

reports cartographic meetings and events cont...

The CaGIS Board of Directors was delighted to welcome several members of the ICA Executive Committee and had many opportunities to meet with its members during the CaGIS welcome reception and evening social, as well as during a special pre-symposium dinner organized by Harold Moellering in downtown Columbus.

The CaGIS Board and the US National Committee to the ICA (USNC) is also pleased to announce that we will be hosting the 2017 ICA International Cartographic Conference in Washington, DC. We are excited to be bringing the international cartographic community to our nation's capital in 2017!

Sarah Battersby and **Greg Allord** | Cartography and Geographic Information Society | USA ●

Open Source GIS and WebMapping Workshop

Between 20-21 November 2012, a hands-on workshop *Open Source GIS & WebMapping* was held in Vienna, Austria. This workshop was tailored especially for members of the United Nations staff and other international organisations and NGO's. The goal was to introduce participants to the possibilities and pitfalls of using Open Source applications for GIS and webmapping. Some 25 participants from almost 20 different countries were registered, all interested in this technology, but without much experience in its application.



Open Source GIS and WebMapping hands-on workshop in Vienna, Austria | Photography Markus Jobst

The workshop started with an introduction session on Modern Cartography, with a focus on Open Source GIS and webmapping technology. The remaining time was spent on a set of exercises that guided the participants in setting up a webmapping site using OpenStreetMap data, adding their own data using desktop QGIS application, serving that data as a Web Map Service using Geoserver and MapServer WMS, and finally bringing it all together on an interactive website using OpenLayers. We used free and Open Source applications from the OSGEO LiveDVD. This initiative from the Open Source Geospatial Foundation is a self-contained bootable DVD/USB based on the Xubuntu operating system, that allows trying a wide variety of open source geospatial software without installation.

The group worked enthusiastically for two days, interspersed with lively discussions on the possibilities of using this Open Source web technology in their daily work.

The workshop was organised and facilitated by Barend Köbben (ITC, University Twente),

who put together the course materials. The materials, covering more content than actually delivered at the workshop, were collated to form a Cookbook – a self-guided resource for learning the theory and practice of Open Source WebMapping. The Cookbook (100 pages) was included in the Proceedings of the International Symposium on Service-Oriented Mapping (SOMAP) 2012 held immediately after the workshop.

The workshop was hosted by the Institute of Geoinformation and Cartography at the Vienna University of Technology, and supported by Esri, OSGEO and the ICA Commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies. The Commission has been actively promoting the use of Open Source software in a series of workshops such as this, and we are planning to organise more of them in the future. More details on this initiative can be found on the website at kartoweb.itc.nl/kobben/OSGEOcourses.html.

Barend Köbben | ITC - University of Twente | The Netherlands ●

international qualification in cartography

An important aspect of the ICA's mission is the promotion and support of education and training initiatives in Cartography and GIScience. The Master of Science (MSc) in Cartography is a new degree introduced in Europe in 2011 and offered entirely in English language (www.cartographymaster.eu). ICA endorsed this development by providing a Letter of Support on 20 September 2010. Immediate Past President of ICA Professor William Cartwright describes the program as "a unique offer when compared to other international programs".

The MSc in Cartography is a result of cooperation between three leading technical universities: Technical University of Munich (TUM), Technical University of Dresden (TU Dresden) both from Germany, and Technical University of Vienna (TU Vienna) from Austria. This cooperation and the combined cartographic expertise made it possible to create a unique and comprehensive program with excellent job employment prospects. The program aims to provide academic training of the highest standard. It focuses on the current and important research issues, such as spatiotemporal data integration, location-based map services, personalized map design and user research, design of cartographic tools, analysis and visualization of spatial data, and many others.

The program is truly international, with 14 students coming from ten different countries in 2011 intake, and 20 students from eleven countries in 2012. The 2-year program structure (see attached table) requires

Master's Programme in Cartography			Credits	Semester
Cartographic Foundations Scientific Visualization	Geostatistics Geovisualization	Image processing, Photo- grammetry & Remote Sensing	30	1 (TUM)
Theoretical Cartography Cartographic Interfaces	Location Based Services Multimedia Cartography	Cartographic publishing, Web- mapping, Geomedia Techniques	30	2 (TU Vienna)
Mobile Cartography Geodata Generalization	Georelief and Cartography GIS Applications	True-3D, Dynamic Geo-Features Radar Cartography	30	3 (TU Dresden)
Master's Thesis preparation (at one of the 3 cooperating universities)			30	4

students to spend their 1st semester at TUM, the 2nd at TU Vienna, and finally the 3rd one at TU Dresden. During the 4th semester students work on their MSc thesis at one of the three participating universities of their choice. The final qualification is a "joint degree" from the participating universities. The required mobility is a challenge for students, but at the same time a big advantage since they are exposed to different research perspectives and teaching approaches.

A proposal, supported by the ICA, to include the University of Twente (ITC) in the program is currently being considered (ITC is already involved in thesis supervision). "Such an initiative reflects the true nature of collaboration and innovation in European universities offering advanced studies in Cartography", says Professor Cartwright.

Stefan Peters | Technical University of Munich | Germany ●