

Date

Monday 13th July 2009

Title of session

Opening Plenary: Welcome

Name of presenter/chair

Vanessa Lawrence CB, Director General and Chief Executive, Ordnance Survey –
Conference Chair

Name of rapporteurs

Emily Dover & Luke Hampson

Vanessa Lawrence opened the conference and thanked everyone for attending. She began with a brief history of the Cambridge Conference Series which originated in 1928 as the Empire Conference of Survey. It acted as an opportunity for surveyors to meet exchange ideas and share their experiences.

The Cambridge Conference is now a unique environment for heads and directors of National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies to discuss high level strategic issues with their peers. She added, that there is also a benefit in keeping the conference relatively small which allows senior people to talk freely.

Vanessa explained that in 2003, it was felt that the World and technology was moving at such a pace that it would be helpful to hold an interim event between the main conferences. This is known as CC: The Exchange and this is the second time such an event had been run.

The conferences allow attendees to develop conference resolutions and one of these was the establishment of the Geographic Information Network. This project had arisen as a result of a suggestion by Ghanaian delegates who felt that it would help developing countries, learn from experiences around the world and avoid costly mistakes. Vanessa showed the audience the front page of the new portal and stressed that this would only be a success if all countries participated and helped to populate the site.

Vanessa went on to thank the sponsors and exhibitors without whom the conference would not take place. She especially thanked the Platinum sponsors Digital Globe,

ESRI (UK), Oracle, 1Spatial and DGC who had provided the funds to allow the assisted delegates to attend the conference.

She then referred to the exciting conference programme and introduced the two keynote speakers Professor Jacqueline McGlade, Director of the European Environment Agency, and Stuart Haynes OBE, Director of the UK Defence Geographic Centre, and thanked them for their participation.

She provided a short biography of Professor McGlade and allowed her to take the floor.

Questions/Comments	Answers