

## **AFRICA GIS MEETING IN KAMPALA 26<sup>TH</sup> -29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009**

**THEME: GEO- SPACIAL INFORMATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA; FACING CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE.**

### **Introduction:**

The preparations for Africa's largest Geospatial Science & Technology gathering is progressing well.

The AfricaGIS 2009 conference will be opened by His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda and there will be several high ranking Ministers from the host country as well as members of parliament of neighboring countries.

### **AFRICAGIS Broad Objective**

The broad objective of AFRICAGIS is to provide a platform for geo-information professionals from Africa to learn about geo-information technology and its applications. It provides a forum for geo-information professionals to meet, interact, and be updated on new developments, products and emerging trends and issues.

### **AfricaGIS 2009 Conference Objective**

The AfricaGIS2009 conference objective is to take stock of what has been achieved since the previous conferences, practices, initiatives and identify issues for the future of Africa given the two critical global challenges of urbanization and environmental change. With Africa unequivocally urbanizing coupled with the complex environmental changes the challenge is whether African leadership in all spheres, researchers, corporations and development practitioners are ready for the challenges.

### **Conference Language**

The conference language is English with simultaneous translation into French of the plenary and some of the parallel sessions. There will be Keynote addresses, 20-minute paper presentations, followed by a 15-minute discussion and 60-minute facilitated general discussion at the end of each session. Poster sessions will be organized with flexibility to allow participants learn as much from the presenters in an environment as a market place. There will also be ample space for exhibition by vendors and various organizations.

**Keynote speakers:**

1. Hon. Dr Wilbur Ottichillo, MP of the Government of Kenya, Director of Google Earth Outreach,
2. Rebecca Moore and Dr. Alex de Sherbinin from UN-Habitat will make presentations on the opening day.
3. Jane Goodall Foundation, Lilian Pintea; US Geological Survey, Larry Theiszen; US Department of State, Dr. Lee Schwartz, Makere University, Prof. Joseph Obua; ESRI, Brent Jones; ITC, Rector Martien Molenaar; and EUROGI's, Bruce McCormack. Some of the confirmed exhibitors include the French Pavilion, AAG, WRI & EIS-AFRICA, ESRI, Google, Trimble, RCMRD, ITC, UN Agencies etc.

**Technical sessions:**

Will include scientifically applicable work done and ongoing, innovations from the business community and local communities, Young scholars; all with new approaches and strategies contributing to searching for EO solutions for Africa's problems.

**Related technical workshops taking place with the conference:**

GeoNetcast, Water and Resource Management (22nd-24th Oct.), GEOSS Disaster Risk Management (23rd-25th Oct.), GDEST workshop, GIS training workshops and a side event on Agriculture monitoring and capacity building activities.

**Invitation**

Please keep visiting the website ([www.africaGIS2009.org](http://www.africaGIS2009.org)) for updates on all these events and the venues where they will take place, and remember to register for the conference.

The hosts and organizing committee look forward to receiving you in Kampala.

NB: There is a call to express interest in hosting AfricaGIS 2010, and we look forward to your positive response.

Many Thanks,

**JOHNSON OWARO**

GEO Principal Uganda

Coordinator Disaster Preparedness and Recovery

*Sub Task lead:* ( AG-07-03c)

Expanding Earth Observation Applications in Agriculture and Promoting Capacity Building in Developing Countries