



Looking back at Gi4DM

E.M. Fendel

GISt Report No. 32

June 2005

Looking back at Gi4DM

E.M. Fendel

Summary

This report looks back at the First International Symposium on Geo-information for Disaster Management which was held in Delft, the Netherlands, March 21-23, 2005. The main purpose of this report is to give feedback to future organizers.

ISSN: 1569-0245

© 2005 Section GIS technology
 OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies
 TU Delft
 Jaffalaan 9, 2628 BX Delft, the Netherlands
 Tel.: +31 (0)15 278 4548; Fax +31 (0)15-278 2745

Websites: <http://www.otb.tudelft.nl>
 <http://www.gdmc.nl>

E-mail: gist@TU Delft.nl

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or incorporated into any information retrieval system without written permission from the publisher.

The Section GIS technology accepts no liability for possible damage resulting from the findings of this research or the implementation of recommendations.

This publication is the result of the research programme Sustainable Urban Areas, carried out by Delft University of Technology

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Retrospective.....	3
2.1	Keynotes	3
2.2	ISPRS panel.....	5
2.3	Live-Show: Geo-Web services in flood situation	5
2.4	Exhibition	6
2.5	Opinions	7
2.6	Factors in development.....	8
2.7	Publications	10
3	Organizational issues	11
4	Facts and figures	13
4.1	Number of participants	13
4.2	Supporting organizations.....	13
4.3	Sponsors.....	13
4.4	Financial overview.....	14
5	Gi4DM in press	15
6	Quotes	17
7	Follow-up symposiums	19
8	Concluding remarks and lessons learnt.....	21

1 Introduction

Nowadays a conference cannot be organized without a website. It goes without saying that such a website requires continuously updating. Starting with the call for papers, announcement of the preliminary programme, announcement of the final programme and finally publishing of the power point presentations.

At the moment the website of the First International Symposium on Geo-information for Disaster Management (www.gdmc.nl/events/gi4dm) holds the following information:

- Home (fundamental goal, objectives, keynote speakers, sponsors)
- Background
- Conference topics
- Programme, including 50 of the power point presentations in pdf (26-05-2005)
- Exhibition
- Venue
- Committees
- Photo impression of the symposium

2 Retrospective¹

The First International Symposium on Geo-information for Disaster Management, Delft, The Netherlands, 21-23 March 2005 was the first event allowing people with different backgrounds and interests to meet and discuss topics important for disaster management. Amongst the 334 registered participants from 60 countries (on 6 continents) were researchers, developers, end-users and geo-providers. The event was organized by Delft University of Technology in cooperation with the international scientific community.

The goal of the symposium was to establish the state-of-the-art in Disaster Management by:

- reviewing tools, software, existing geo-information sources, organizational structures and methods for work in crisis situations
- outlining drawbacks in current use, discovery, integration and exchange of geo-information, and
- making suggestions for future research directions

The presentations and discussions were centered around following topics: user needs and requirements, technology developments, data collection and management, end-user environments for interaction, visualization and updating, positioning and location-based communication. The three days symposium included 4 keynotes, oral presentations distributed in 22 plenary and 49 parallel sessions, 50 posters, an ISPRS panel session, a workshop on ‘Geo-Web services in flood situations’, an exhibition as well as social activities. Some of these aspects are dealt with more in detail in the sections 2.1 – 2.5).

2.1 Keynotes

The symposium was opened by Jacob Fokkema, the Rector of the Delft University of Technology. The first keynote speaker, Henk Geveke (Director Crisis Management, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Affairs, the Netherlands), presented the policy of the responsible national government institution. Mike Goodchild (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA) presented desired contributions to disaster management from the geo-information science angle. Richard Guillande (GeoSciences Consultants s.a.r.l, Bagneux, France) and Dudung Muhally Hakim (Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia) concentrated on the Tsunami disaster in South Asia. Richard Guillande presented the help GeoSciences has provided in the first days to the countries affected by the Tsunami. Dudung Hakim discussed the development of the disaster in Aceh, Indonesia.

¹ Parts of this retrospective by courtesy of Dr. Siyka Zlatanova.



Figure 1: Jacob Fokkema opens the symposium

During the symposium two basic types of presentations could be recognized: the ones with focus on research and development of geo-information technology, and the ones with focus on the practical needs and solutions for users and managers in disaster management. Several presentations were directly related to the Tsunami in South Asia, discussing availability of data, damages in different regions and the help provided by international and national geo-organizations.



