

Date

Tuesday 14th July 2009

Title of session

Workshop: Spatially Enabled Government Societies

Body of Evidence: The case for a Commonwealth Spatial Data Integration Platform

Name of presenter/chair

Magnús Guðmundsson, Managing Director, National Land Survey of Iceland - Chair

Greg Scott, President, UN Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia -
Presenter

Name of rapporteurs

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The Australian Government is increasingly demanding faster, more efficient and effective services using Geographic information. Australia does not yet have an SDI (Spatial Data Infrastructure) but there have been a number of drivers where proper use of spatial data has, or could have, led to an improved response. For example:-

- Financial crisis - \$42 Billion stimulus package
- Energy security
- 2009 Victorian Bush Fires – Black Saturday
- Kilmore East - Murrindindi Fires

Spatial data including imagery can be used to conduct pre and post forest fire analysis allowing better coordination of response, identification of properties affected etc. In the chaos of the first 24 hours after the fires it was not clear who was affected. Many residents had lost all identification and were left with nothing. To counter the effects of the global economic crisis the government introduced two stimulus packages for the Sydney and Melbourne areas. One initiative was to deposit \$1000 in each bank account as part of an unemployment stimulus package.

Spatial data also reaps rewards in social inclusion, ensuring that people have access to services such as healthcare and education regardless of their location or ethnic background.

GI has been used to track cyclones and to study flooding and drought anomalies caused by climate change. Basin Catchments, DTMs (Digital Terrain Model) and flow models are needed to build a detailed view of water resources. In the energy markets GI is used to identify resources and calculate the costs of bringing them to market. The problems lie in connecting and integrating this valuable information in a comprehensive way.

The Commonwealth Spatial Data Integration (CSDI) has been given 9 months of funding for a pilot program. The aim of the program is to break down the barriers that create data silos, remove duplication and build an SDI that is integrated, holistic, sustainable and maintainable. The biggest challenge so far has been getting behind government firewall to establish a system that enables effective data sharing without compromising security.

Questions/Comments	Answers
<p>Magnús Guðmundsson</p> <p>Where have the main bottlenecks been in setting up the CSDI?</p>	<p>Greg Scott</p> <p>The main difficulty so far has been breaking down the barriers that prevent effective data sharing. The agency data custodians and policy agencies have differing opinions on how the data should be treated. The Policy Agencies feel they own the data and want more control over it.</p>