

Development and Challenges of Spatial Data Infrastructure in Hong Kong

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Key words: Geoinformation/GI; GSDI; Standards; Spatial Data Infrastructure; SDI; Common Spatial Data Infrastructure; CSDI; Smart City; Digital Twin

SUMMARY

Opening up and wider sharing of spatial data is strategic for the future of Hong Kong. In 2017, the Hong Kong SAR government set out in its Smart City Blueprint the need of formally establishing a Common Spatial Data Infrastructure (CSDI) for the city. It aims to empower the government and the society as a whole with convenient, easily accessible, high quality and up-to-date spatial data, applications and spatially enabled services.

This initiative is expected to have the ability to support the long term vision of Hong Kong through the provision of a critical information infrastructure that maximizes innovation, knowledge and value creation for different segments of the society starting from within the government. Properly planned, coordinated and executed, the availability of diverse types of spatial data could possibly foster the development of a more liveable, competitive, innovative and sustainable city.

In support of the CSDI initiative, new institutional arrangement was set up. Bureaux and Departments (B/Ds) currently collecting, providing or using spatial data joined hands in working groups to develop data standards. They will also prepare spatial data and set up API and catalogue services for wider sharing under a hybrid operating model.

Challenges exist in this cross-sectors, cross-organizations initiative which involves many stakeholders. The alignment of the CSDI with the Hong Kong 3D Digital Map project, which is going on in parallel, is one of the challenges. They are logically part of the same larger objective to create the Hong Kong Digital Twin that will provide the foundation for Smart Hong Kong as an advanced integrated system for effective sustainable development and city management. Furthermore, besides technical issues to be overcome, the paper will also share some institutional, resources and cultural challenges in the CSDI development in Hong Kong.

Development and Challenges of Spatial Data Infrastructure in Hong Kong (11206)
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FIG e-Working Week 2021
Smart Surveyors for Land and Water Management - Challenges in a New Reality
Virtually in the Netherlands, 21–25 June 2021