Figure 2: Welcome by the mayor of Delft in the City hall

2.2 ISPRS panel

The ISPRS panel (Karen Fabbri, European Commission, Thomas Kemper, German Aerospace Center and Nick McWilliam, Map Action) moderated by Orhan Altan (Secretary General ISPRS) addressed challenging questions for disaster management, such as:

- whether geo-specialists can deliver appropriate, timely geo-information after disaster;
- quality/accuracy of geo-information for disaster management;
- needed scientific and technical expertise after disaster;
- involvement of geo-information scientists in prediction, prevention and mitigation.



Figure 3: ISPRS panel

2.3 Live-Show: Geo-Web services in flood situation

Every symposium has its presentations and (panel) discussions, but a unique part of the First International Symposium on Geo-information for Disaster Management has been the Live Show on Geo-Web services in flood situation (combined with a shipping accident).

The Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Public Works Department, Department of Geo-Information and ICT, the Netherlands initiated this live show.

Jack, a Fire Brigade Officer showed (in real-time) how Geo-Web services provide information on demand in a crisis situation. The crisis is situated near Nijmegen on the river Waal, where floods due to abundant rain and melting snow coincided with a heavy storm. Four crisis centres communicate using Geo-Web services provided by a several governmental organizations. The result is an effective, efficient information sharing and quick response to the disaster 'nearly' developing. The performance and impact of live geo-web services was demonstrated in 9 stages. Cooperation and information sharing boosts information control.

This kind of communication has real added value, because the message is not only very clear, but also entertaining.



Figure 4: Jack the Fire Brigade Officer

2.4 Exhibition

A small exhibition was organized within the framework of the symposium. Besides Delft University of Technology (www.otb.tudelft.nl; www.gdmc.nl) the following companies participated in this exhibition Bentley (www.bentley.com/en-us), CREASO (www.creaso.com), Delft University of Technology ESRI (www.esri.com), Intergraph (www.intergraph.com), Nieuwland (www.nieuwland.nl) and Octaaf Adviesgroep (www.octaafadviesgroep.nl; www.crossingchannels.com). Being the first symposium the organizers decided to limit the number of exhibitors mainly to the sponsors present. Future organizing committees may decide to enlarge the number of exhibitors.



Figure 5: One of the stands at the exhibition

2.5 Opinions

All the discussions (during the ISPRS panel, oral and poster sessions and coffee breaks) have clearly shown the problems for the disaster management sector are still numerous. It was possible to hear various opinions:

'GIS is a tool, it does not solve everything by itself'

'there is difference between 'small' disasters and 'big' disasters'

'we have to educate disaster managers'

'geo-ICT has to learn from disasters'

'technologically everything is possible'

'the problem is organization and communication between partners'

'our geo-information dates from 1973'

'response phase cannot be isolated from prevention'

'data integration should be based on ontology and semantics'

'data are available after 3 days' vs. 'data were available after 3 hours'

'we have to stay close to the users'

'not all the people can work with total station but everybody can measure with steal tape'

'is it possible to extend this software to 3D?'



Figure 6: The Auditorium of Delft University of Technology during the Symposium

2.6 Factors in development

Everybody agrees geo-information technologies offer a variety of opportunities to aid management and recovery in the aftermath of natural disasters, industrial accidents, road collisions, etc. However, in development of geo-technology several factors should be taken into account:

- Type and extend of the disaster (e.g. fire in a building vs. flood affecting several countries). Many countries have recognized the importance of this factor and have well-developed organizational structures. Unfortunately in many cases this is only on paper.
- Phase of disaster management. It is apparent that technology for different phases may vary since the tasks and the goal of the phases are distinct.
- Decision-making level. It should be always taken in consideration who needs the information – rescue teams in the field (requesting for a particular building or neighborhood) or a crisis response centre (responsible e.g. for several provinces).
- Available data & technology (which vary from country to country). Presentations and discussions clearly revealed large differences in availability of geo-information in different parts of the world. While some countries possess geo-data in various forms (maps, images, 3D models, etc.), others only have 10-20 years old maps.
- Legislation & agreements between parties involved in disaster management.
- Human factor. Developing technology for emergency response should be closely related to studies of the human psychology and behavior (stress, pain, fatigue etc.) in disasters.

