions of its large scale data. Utility companies had a requirement for the data so they made a commitment to invest money at a future date for the data to be created.</p>