The Big Challenges

The challenges faced in the current economic, political and technological landscapes require a holistic approach to solving the global issues we face. The need for innovation, sustainability, and collaboration is more urgent than ever.

Technological Futures

The future of technology is constantly evolving, with new developments and breakthroughs shaping our world. From artificial intelligence to renewable energy, technology is transforming industries and changing the way we live.

People

Connecting with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures is essential for innovation and collaboration. Networking events and conferences provide opportunities to learn from each other and collaborate on solutions.

General Assembly

The General Assembly is the pinnacle of the FIG Congress, where member nations come together to discuss and decide on the future of the gymnastics world. It's a platform for shared vision and collaboration.

Thanks to the Exhibitors

A special thanks to all our wonderful exhibitors. The FIG 2010 exhibition area was an inspiration.
Responding to Haiti

Web 2.0 technologies will be the driving force behind future developments in geospatial technology for emergency response, according to ESRI’s Brent Jones, speaking at yesterday’s After Lunch Talk.

Jones’ team worked with numerous disaster response organisations in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti in January. What Haiti clearly demonstrates for the geospatial industry is the immense power and importance of volunteered geographic information, said Jones. This citizen-sourced information, mobilised via a plethora of Web 2.0 technologies, is changing the way governments and professionals use information in emergency situations.

User-generated content played a critical role in relief efforts in Haiti. For example, OpenStreetMap users armed with little more than their cellphones were among those collecting intelligence in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, said Jones.

Another example is the TEXT Haiti Campaign, which raised $396 million in only two days using a text-based donation system. Twitter and Facebook were also incredibly important components of the response, according to Jones.

‘All this data is being integrated in a Web 2.0 environment and is really changing the way we respond,’ Jones said.

The challenge for GIS professionals is how to extract accurate geospatial data from this storm of information. ESRI is among the organisations already producing data and software for this purpose. Importantly, many of these tools are being made freely available to non-GIS professionals.

‘What we’re seeing is two worlds – professional and consumer – coming together. This is how we’re going to respond to the next disaster,’ Jones said.

‘Everyone’s going to be able to mash one of these things together with what they want, using these rich base maps. ‘This is GIS for everyone.’

One advantage of mobilising citizen knowledge by making data freely available is that as this collective pool of intelligence becomes increasingly large, it also becomes simpler to use, Jones said.