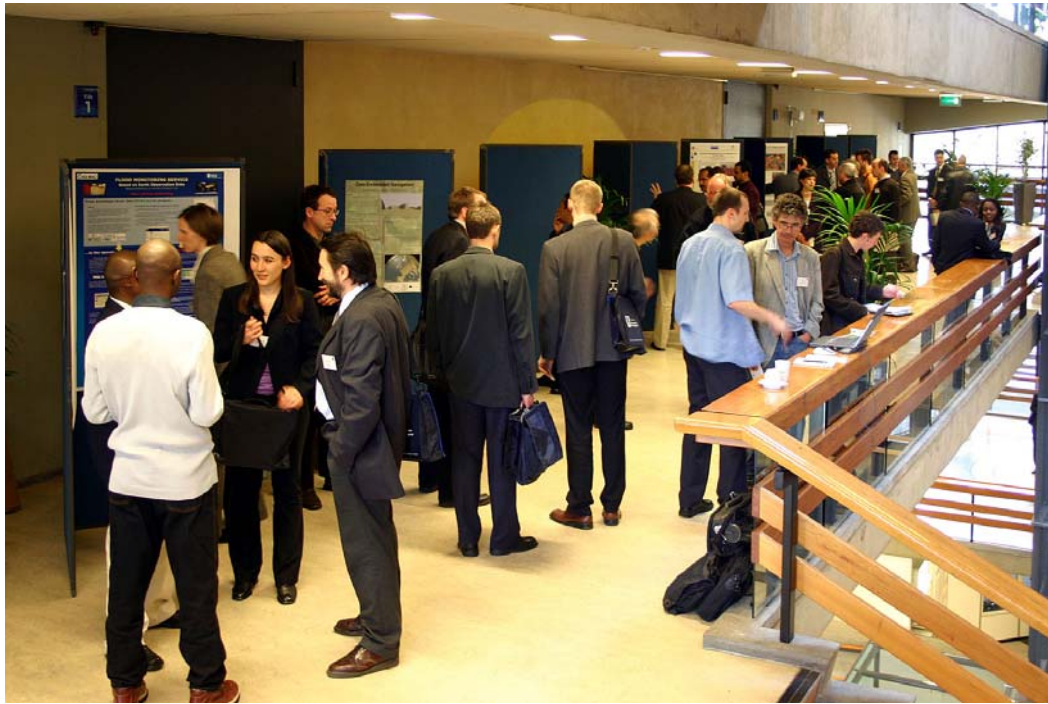


Figure 7: Poster session

A large number of papers focused on technology needed for the response phase. About 15 of these papers were selected as a basis for a book 'Geo-ICT for emergency response'. The work on the book will be completed at the end of 2005. It is apparent that emergency response has the highest requirements in terms of performance, accuracy and presentation. Emergency response depends on timely delivery of large volumes of accurate, relevant, up-to-date geo-information that various organizations systematically create and maintain. To be used for decision making in emergency response many challenges are posed to data management, discovery, translation, integration, visualization and communication based on heterogeneous geo-information sources with differences in many aspects: scale/resolution, dimension, classification and attribute schemes, temporal aspects, spatial reference system used, etc. Technology for emergency response has to be:

- Fast
- Context aware 'what/who/where/how'
- Based on integration from multiple sources
- 3D and 4D (time)
- Mixed: indoor (CAD) and outdoor (GIS)
- Able to provide analysis (evacuation routes, flooding prediction, etc.)
- Provide clear presentation (image, 2D/3D graphics, video, text, sound/voice)
- Up-to-date: monitoring by terrestrial, airborne, satellite sensors
- Aware of the position and allow navigation (GPS, Galileo, telecommunications)
- Wireless
- Web-based, open source
- Multidisaster, multiteam

2.7 Publications

These and many more other issues can be found in the 1434 pages proceedings of the symposium ‘Geo-information for Disaster management’, (eds.) Peter van Oosterom, Siyka Zlatanova and Elfriede Fendel, published by Springer Verlag (ISBN 3-540-24988-5): springeronline.com. Late papers were published in an additional booklet issued by TU Delft.

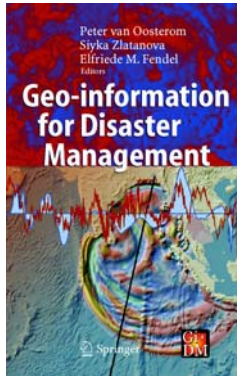


Figure 8: Front cover of the proceedings

3 Organizational issues

The first discussions regarding the organization of the First International Symposium on Geo-information for Disaster Management started in January 2004. At that time the idea was to organize a Workshop. Soon it turned out that the international scientific community was willing to support this initiative and that the interest for the subject was large enough to organize a three day event. So it was decided to organize a symposium instead.

January – May 2004 (*t* - 15 months/- 11 months)

First of all representatives of quite a number of organizations were invited to become a member of the Programme Committee. After their acceptance the draft contents of the website holding information with respect to the fundamental goal and the objectives, background information, conference topics, call for papers, date and venue, conference fee, programme committee, organization committee, etc. was discussed with the members of the Programme Committee. Furthermore possible sponsors were contacted. Preliminary reservation of the conference centre.

