

'GeoCapacity Forum' for Students, Teachers, Professionals and Decision Makers

Concept Note

'One vision - one identity - one community' is the founding motto for integrating Ten Southeast Asian Countries under the umbrella of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). The AEC is envisioned as a highly competitive economic region based on equitable economic development in all the member states and fully integrated into the global economy. The areas of regional cooperation put significant emphasis on human resources development & capacity building, recognition of professional qualifications, integrating industries across the region to promote regional sourcing; and enhancing private sector involvement for the building of the AEC. To summarise, the AEC envisages transformation of ASEAN into a region with free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labour, and freer flow of capital.

A fast pace of change is an inherent and embedded nature of technology which poses a challenge of meeting its statutory, market and human resource requirements continuously. Governments, Industries and Higher Education Institutions need to respond to the new challenges efficiently for effective governance, successful business and competitive education. Like others, Geospatial technologies too have been evolving and advancing tremendously over the last decades. In Asia Pacific region, most governments have made the applications of Geospatial Technologies mandatory in several areas which has boosted the development and expansion of GI-sector and generated huge demand of highly skilled GI-professionals. The situation raises good hopes but also concerns for its sustainable growth and brings up several questions focussed on the capacity building processes. Is ASEAN well equipped to meet the human resource requirements of this sector?

- Is Asia-Pacific region utilising the capabilities of the available geospatial workforce to its full potential and satisfied with the current trends?
- Is Asia-Pacific region facing a stunted growth in the Geospatial sector and a challenge in procuring competent human resources for its expansion?
- Are the education and training institutions playing their role effectively and producing the fit-for-job graduates?
- Are geospatial organisations, industry and academia working together for designing a competitive regional response to global challenges and opportunities?

'GeoCapacity' will bring together the geospatial academia, industry and organisations to a common exchange platform for discussing the lessons learnt, sharing the best practices and debating for framing the future course of action. The forum involves the participation of students and professors from various educational institutions, prominent professionals from government and private organisations as well as the executives from leading GI industry.

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GeoCapacity Forum Objectives

The Forum endeavours to serve the following key objectives:

- ❖ To offer opportunities to post-graduate students to present their thesis work in front of a wide-ranging geospatial academia and professionals;
- ❖ To provide a platform for dialogue and exchanges between geospatial academia, industry and user organisations to discuss best practices in shaping up GI-professionals in the region;
- ❖ To highlight the challenges faced in the region with regards to geospatial capacity development;
- ❖ To facilitate capacity building collaboration opportunities in the region.

Target Attendees

The Forum shall target the following stakeholders:

- **Students and professors from various educational institutions**
Post-graduate students to present their thesis / research work and get feedbacks from wide-ranging geospatial professionals. Undergraduate students are welcome to listen and join the discussion.
- **Senior government officials**
To share insights on capacity requirements towards AEC and outline governmental support.
- **Industry and user agencies**
To share their expectations towards geospatial graduates, including tips in getting hired.

GeoCapacity Schedule

26th November 2014 (Thursday)

0900 - 1100 - Key Note Presentation setting the 'Geo-Capacity' Framework

- Student Presentations and Feedback by Professionals

1100 - 1130 - Networking Tea/Coffee Break

1130 - 1300 - Student Presentations and Feedback by Professionals

1300 - 1430 - Networking Lunch

1430 - 1545 - Panel Discussion by the representatives of academia, industry and decision making bodies on 'GeoCapacity for Geo-Driven Development in the Asia-Pacific Region'

- Open Floor Interaction with Students and Counselling

1545- 1600 - Closing of the Session

Description of the Sessions

Student Presentations and Feedback by Professionals

10-12 post-graduate students from various educational institutions in Asia-Pacific region will be given 15 minutes each to present their masters / doctoral research work (selected from the Call for Papers submission). After every presentation, professors and geospatial professionals shall share their feedbacks and suggestions on the papers.

The 2 Best Student Papers will be conferred an award

Panel Discussion "GeoCapacity for Geo-Driven Development in the Asia-Pacific Region"

5 panellists consisting of academicians, government officials and industry will be discussing each of their roles and expectations while formulating the best course of action in shaping the geospatial capacity development for competitive advantage in the Asia-Pacific region.

Open Floor Interaction with Students and Counselling

The floor will be opened for questions and discussion among the panellists and students.

Closing of the Forum

- Moderator shall offer concluding remarks with takeaways from the discussions.
- 2 best presentations will be conferred the 'AGF'2014 Best Student Paper Award'

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