

Gi4DM 2012

13-16 December, Enschede, The Netherlands

The series of conference Geo-Information for disaster management (Gi4DM) has started in 2005 as an initiative of researcher's data holders and vendors (www.gi4dm.net). Seven editions of these conferences have taken place in Delft, The Netherlands, (March 2005), Goa, India, (September 2006), Toronto, Canada, (May 2007), Harbin, China (August, 2008), Prague, Czech Republic (January 2009), Turin, Italy (February 2010) and Antalya, Turkey (May, 2011). The Eighth Gi4DM is going to take place in Enschede, the Netherlands (December 2012). Gi4DM has been organized in cooperation with different international bodies such as ISPRS, UNOOSA, ICA, ISCRAM FIG, IAG, OGC, WFP and supported by national organizations such as GIN (Netherlands) and CIG (Canada). Since 2008, Gi4DM is coordinated by the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JB GIS) ad-hoc Committee on Risk and Disaster Management.

Since 2005 geo-information technology has been gradually applied many sectors of risk and disaster management. Technology progress to support crisis response has also advanced greatly in the last few years. System for early warning, command and control, decision-making and simulation and training have been successfully implemented in many countries and regions all over the world. Indeed, to advance the current operational systems and make them intelligent, an extensive collaboration is required between emergency responders, disaster managers, system designers and researchers. We observe a growing trust between researchers and professionals within the Gi4DM conferences. The upcoming conference Gi4DM 2012 (www.gi4dm.net/2012) is a great example of this process because it is initiated by the Public Safety Districts of the Netherlands.

The Dutch emergency responders want to share several years of experience with one common Emergency management system and discuss their difficulties in exchanging information between different units, regions, countries and continents and creating a correct situation-awareness picture. The organizers of the conference aim to provide a place for discussion, exchange of experiences, knowledge and ideas towards finding solutions to various crisis response challenges. Researchers will be able to talk with officers to check and validate their direction of research. Technicians will be able to work with their prototype systems in real field tests. Vendors will be able to show products that can collaborate on interoperability. Officers will be able to see tests and demo's displaying the state-of-the art technologies. Last but not least this event aims to be entertaining and pleasant.

To make all this true, many exciting events will be organized next to the scientific presentations and discussions:

- Public Safety District Twente will organize the Troned main exercise

- Several test scenarios will be developed in collaboration with partners like Schiphol Airport, Tata steel and Studio Veiligheid
- The Dutch National first responders' platform for innovation, iBRIDGE, will demonstrate a number of field tests
- Demo tents will be set up at the former facilities of Twente airport
- Heated tents for accommodation will be available for everyone who wants to be close to the field tests and exercises
- Workshops and discussions hours will be organized through the days (and nights)
- PhD and student competitions will be organized during the training.

Gi4DM 2012 will be organized at two locations: University of Twente (13-14) and former facilities of Twente airport (14-16). All researchers will be able to observe and join real training, emergency responders will be able to discuss and evaluate research developments.

The Conference topics cover fields of public safety and crisis management with focus on intelligent use of geo-information, semantics and situation awareness. The following three major groups of topics are of interest: Data modeling and Visualization, Sensor and Communication Networks and User requirements and Best Practices. All submitted papers will be reviewed by a Scientific Committee and R&D Advisory Committee of experts in the field. Accepted papers will be published in a Springer book. Two types of papers are solicited: Scientific Papers (scientific contributions reporting new techniques, protocols, designs, analysis, technology developments, frameworks, etc. as well as research in progress) and Professional/Demo Papers (innovative systems and practical approaches or engineering contributions, in which applied (geo-)informatics is used). Prospective authors are welcome to submit their papers as follows:

Full paper submission:	August 15th, 2012
Short paper submission:	September 10th, 2012
Notification of Acceptance:	September 30th, 2012
Early Registration Deadline:	October 4th, 2012
Final paper submission:	October 7th, 2012

For more detailed information, please visit our web pages (www.gi4dm.net/2012).

We looking forward to meeting you at this exciting event