June 2004 (*t* – 10 months)

Designing logo. Preparation of the website.

On June 20, 2004 the website was launched. At the same time all supporting organizations were requested to spread out the news via their network.

September 15, 2004 (*t* – 7 months)

Deadline abstract submission.

September 15 – October 15, 2004 (*t* - 7 months/- 6 months)

Review of the abstracts by usually three of the scientific programme committee.

Confirming reservation of the conference centre.

October 2004 (*t* - 6 months)

Contacting publishers who might be interest to issue the proceedings.

October 15 – 30, 2004 (*t* - 6 months)

Processing of the review results.

November 1, 2004 (*t* - 5½ month)

Notification to authors with the request to submit their final paper and to settle their registration and payment not later than December 15, 2004. Information regarding format posters.

November 15, 2004 (*t* - 5 month)

Preliminary programme on the web. Spreading the news to the supporting organizations, sponsors, members of the programme committee and other networks.

December 1, 2004 ($t - 4$ months)

Sending out the template and consent to publish to the authors. Finalizing contract with publisher.

December 15, 2004 ($t - 3$ months)

Deadline for early registration (reduced conference fee)

December 15 – 30, 2004 ($t - 3$ months)

Check of submitted papers. Reminder to authors who did not submit yet.

January 2005 ($t - 2$ months)

Editing proceedings. Reminder to authors who still did not submit yet. Contact with authors in case of serious errors in the submitted paper.

Deadline for uploading final papers January 31, 2005.

Update website.

February 2005 ($t - 1$ month)

Dealing with all kinds of organizational issues with respect to the symposium itself (letters of invitation, contact with publisher, keynote speakers, sponsors and exhibitors, conference centre (technical equipment, catering), registration desk, city hall for reception, restaurant for conference dinner), ordering conference bag, presents for keynote presenters, etc.

Update website.

March 1-15, 2005 ($t - \frac{1}{2}$ month)

Contact with authors who did not submit their late paper yet.

Update website.

March 15 – March 18, 2005 ($t - \frac{1}{4}$ month)

Preparation of the symposium script with instructions. Briefing of all persons assisting during the symposium.

Final arrangements with conference centre.

Update website.

Printing final programme, list of participants, map, dinner voucher, preparing badges, nameplates, etc.

Delivery of the proceedings, conference bags, late paper booklet, information material from sponsors.

Filling conference bags.

March 21-23, 2005 (t)

First International Symposium on Geo-information for Disaster Management.

April – June, 2005 ($t + 1-3$ months)

Confirmation of payment conference fee received after the symposium.

Financial overview.

Contact with authors asking for permission to put their power point presentation on the website. Update website with power point presentations in pdf.

Preparation report on the symposium.

4 Facts and figures

4.1 Number of participants

As mentioned before 334 participants registered for the symposium representing 60 countries from 6 continents:

Afghanistan (1), Algeria (1), Armenia (1), Australia (2), Austria (7), Belgium (11), Botswana (1), Brunei (2), Bulgaria (4), Cameroon (1), Canada (6), China (12), Czech Republic (1), Denmark (5), Egypt (3), Ethiopia (1), Finland (1), France (9), Germany (19), Ghana (5), Greece (2), Guatemala (1), Hungary (1), Iceland (1), India (5), Indonesia (8), Iran (2), Italy (13), Ivory Coast (1), Japan (2), Macedonia (1), Malaysia (10), Nepal (3), Nigeria (7), Norway (1), Oman (1), Pakistan (2), Philippines (1), Poland (2), Portugal (2), R D Congo (2), Republic of Korea (1), Romania (3), Russia (5), Saudi Arabia (1), Sierra Leone (4), South Africa (1), South Korea (3), Spain (1), Sri Lanka (2), Sweden (16), Switzerland (2), Syria (1), Thailand (3), The Netherlands (102), Turkey (4), Uganda (1), United Kingdom (8), United States of America (12) and Vietnam (3).

4.2 Supporting organizations

The symposium has been supported by the following organizations:

- ISPRS (WG IV/8, WG IV/3)
- UN OOSA
- AGILE
- EuroSDR
- ICA
- FIG
- OGC

The initiative of this symposium resulted in the establishment of a number of working groups among some international organizations:

- ISPRS: WG IV/8 Spatial data integration for emergency services
- (Chair: dr. Siyka Zlatanova)
- Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (FIG, ICA, IHO, IMTA, ISCGM and ISPRS) : Ad hoc Working Party on Risk and Disaster Management
- (Chair: prof. Bengt Rystedt, ICA)
- For sure the support of these international organizations has influenced the number of contributions and participants in a positive way.

