



Panel Discussion on:

“The Joys and Responsibilities of Partnering and Coordination”

Chair: Prof. Mike Jackson, Univ. of Nottingham

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Panel Discussion on

“The Joys and Responsibilities of Partnering and Coordination”

Panel Members

Prof. Michael Gould (Chair, AGILE / University Jaume I, Castellon, Spain)

Dr. Ganiy Ishola Agbaje (Dept. Director, National Space Research & Development Agency, Nigeria)

Prof. Martien Molenaar (Rector, ITC, Netherlands)

Dr. Christian Aqueveque (Executive Secretary, SNIT, Ministry of National Goods, Chile)

Dr. Jamo Ratia (President, GSDI, Director-General, National Land Survey of Finland)

Mr. David Kaatrud (UNGIWG Co-Chair - WFP/UN-OCHA)

Objectives:

- To deliberate on the opportunities and associated responsibilities and discipline of effective partnerships and good coordination.
- To define the challenges and requirements of a 'UNSDI Culture' in support of and for the benefit of the 'geospatial commons', including and beyond technology and databases.

Some quotes from yesterday:

- The business model of today is collaboration

Jeffrey Tschirley

- To build a UN SDI one has to go beyond technical issues
- “Delivering as One” - delivery in a single integrated manner must be the goal
- To-date much activity has almost been extra-curricula – now a critical mass is needed to move forward

David Kaatrud

Some quotes from yesterday:

- There is a need for an inclusive approach which means a focus on culture - incentives (non-monetary), as well as technical aspects will be critical to success.

Prof. Harlan Onsrud

- UNSDI = SPIRIT = FUN --- *the non-monetary incentive??*

Jelle U. Hielkema

Some Questions.....

- How do we harness the benefits of partnership?
- How do we achieve Prof. Onsrud's Paradigm shift in the way we communicate?
- What are the characteristics of this new paradigm?
- In the emphasis on partnership the "obvious" route to take is to build-on what has been done by the early developers of GI technology and interoperability .. But are these advanced solutions necessarily what will be optimal for all or in the future?

And finally

- If Roger Longhorn is right and it does take 5 to 10 years to achieve interoperability do we have a good enough idea of what the geospatial technologies and needs will then be – or are we in danger of building interoperability for redundant legacy systems?

The Panel discussion

Introductory remarks (i):

Michael Gould: It is key to establish collaboration. We can look at game theory and in particular non-zero sum games. We need to find each person's incentives to collaborate.

Ganiy Agbaje: You encounter different settings in different countries. For example, in some countries, you find no data or obsolete data.

Martien Molenaar: Partnership has different meanings. In the context of SDI which meaning are we referring to? What are the incentives? We are all here at this workshop because we expect some opportunities. Long term partnerships are necessary to reach goals and provide coherent information services. What are the reporting requirements of different agencies?

Panel introductory remarks (ii):

Christian Aqueveque: We should expand our area of activity. Some countries have more data than others. Sharing knowledge and internal capacity are necessary for SDI. If you can offer other services in addition to infrastructure, people will become more interested. The institutionalization of SDI, for example in Chile and Cuba, brought higher success and it allows standards to be embraced and greater interoperability. The UN can help in promoting standards. UN is the obvious structure to develop this infrastructure.

Jamo Ratia: The needs are international, not national. Cooperation is the only way to survive. All data must be interoperable (comment based on the experience of a past EU project). Is it possible to create an EU or global SDI? Experience in the EU shows it needed to have a legal act and top-down approach but at the global level there is no body for such an act. Think of those aspects that will lead to a win-win outcome for all.

Panel introductory remarks (iii):

David Kaatrud: Technical collaboration is better served if understood as serving a higher purpose. Partnerships are evolutionary. They can start as personalized and extra-curricular and evolve into MoU's for sustainability. In the case of SDI, collaboration by interested individuals needs to move towards something more structured. Branding and agency accommodation are issues to consider. We have to think of who we are partnering with. We have to take into consideration that we are all over-extended already, and that is a limitation of what can be accommodated. Partnering is by consensus, so we need a framework, a flexible one, to keep up with technological change, etc. Collaboration needs to be within the UN and between the UN and Member States.

Discussion (i):

Patrick van Laake (ITC, Netherlands): Sustainability can be seen in two different contexts. How will UNSDI address the MDGs? Need to make a compelling case of how UNSDI will address the needs of people.

Martien Molenaar (ITC, Netherlands): Sustainability here means long-term and that those involved will stay involved.

Jelle Hielkema (FAO-UNGIWG): We should consider preparing a 1-2 page 'Frascati Declaration' and put UNSDI in the context of the MDGs.

Werner Balogh (UNOOSA, Vienna): It is not the role of UNSDI to show how it leads to sustainable development, there's much information about that already. UNSDI should focus on tools and interoperability.

Discussion (ii):

Michael Gould (University Jaume I, Spain): The topic here is collaboration.

Luc StPierre (UNHCR, Geneva): For good long-term partnerships, it is necessary for the obligations of partners to be clear and understood from the start.

Brendan McDonald (OCHA, NY): Take the example of the Junior Professional Officer Programme. Could member states with national SDI fund GIS professionals to do a couple of years at the UN?

Chris Higgins (Univ. Edinburgh, UK): The OGC have a University Working Group – members may be willing to support UN SDI initiatives as part of their academic programmes.

Discussion (iii):

Tatiana Delgado (GEOCUBA, Cuba): For the sustainability of SDI, we could demonstrate to the government the savings that come with SDI. The savings could be re-invested in GI to demonstrate further benefit from evolution of the SDI

Barry Henricksen (FAO-UNGIWG): UN should state more clearly where partnerships could help (where UN is weak). Keep abreast of technical innovation. There is need for capacity building in countries and within the UN.

Final Panel Comments (i):

Michael Gould (Jaume I University, Spain): Find out where people's incentives are. Find win-win situations.

Ganiy Ishola Agbaje (NASRDA, Nigeria): There are existing partnerships between countries. There are win-win situations to be found.

Martien Molenaar (ICT, Netherlands): UNSDI is also not just about partnerships. Information technology and geographical information technology can create service opportunities (but not necessarily reduce costs).

Christian Aqueveque (SNIT, Chile): This type of meeting helps build partnerships. For third world countries it is often hard to participate in these meetings but information exchange is made easier through the internet, for example.

Final Panel Comments (ii):

Jamo Ratia (GSDI, Finland): One way to go is to raise awareness of the benefits of UNSDI even within the UN.

David Kaatrud (UNOCHA): The UN's comparative advantages are in advocating the case, facilitating, identifying and sharing best practice, and building capacity (technological transfer and South-South collaboration). Partnerships would be good in those areas where the UN needs help. The UN needs help in coping with technological change, developing and appropriate technology (link with academia), and working with regional partners to work with particular countries. Also need to articulate how UNSDI will help achieve MDGs (direct link with MDG #8, but indirect link with the other MDGs).