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Formation of the UNSDI Center of Excellence

Bonn, 2012-03-27

To the UNGIWG Co-chairs and the Chair of the UNSDI Steering Committee.

The Open Source Geospatial Foundation welcomes and supports the strategic decision of the UNGIWG to implement Spatial Data Infrastructure concepts in the United Nations. SDI architecture concepts will benefit all participants, both internal as well as external partners. The UNSDI will allow prompt access to the vast geospatial assets of the organization and allow much better and faster decision processes based on highly accessible and up-to-date location information.

OSGeo would like to thank you for the nomination to the newly established UNSDI Technical Advisory Group and we are happy to accept. We can leverage a global network of expertise in the geospatial technology domain with best of breed know-how and proven software solutions. UNGIWG will have to focus on the communication of the SDI concepts and service based solutions in highly heterogeneous environments, a task where OSGeo naturally excels.

As a fully global organization we are widely location independent, yet there are locations with a special focus on geospatial technology and know-how. One of these is the region around the city of Bonn in Germany. Bonn features one of the highest concentrations of geospatial businesses and research centers worldwide including a variety of geospatially related departments at university making it a perfect fit for the Center of Excellence for UNSDI.

About OSGeo

The Open Source Geospatial Foundation, or OSGeo, is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to support and promote the collaborative development of open geospatial technologies, data and curriculum. The foundation provides financial, organizational and legal support to the broader open source geospatial community. It also serves as an independent legal entity to which community members can contribute code, funding and other resources, secure in the knowledge that their contributions will be maintained for public benefit. OSGeo also serves as an outreach and advocacy organization for the open source geospatial community, and provides a common forum and shared infrastructure for improving cross-project collaboration. The foundation's projects are all freely available and usable under an OSI-certified open source license.

On behalf of the Open Source Geospatial Foundation, sincerely yours,



Arnulf Christl
(OSGeo President)