4.3 Sponsors

Bentley, Intergraph, ESRI, GIN, Rijkswaterstaat and Octaaf Adviesgroep sponsored the event.

4.4 Financial overview

Receipts	In Euro	Expenditure	In Euro
Sponsoring:	27.000	Technique	12.132
Conference fee + dinner	53.265	Catering	15.211
		Reception City Hall	1.500
		Conference dinner	4.650
		Invited speakers	4.758
		Proceedings	18.666
		Late proceedings/OTB info/Posters	5.942
		Conference bag	2.235
		Presents	222
		Overhead OTB (registration, including finances, designing website)	13.539
		Unforeseen	167
		Result	1.243
Total	80.265	Total	80.265

Regarding the conference fee it is important to know that various tariffs were used: fee for early and late registration for regular participants/presenters. PhD students were also entitled to a reduced fee.

The Organizing Committee consisted of all staff members of the Section GIS technology of Delft University of Technology. Among other things they were involved in creating and updating the website, reviewing, editing papers, preparing the programme, coordination of the symposium etc. In total the section spent 803 hours. It will be clear that this input cannot be financially compensated by the incomes from the symposium.

Delft University of Technology works with a so-called output related system. Part of its research is based on the number of publications produced by its scientific staff. The editorship of the proceedings generated a small financial compensation within the Delft University of Technology for the above mentioned activities of the Section GIS.

5 Gi4DM in press

Before and afterwards the First International Symposium attracted quite some attention from the press. An overview is given below.

Full of Danger

By Dr Mathias Lemmens, editor, GIM International

In: GIM International, volume 18, issue 11, November 2004, p. 11

Geo-informatie direct op het netvlies (in Dutch)

Interview met Peter van Oosterom door Peter Mom

Automatiseringsgids, 25 februari 2005, nr. 8, p. 11

Geo-data, Disasters, and Beyond

By Dr Mathias Lemmens, editor, GIM International

In: GIM International, volume 19, issue 3, March 2005, p. 9

Large-scale 3D data Needed by Urban Areas

Geo-information for Disaster Management

By Sisi Zlatanova, Andrea G. Fabbri, The Netherlands and Jonathan Li, Canada

In: GIM International, volume 19, issue 3, March 2005, p. 10-3

A Disaster Hazard and Vulnerability Atlas for SA

Web-enabled GIS in Disaster Management

By Dusan Sakulski, United Nations University, Germany

In: GIM International, volume 19, issue 5, May 2005, p. 61-63

First Symposium on GI in Disaster Management

Gi4DM: Raising Multidisciplinary Awareness

By Jacques Sipkes, contributing editor, GIM International

In: GIM International, volume 19, issue 6, June 2005, p. 35-37

Geo-information for Disaster Management

By Peter van Oosterom, Sisi Zlatanova and Elfriede M. Fendel

In: Directions Magazine, February 12, 2005,

http://www.directionsmag.com/article.php?article_id=750&trv=1

'Ramp'-symposium stroomt vol (in Dutch)

Frédérique van Berkel

VI Matrix, jaargang 13, nummer 2, maart 2005, p. 46

Geo-informatie voor rampenmanagement (in Dutch)

Frédérique van Berkel

VI Matrix, jaargang 13, nummer 3, april 2005, p. 49

Calamiteitenmanagement: De zwakste schakel is de keten (in Dutch)
Frédérique van Berkel
VI Matrix, jaargang 13, nummer 4, juni 2005, p. 18-20

Ambitie en geld te over voor rampenmanagement, maar:
‘Voor attitudeshift is nog geen routeplanner in de handel’
Frédérique van Berkel
VI Matrix, jaargang 13, nummer 4, juni 2005, p. 22-25

Satellietinzet voor rampenmanagement: Big brother or eye in the sky
Frans von der Dunk
Frédérique van Berkel
VI Matrix, jaargang 13, nummer 4, juni 2005, p. 26-27

Symposium Geo-Information for Disaster Management (in Dutch)
Gi4DM trekt 300 deelnemers in Delft op 21-23 maart 2005
Ferjan Ormeling
Geo-Info, jaargang 2, nummer 5, 2005, p. 236-237

More publications will follow, e.g. in ISPRS Highlights.

Finally the authors of a number of selected papers are requested to contribute to a special book on this subject that will be published by ISPRS.

