

Final Report

ISPRS 2011 Workshop on “Pervasive Web Mapping, Geoprocessing and Services”

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The Joint Workshops, titled "Our Complex World: Representation, Analysis and Modeling" and sponsored by the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) and the International Cartographic Association (ICA), was successfully completed during August 10-12th, 2011 on the campus of Simon Fraser University (SFU), Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. Building on the strong traditions and reputation of the previous Workshop series, this event blended the 4th ICA Workshop on Geospatial Analysis and Modeling organized by the ICA Commission on Geospatial Analysis and Modeling and the 2nd ISPRS Workshop on Pervasive Web Mapping, Geoprocessing and Services organized by the ISPRS Working Group (WG) IV/5 in collaboration with WG IV/1 and WG IV/4.

The ICA-ISPRS 2011 Joint Workshops brought together leading researchers to address issues related to the complexity of dynamic geographical and environmental systems from two perspectives, first the geospatial analysis and modeling one, and second the web-based mapping, geoprocessing and services one. In more than three decades, geomatics engineering, geographic information and complexity sciences have emerged as paradigms to effectively analyze the linkages between social and natural systems as they evolve in time and across geographic space. However, many unresolved conceptual, technical and application challenges still remain. Consequently, the Workshops' theme "Our complex world: representation, analysis and modeling" focused on these challenges to clarify existing understanding and advance new knowledge.

One of the goals of the joint Workshops was to continue to facilitate and promote high-quality research interaction, networking and communications. The intention was that multiple disciplines including geography, geomatics engineering, and computer, statistical and mathematical sciences would integrate ideas towards an improved understanding of the interactions between social and natural systems, and consequently more effective spatial and environmental planning, policy and decision making for a better world. These themes were reinforced by Dr. Marguerite Madden, ISPRS Technical Commission President in her opening remarks to the workshops participants.

The three days of the workshops was an intensive mixture of academic presentations both on-site and remotely using Skype, coffee and lunch breaks with tasty treats, and a social dinner. The state of the art facility at the IRMACS Centre, SFU allowed participants from around the world to present and discuss ideas in person or by web-based real-time streaming videos. From 40 registered participants, there were 35 presentations

including one audio and eight Skype presentations, and all from various countries including China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan (China Taipei), Australia, Canada, USA, Mexico, Sweden, Serbia, Italy, Ireland, and Germany. There were two keynote talks by internationally recognized experts. First, Dr. Timothy Nyerges, gave an excellent presentation co-authored with Brent Hall and Piotr Jankowski on “Participatory Modeling Methodology: Tightening the GeoWeb Design Loop”. Second, Dr. Paul Torrens delivered via Skype an engaging presentation on “Moving Agents in Geosimulation”. The main ISPRS WebGIS Workshop topics focused on various theoretical and practical applications of GeoWeb.



Dr. Timothy Nyerges and his keynote talk



Participants engaged in the presentation



Workshops participants



Dr. Paul Torrens and his Skype keynote talk

On the last day of the workshops, co-chairs Songnian Li, Bert Veenendal, Suzana Dragicevic, and Bin Jiang had a lunch meeting to discuss future possibilities for organization of the next workshops and reasonable scheduling and timing. The possibility of organizing 2nd ICA-ISPRS Joint Workshops was also discussed. Most of the deliberations focused on organizing forthcoming special issues: (1) Geomatica journal (Canadian

Institute of Geomatics) for which the call is already in place for a Special Issue on “Analytical Geospatial Web Services”; (2) International Journal of Digital Earth (Taylor & Francis), and (3) GeoJournal (Springer) as publication outlets for extended papers from the joint Workshops and wider afield. It was concluded that a blended mix of on-site and online real-time presentations is a good balance for making this kind of workshops attended by a broader audience and in times of budgetary and other constraints. The lessons learned from this first ICA-ISPRS 2011 joint Workshops should be incorporated in future organization of the workshops from finding appropriate facility and technical support that can handle such needed meticulous organization and also by budgeting fees for onsite and remote presenters.

In conclusion, based on the high quality of the presentations and the feedback of participants, the ICA-ISPRS 2011 joint Workshops was a success. All workshops participants had the opportunity to share knowledge, exchange scientific ideas and results, and develop long-term research collaborations during the three-day event. Moreover, graduate and undergraduate students also give presentations and obtained valuable experience. Information about the Workshops including photographs and proceedings can be found at <<http://www.sfu.ca/dragicevic/workshops2011/>>.



Left to Right: Bin Jiang, Suzana Dragicevic, Bert Veenendaal, and Songnian Li, 12-08-2011