

The UN-Water/Africa is pleased to announce a three-day intensive training Workshop on Geo-Water Information development and management. The course is being undertaken with the aim of developing an African Regional Water Clearinghouse that will provide the basis for creating regional community, bringing together educational, governmental, nonprofit, & commercial entities interested in water research, conservation, and management. This workshop will be held as a pre-conference workshop to the 8th International Conference for Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI-8) and FIG Working Week.

1. Objectives

Participants will learn about the UN Water/Africa initiatives and their individual and national roles in implementing them, with emphasis on the African Water Information Clearinghouse. At the end of the workshop, they will be expected to have a better understanding of the role of information in managing water resources, and of metadata in managing the information. Participants will be able to create metadata records using real data they would have brought along. The metadata records will then be loaded on the AWICH node. The participants will become national focal persons to coordinate the development of national water data infrastructures and their participation in regional and global data sharing arrangements.

3. Target Audience

The workshop is being planned for technical personnel and decision makers from North African national and regional institutions responsible for supporting geospatial and water data development and management. Participants from other countries and regions are welcome to apply, but priority will be given to participants from the target sub region.

3. How to Apply

Interested participants should complete the attached application form and have it endorsed by their government or institution. Completed forms should be sent by email to ECAGEoinfo@uneca.org, by fax to +251-1-510-512, or by post to DISD/Geoinfo, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. All applications should be marked with "Water/Geo Information Clearinghouse Workshop" as the subject line for email submissions, on a separate cover page for fax submissions, and on the top left hand corner of the envelop for postal submissions. Completed applications forms should be received no later than Friday, 18 February 2005.

All applicants are requested to send website links related to your country water resource development and management with the application. You can also send documents that can be posted under your country profile of www.uneca.org/awich. Applications from qualified female participants are particularly encouraged.

4. Financial support

At least one water professional and one geoinformation professional from each of the countries in the North African countries will be sponsored by ECA to attend the workshop. Selection will be based on the demonstrated relevance of the training to the work of the applicant and to furthering the objectives of AWICH. Water professionals are also requested to list web address related to the development and management of water resources in their countries.

The sponsorship includes a round trip ticket by the most economical route from the capital city of their countries to Cairo. Accommodation will be prepaid and a subsistence allowance will be provided. All selected geoinformation participants and qualifying water participants will also be sponsored to attend the 8th International Conference for Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI-8) and FIG Working Week.

5. Course content and structure

Thursday, 14 April 2005

1. Workshop objectives and explanation of the workshop format and expected outcomes
2. Overview of water resources management
3. UN-Water/Africa. AWICH coordination
4. Partners' Messages .

Friday, 15 April 2005

6. Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) concepts
7. Establishing National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)
8. TIGER and other international initiatives
9. Standards, metadata and Clearinghouse nodes
10. Hands-on session on metadata creation and management using participants' data sets.

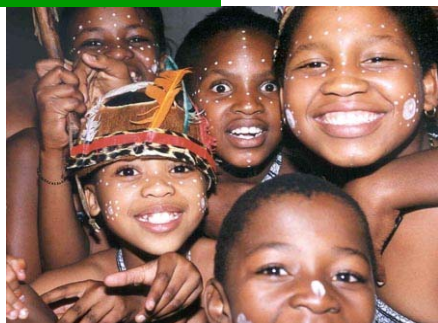
Saturday, 16 April 2005

11. Hands-on metadata training using participants' data sets continue.
12. The Way Forward

Sunday, 17 April 2005

13. AWDR — North Africa Report Review





6. Sponsorship of the Workshop

Sponsorship of the Workshop is open to interested entities. Sponsors can provide support for travel to the workshop of participants. Benefits of sponsorship include increased visibility of the sponsoring organization in the fields of African geo-water information and sustainable development.

7. Language of the workshop

The course languages will be English and French with simultaneous interpretation. However, most of the training materials are in English.

8. Points of Contact

For Workshops arrangements, nominations and sponsorships you may contact:

Sofanit Abebe
Economic Commission for Africa
Development Information Services Division
P.O. Box 3005, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
FAX: +251-1-51-05-12
Tel: + 2511443316
e-mail: sofanita@uneca.org

Institutional Contacts

A. Organizations that would like to participate in the national level development of the African Water Information Clearinghouse should contact the coordinator of UN-Water/Africa at the following address.

Stephen Maxwell Donkor, PhD.
Senior Regional Advisor and Coordinator
UN-Water/Africa
Sustainable Development Division
UN Economic Commission for Africa
P.O.Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251 1 44 34 22
Fax: +251 1 51 44 16
E-Mail: sdonkor@uneca.org

B. Geo-Information issues should be addressed to:

Dozie Ezigbalike, PhD
Senior Geographic Information Systems Officer,
Development Information Services Division
UN Economic Commission for Africa
P.O. Box 3005, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251-1-51-02-75 (direct)
+251-1-44-45-69 (pabx)
Fax: +251-1-51-05-12
e-mail: ezigbalike.uneca@un.org

We will send you soon, contact persons name and address regarding local arrangements including logistical details.

8th International Conference of GSDI & FIG Workshop Week in Cairo from 16 to 21 April 2005.

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to welcome you to the FIG Working Week and the 8th International Conference of GSDI in Cairo from 16 to 21 April 2005. The Organizing Committee consists of the Egyptian Committee for Surveying and Mapping (ECSM), and the Egyptian Survey Authority (ESA), who together with the FIG office and GSDI office are in charge of the arrangements of the conference. ECSM is a non-governmental organization whose members are academics from universities and professionals from private sector companies and senior civil servants from governmental bodies. These members have the highest experience in the field of geographic information, geodesy, astronomy, surveying, information technology...etc

The theme of the conference "*From Pharaohs to Geoinformatics*" reflects thousands of years of working in the field of geoinformatics which comes from three fields (geography, information and mathematics); in addition geodesy and astronomy and other related sciences were introduced in Egypt a thousand years ago.

The conference will be held at the Intercontinental Semiramis Hotel in the centre of Cairo. The program of the conference contains in addition to the high profile professional part, a large entertaining part including social events, social visits, gala dinner and opening ceremony, which will be full of the Egyptian folklore filled with the ancient and modern history fragrances.

As the organizing committee we are happy to welcome you to Egypt before, during and after the conference. We wish you all the joy, and entertainment besides the scientific part of the conference.

Dr. Eng. Ahmed Fouad El-Sheikh

Chair of the Local
Organizing Committee,
President of the
Egyptian Committee
for Surveying and
Mapping (ECSM)

www.fig.net/cairo