Besides three advertisements were placed in GIM International:
In: GIM International, volume 19, issue 1, January 2005
In: GIM International, volume 19, issue 2, February 2005
In: GIM International, volume 19, issue 3, March/January 2005

Leaflet

A leaflet holding information regarding the symposium was spread during a number of international conferences.

Finally all supporting organizations (ISPRS (WG IV/8, WG IV/3), UN OOSA, AGILE, EuroSDR, ICA, FIG and OGC) and the sponsors (Bentley, Intergraph, ESRI, GIN, Rijkswaterstaat and Octaaf Adviesgroep) established a link on their website to the Gi4DM website.

6 Quotes

The Organizing Committee looks back at a very stimulating and satisfying event. Besides positive reactions on the spot, some participants expressed their appreciation also via e-mail.

Some quotes:

Rifaat Abdalla	York University, Canada
<i>First let me thank you very much for organizing one of the most interesting and fruitful events that I have attended.</i>	

Georgios A. Achilleos	National Technical University of Athens, Greece
<i>I have received the proceedings of the conference. I would like to thank you for this. As I see from the quality of the papers and the volume of presentations, the conference was more than just successful.</i>	
<i>Thank you again and keep in touch.</i>	

Geerten Blessing	CARIS, the Netherlands
<i>I was very impressed by the presentation of Boudewijn Ambrosius last Monday during the Symposium on Geo-information for Disaster Management in Delft. Mapping the various processes, which have such a devastating effect, contribute for sure to a better understanding and hopefully finally in a limitation of the number of victims of feature disasters.</i>	

Sunil Chandra	Forest Survey of India
<i>The First International Symposium on Disaster Management was successful in bringing together the ideas of the persons working world over in the use of technology in disaster management. I am sure that the proceedings in the form of a book can prove to be a most referred document for those trying to understand the use of geo-information technology in disaster management at global scale. I extend my congratulations to the organizers for the grand success of the First Symposium on Disaster Management.</i>	

Richard Göbel	University of Applied Sciences Hof, Germany
<i>With this email I would like to thank you very much for all your help and support during this symposium!</i>	
<i>For me this well organised symposium was a very exciting event with lots of interesting talks and discussions. I am looking forward to the second symposium in India hopefully on a similar organisational and scientific level even though I know that it will be difficult to meet the standard set by your organisation.</i>	

Michel Grothe	AGI-Rijkswaterstaat, the Netherlands
<i>Yesterday I had no opportunity to bid you farewell. I like to to thank you for the excellent organization, especially for the support of session Geoservices in flood situations. In my opinion Gi4DM has been a very successful event.</i>	

Richard Guillande

GeoSciences Consultants s.a.r.l., France

I was very fruitful for me and perfectly organized and I feel that other participants were also satisfied.

Pieter de Haan Emeritus Professor Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands

Thanks for sending me the Proceedings of Geo-information for Disaster Management. It is incredible that you managed to collect so much material from all over the world for a three day symposium in Delft. For sure the Section GIS technology will gain credit by organizing this first symposium. This holds especially for the three editors of the proceedings and the late proceedings which contain more than 1500 pages.

Mikael Jern

Linköping University, Sweden

*I enjoyed very much the professional arrangement around this conference.
I also like to thank you again for moving my presentation.*

Valeriy Klenov

Education Center 654, Russia

Thank you very much for the important and valuable manuscript: Geo-information for Disaster management. It looks like full overview of decisions and methods in Disaster Management, for study. I am very glad to see myself in the representative list of authors.

Nick McWilliam

MapAction, United Kingdom

*I had the pleasure of attending last week's symposium in Delft.
As a co-editor of two multi-author volumes myself, may I complement you on the current superb production? It is a very useful compilation indeed, and I have some idea of what an enormous amount of work it must have required.*

António Morais Arnaud

Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal

Wish all is well with you after all that excellent job.

David Prospero

Florida Atlantic University, USA

What a great job and did enjoy showing it around. All of you deserve a great big CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

Dusan Sakulski

United Nations University, Germany

Thank you very much for the excellently organised conference.

Jacques Sipkes

GIM International, the Netherlands

Thanks for all good organizational input. You have organized a fine Symposium, very interesting as far as the diversity of subjects is concerned, but also sympathetic because of the many interesting contacts.

7 Follow-up symposiums

Follow-up symposiums are already planned:

- Goa, India (27-30 September 2006, during the Commission IV midterm conference)
- Toronto, Canada (25-27 June 2007, possibly in combination with the 100th CIG Annual Conference),
- Beijing, China (3-11 July 2008, during the XXIst ISPRS congress)



Figure 9: Logo of the First International Symposium

It is good to know that the international scientific community (ISPRS (WG IV/8, WG IV/3), UN OOSA, AGILE, EuroSDR, ICA, FIG and OGC) will continue to support this event.

