



## PRESS RELEASE

### MAP WORLD FORUM TAKES OFF

*Januayr 22, 2007 Hyderabad, India:* Map World Forum, the up-scaled event to commemorate the tenth year of annual Map India conference that the geospatial community has been witnessing was inaugurated today with the lighting of lamps by Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Rajashekhar Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Government of India, Dato' Seri Haji Azami bin Khalid, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Malaysia. The event is being organised at Hyderabad International Convention Center under the patronage of the Department of Science & Technology. The inaugural ceremony had a gathering of over 800 delegates from all over the world.

Speaking over the ceremony, Shri Kapil Sibal once again stressed on the public, private partnerships that Indian government sees as the need of the hour. While congratulating the organisers for Map World Forum as the unique event, he informed the utility of data towards the development of knowledge based economy. He said that GIS is not only a technology but it is all public good in our daily lives though with certain downsides; the industry should be well aware of the concerns of the government. He extended the hand of friendship to the industry for greater partnerships. Also presented the current picture of the surveying and mapping activities.

Earlier the Welcoming speech was delivered by the Dr. T Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology. He welcomed all the technocrats to the IT city of Hyderabad and appealed them to work towards further improvement of technology for the better public good. He informed that Geospatial community is fortunate to have a Minister of Science & Technology who is especially interested in as much as applicability of GI technologies. He commended Map World Forum for facilitating convergence and interaction of global geospatial community.

During his guest address, the Malaysian minister put up to audience the ongoing applications and future initiatives of the government of Malaysia based on GIS. Traffic management, land administration, and overall macro-level planning were the key areas that were stressed upon. He said that despite certain blocks as non-sharing of data, individual privacy, RS not as advancing as expected, standards, and ethical, ways and means have to be devised to move on.

Speaking at the ceremony the Andhra CM said that Andra Pradesh has been using GIS technologies for long. The state government's efforts towards natural resources management, environmental planning, geological mapping and especially the land administration have yielded desired fruits.

The occasion saw the awards and citations conferment ceremony where six renowned names of the community were honoured. They were

1. Dr K Kasturirangan for Leadership in Space Technologies
2. Rolta India Ltd. for Geospatial Leadership in India
3. ITC, The Netherlands for Capacity Building in Geospatial Technology
4. SiRF Technology for Empowering Location Based Services
5. GoogleEarth for Making Geospatial Information a Public Commodity

6. International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) for Building Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Professionals Network
7. Mr Jack Dangermond (ESRI) for Life Achievement

Dr M P Marayanan also delivered his introductory remarks and the vote of thanks was given Shri Maneesh Prasad, COO, GIS Development.

An Exhibition was also inaugurated after the ceremony. The major sponsors of the event are –

- a) Leica, Rolta, and ESRI as Platinum sponsors
- b) Autodesk, Bentley, DigitalGlobe as Gold sponsors
- c) Speck & Infotech as Silver sponsors

#### Breakfast meet with the industry leaders

A one hour interaction took place among the senior executives of the Indian geospatial companies and Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences. Taking the concerns of the industry people one by one, Minister stressed upon the need for a white paper where industry unanimously presents the requirements and the desirables with respect to the policy frameworks from the government. On the other hand, industry put its demand of 'accelerating' the initiatives at the Government's end. The Minister expressed the keenness of the government to enter into the PPPs and it was informed that NSDI would be a 'reality'. The Minister said that Govt too is in a learning mode on the technological issues and the regular interaction means prosperity till the grass roots level.

Following individual meets also took place before the inauguration

Meeting with Jack Dangermond, President ESRI

- Discussion on capacity building down to the school level in India.

Meeting with Gary Land, CEO, Autodesk

- Collaboration with India in a way similar to that of China.

Meeting with Michael Jones, CTO, GoogleEarth

- Strategic usage of the imageries that may not restrict the benefits that the users may otherwise get.

Meeting with Minister for Natural Resources and Environment

- On bi-lateral trade relations between India and Malaysia.

#### **About GIS Development**

GIS Development promotes and propagates the usage of Geographic Information Science, Technology and Applications in various areas of development, worldwide and Asia in particular. It assists community and government in developing their productivity, policies and management capabilities by facilitating knowledge transfer in the domain of geographic information. It fosters the growing network of those interested in geo-informatics and encourages the exchange of scientific know-how through its key platforms: Magazines, Portal, Conferences and Training.

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