

## BENEFITS IN JOINING INTERNATIONAL GEOSPATIAL SOCIETY

<http://geospatialsociety.org>

The *International Geospatial Society* is a new venture of the *GSDI Association* to establish and support an international community of individual specialists and professionals with geospatial, spatial data infrastructure, GIS and related interests. The goal is to engage and enhance communications internationally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and affiliated concepts.

While only influential geospatial organizations may join the GSDI Association, this new opportunity allows individuals not attached to such organizations to become more fully engaged with peers from across the globe. That is, the International Geospatial Society is the individual member arm of the GSDI Association.

Persons may become members of the *International Geospatial Society* by payment of dues. Members have voting status in the International Geospatial Society but typically have non-voting status in the *GSDI Association*. The elected President and Vice-President of the *International Geospatial Society* are members of the GSDI Association Council and the President sits on the GSDI Board of Directors.

Those individuals joining in 2009 will be recorded as “founding members” and will have a voice and be actively engaged in developing the tentative bylaws and operating procedures. These documents will then be formally approved by the GSDI Association Council and at the first face-to-face meeting of Geospatial Society members in 2010.

### **Why should I join?**

#### **Contribute to and benefit from growing global knowledge networks developed by and for the discipline.**

Geospatial Society members will have access to the **GSDI Member Services System**, a web-based portal environment, where you may directly contribute *SDI Community News and Announcements* to the GSDI homepage and RSS feed, place events on the *Community Calendar* for all other members to view, manage your subscriptions to a range of *SDI Email Lists*, and collaborate with other members through the online *Project Management* system. You might also develop and promote your own *Community of Interest* – a group of Geospatial Society and GSDI members interested in establishing and maintaining a dialog on topics of mutual interest. As a Geospatial Society Member you will also be invited to join the **Geographic Information Knowledge Network** (GIKNet) where you can share and maintain your personal professional profile in a visible guide to the global geographic specialist and professional communities, share your company or agency profile in a similar manner, and deliver germane documents that you or your company have created to a long-term open archive for the geospatial community.

#### **Develop Partnerships**

The International Geospatial Society and the GSDI Association as a whole provide a global venue for networking, communicating and learning among members. The organizations are highly inclusive providing contacts and communication avenues to diverse parties from across the world. GSDI government, academic and non-profit organizations, agencies and Geospatial Society members are invited to **participate fully** in GSDI conferences, seminars, web discussions, and through the GSDI knowledge networks.

### **Support Developing Nation Initiatives and Markets**

The GSDI Association supports the establishment and expansion of local, national, and multi-national spatial data infrastructures that are locally to globally compatible. It has a **particular emphasis on helping developing nations** to establish such infrastructures and acquire the capacities to maintain them. Get involved through the GSDI committee structure or through the emerging Geospatial Society committee structure to help put in place member-driven processes for prioritization of society resources to address the educational and technological needs of participants from developing nations.

### **Help build recommendations on SDI Best Practices**

Help identify and document SDI best practices including technical, business, and policy practices. Help build practical how-to-do guides and short videos for use by government and business worldwide and have them hosted in the GIKNetwork and/or through the Geospatial Society web pages.

### **Affiliate with an organization with established global recognition and resources.**

The *International Geospatial Society* is affiliated with an already established and well respected international organization of geospatial agencies and organizations. The *GSDI Association* is the premier organization connecting professionals and specialists interested in **promoting international cooperation and collaboration in support of compatible local, national and international spatial data infrastructure developments**. Such developments will allow nations and organizations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance. Successful major conferences in Bonn (Germany), Chapel Hill (USA), Canberra (Australia), Cape Town (South Africa), Cartagena (Colombia), Budapest (Hungary), Bangalore (India), Cairo (Egypt), St. Augustine (Trinidad) and Rotterdam (Netherlands) attest to the growing global influence of the *GSDI Association* and enhance the likely long-term success and productivity of the *International Geospatial Society*.

### **Participate in the regular GSDI World Conferences**

If you have the ability to travel, participate, network and partner with others at the global GSDI conferences. Since 1996, experts in SDI matters have come together to share their experiences in advancing SDI's from local to international levels. Registrants and special guests participate in presentation, panel and poster sessions, engage in round table and committee project discussions, receive workshop training in spatial data infrastructure advancements, and challenge each other in lively technical and policy dialog on SDI topics.

### **Grow Professionally and Personally**

The *International Geospatial Society* will offer expanding opportunities for participation by individuals. Join a committee and become engaged in developing and carrying out its work plan, present a paper or propose a panel discussion or workshop at a conference, participate in discussion lists or contribute knowledge to the GIKNet for the rest of us to learn more about your organization or yourself. Participate in training and workshop opportunities with other members of the global community whether online or in person.

### **How much are the dues?**

The annual dues are **US\$ 50** for regular member. Full-time enrolled university students may choose to pay annual dues of US\$25 (Students must provide the name of the university in which they are enrolled full-time and provide the contact e-mail and phone number for the academic department head).

### **How do I join?**

Fill out the short membership web form at <http://geospatialociety.org> and submit your dues payment through **use of a credit card**.

**Dues Payment Note:** Invoice processing, international wire transfer fees and foreign exchange charge often exceed the entire amount of the suggested annual dues. Thus, in order to keep dues as low as possible for everyone, we are accepting annual dues payments for the International Geospatial Society ***only through online credit card payments*** or through the transfer of cash in person to our business administrator at a conference.

**Donations of Dues for Others:** If you as an individual or your company would like to contribute additional funds through your credit card payment to cover the annual membership fees of individuals from developing nations, please send a note to Marilyn Gallant, GSDI Business Manager at [mgallant@gsdi.org](mailto:mgallant@gsdi.org) indicating how much you intend to pay and either the names and emails of the beneficiaries or indicate that you want us to select appropriate beneficiaries.

To answer further questions or for detailed information on any of the above, see the Bylaws of the GSDI Association that may be found at <http://gsdi.org> or contact any of the staff listed at <http://www.gsdi.org/contact.php>