Especially the role of ISPRS: WG IV/8 Spatial data integration for emergency services (Chair: dr. Siyka Zlatanova) and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (FIG, ICA, IHO, IMTA, ISCGM and ISPRS): Ad hoc Working Party on Risk and Disaster Management (Chair: prof. Bengt Rystedt, ICA) will be of the utmost importance.

8 Concluding remarks and lessons learnt

The organization of a symposium is a very time critical adventure. This holds especially for a new event. When the organization was started the initiators did not release that this subject would attract so much interest from all over the world. Because of this interest it was decided to change the format from a one day workshop into a three day symposium. For this reasons the deadline for submitting abstracts was adjusted several times resulting in the submission of 170 abstracts. Adjustment of the deadline for submitting abstracts influenced all other deadlines (review, notification to authors and final paper submission).

This caused a heavy workload on the organization committee.

Moreover deadlines should not coincidence with holidays. This especially important for the submission of the final papers. During that time it is important that the organization committee can contact the authors in case of any difficulties in handling their papers.

Regarding this symposium the most time critical periods were:

- September 15 – October 15, 2004 (t - 7 months/- 6 months)
Review of the abstracts by usually three of the scientific programme committee.
- October 15 – 30, 2004 (t - 6 months)
Processing of the review results.
- January 2005 (t - 2 months)
Editing proceedings. Reminder to authors who still did not submit yet. Contact with authors in case of serious errors in the submitted paper.

For these activities more time should be reserved.

For many authors it is difficult to work with a template. For this reason it is advised to provide the authors also with an example of a paper that matches the template.

Regarding abstract and paper submission it is advised to offer upload facilities via the website.

Finally, it is important that one of the members of the organization committee takes full responsibility for the overall coordination of the symposium.

Reports published before in this series:

1. GISSt Report No. 1, Oosterom, P.J. van, Research issues in integrated querying of geometric and thematic cadastral information (1), Delft University of Technology, Rapport aan Concernstaf Kadaster, Delft 2000, 29 p.p.
2. GISSt Report No. 2, Stoter, J.E., Considerations for a 3D Cadastre, Delft University of Technology, Rapport aan Concernstaf Kadaster, Delft 2000, 30 p.
3. GISSt Report No. 3, Fendel, E.M. en A.B. Smits (eds.), Java GIS Seminar, Opening GDMC, Delft 15 November 2000, Delft University of Technology, GISSt. No. 3, 25 p.p.
4. GISSt Report No. 4, Oosterom, P.J.M. van, Research issues in integrated querying of geometric and thematic cadastral information (2), Delft University of Technology, Rapport aan Concernstaf Kadaster, Delft 2000, 29 p.p.
5. GISSt Report No. 5, Oosterom, P.J.M. van, C.W. Quak, J.E. Stoter, T.P.M. Tijssen en M.E. de Vries, Objectgerichtheid TOP10vector: Achtergrond en commentaar op de gebruikersspecificaties en het conceptuele gegevensmodel, Rapport aan Topografische Dienst Nederland, E.M. Fendel (eds.), Delft University of Technology, Delft 2000, 18 p.p.
6. GISSt Report No. 6, Quak, C.W., An implementation of a classification algorithm for houses, Rapport aan Concernstaf Kadaster, Delft 2001, 13 p.
7. GISSt Report No. 7, Tijssen, T.P.M., C.W. Quak and P.J.M. van Oosterom, Spatial DBMS testing with data from the Cadastre and TNO NITG, Delft 2001, 119 p.
8. GISSt Report No. 8, Vries, M.E. de en E. Verbree, Internet GIS met ArcIMS, Delft 2001, 38 p.
9. GISSt Report No. 9, Vries, M.E. de, T.P.M. Tijssen, J.E. Stoter, C.W. Quak and P.J.M. van Oosterom, The GML prototype of the new TOP10vector object model, Report for the Topographic Service, Delft 2001, 132 p.
10. GISSt Report No. 10, Stoter, J.E., Nauwkeurig bepalen van grondverzet op basis van CAD ontgravingsprofielen en GIS, een haalbaarheidsstudie, Rapport aan de Bouwdienst van Rijkswaterstaat, Delft 2001, 23 p.
11. GISSt Report No. 11, Geo DBMS, De basis van GIS-toepassingen, KvAG/AGGN Themamiddag, 14 november 2001, J. Flim (eds.), Delft 2001, 37 p.
12. GISSt Report No. 12, Vries, M.E. de, T.P.M. Tijssen, J.E. Stoter, C.W. Quak and P.J.M. van Oosterom, The second GML prototype of the new TOP10vector object model, Report for the Topographic Service, Delft 2002, Part 1, Main text, 63 p. and Part 2, Appendices B and C, 85 p.
13. GISSt Report No. 13, Vries, M.E. de, T.P.M. Tijssen en P.J.M. van Oosterom, Comparing the storage of Shell data in Oracle spatial and in Oracle/ArcSDE compressed binary format, Delft 2002, .72 p. (Confidential)
14. GISSt Report No. 14, Stoter, J.E., 3D Cadastre, Progress Report, Report to Concernstaf Kadaster, Delft 2002, 16 p.
15. GISSt Report No. 15, Zlatanova, S., Research Project on the Usability of Oracle Spatial within the RWS Organisation, Detailed Project Plan (MD-NR. 3215), Report to Meetkundige Dienst – Rijkswaterstaat, Delft 2002, 13 p.
16. GISSt Report No. 16, Verbree, E., Driedimensionale Topografische Terreinmodellering op basis van Tetraëder Netwerken: Top10-3D, Report aan Topografische Dienst Nederland, Delft 2002, 15 p.
17. GISSt Report No. 17, Zlatanova, S. Augmented Reality Technology, Report to SURFnet bv, Delft 2002, 72 p.
18. GISSt Report No. 18, Vries, M.E. de, Ontsluiting van Geo-informatie via netwerken, Plan van aanpak, Delft 2002, 17p.
19. GISSt Report No. 19, Tijssen, T.P.M., Testing Informix DBMS with spatial data from the cadastre, Delft 2002, 62 p.
20. GISSt Report No. 20, Oosterom, P.J.M. van, Vision for the next decade of GIS technology, A research agenda for the TU Delft the Netherlands, Delft 2003, 55 p.
21. GISSt Report No. 21, Zlatanova, S., T.P.M. Tijssen, P.J.M. van Oosterom and C.W. Quak, Research on usability of Oracle Spatial within the RWS organisation, (AGI-GAG-2003-21), Report to Meetkundige Dienst – Rijkswaterstaat, Delft 2003, 74 p.
22. GISSt Report No. 22, Verbree, E., Kartografische hoogtevoorstelling TOP10vector, Report aan Topografische Dienst Nederland, Delft 2003, 28 p.
23. GISSt Report No. 23, Tijssen, T.P.M., M.E. de Vries and P.J.M. van Oosterom, Comparing the storage of Shell data in Oracle SDO_Geometry version 9i and version 10g Beta 2 (in the context of ArcGIS 8.3), Delft 2003, 20 p. (Confidential)
24. GISSt Report No. 24, Stoter, J.E., 3D aspects of property transactions: Comparison of registration of 3D properties in the Netherlands and Denmark, Report on the short-term scientific mission in the CIST – G9 framework at the Department of Development and Planning, Center of 3D geo-information, Aalborg, Denmark, Delft 2003, 22 p.
25. GISSt Report No. 25, Verbree, E., Comparison Gridding with ArcGIS 8.2 versus CPS/3, Report to Shell International Exploration and Production B.V., Delft 2004, 14 p. (confidential).
26. GISSt Report No. 26, Penninga, F., Oracle 10g Topology, Testing Oracle 10g Topology with cadastral data, Delft 2004, 48 p.
27. GISSt Report No. 27, Penninga, F., 3D Topography, Realization of a three dimensional topographic terrain representation in a feature-based integrated TIN/TEN model, Delft 2004, 27 p.
28. GISSt Report No. 28, Penninga, F., Kartografische hoogtevoorstelling binnen TOP10NL, Inventarisatie mogelijkheden op basis van TOP10NL uitgebreid met een Digitaal Hoogtemodel, Delft 2004, 29 p.

29. GIST Report No. 29, Verbree, E. en S.Zlatanova, 3D-Modeling with respect to boundary representations within geo-DBMS, Delft 2004, 30 p.
30. GIST Report No. 30, Penninga, F., Introductie van de 3e dimensie in de TOP10NL; Voorstel voor een onderzoekstraject naar het stapsgewijs introduceren van 3D data in de TOP10NL, Delft 2005, 25 p.
31. GIST Report No. 31, P. van Asperen, M. Grothe, S. Zlatanova, M. de Vries, T. Tijssen, P. van Oosterom and A. Kabamba, Specificatie datamodel Beheerkaart Nat, RWS-AGI report/GIST Report, Delft 2005, 130 p.

