



PRESS RELEASE

Map World Forum: A Promise for Sustainable Planet Earth

March 12, 2008 New Delhi, India: After the tremendous success of the first Map World Forum held in Hyderabad in January 2007, GIS Development, is pleased to announce the dates of the second **Map World Forum**, scheduled to be held from **February 10-13, 2009** at Hyderabad International Convention Centre, **Hyderabad, India**. The Forum promises to be a Global Congregation for thought and discussion between experts from various fields like Environment, Finance, Management, Technology and Governance with Geospatial specialists striving to make our planet a sustainable one. It aims to bring the geospatial community into limelight with regards to mainstream development organizations at a global level.

Planet Earth has become susceptible to disasters since the past few decades because of various infrastructure development activities, which has resulted in immense strain on available natural resources. Keeping in view this background, the theme chosen for the Forum is "**Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Planet Earth**". The factors affecting the sustainability of Planet Earth are all interrelated and in order to combat them, we need to have a tool, which can associate and analyse them in a seamless manner. Geospatial technologies, because of their geospatial information dependent nature, provide the only way to look at these issues from a holistic viewpoint. Today, there exists a notable lack of geographic data and literature on observed changes, with marked scarcity in developing countries. The need of the hour is to build an exhaustive geospatial database that is going to serve as an enabling platform for the various stakeholders of this community. Map World Forum will strive to address this urgent need in order to safeguarded our beautiful planet for our future generations.

The Honorable Minister for Science and Technology & Earth Sciences, Government of India, **Kapil Sibal**, who is also the Patron of the Forum, states, "Government of India stands committed to create, update, manage and disseminate geospatial information and use it to the best possible manner to improve the quality of the life of its citizens and development of the nation. Keeping this in mind we organized 'Map World Forum' which brought the global leadership in geospatial sciences on one mega platform to discuss the challenges and opportunities for the geospatial science and technology growth and its role for human development in the next decade. Overwhelmed with the need and positive response of such a forum, Government of India is privileged to host the Second Map World Forum"

The Forum has gained the support of Geospatial Industry titan – **Rolta India** as the Principal Industry Partner. **Department of Science and Technology**, Government of India is the Principal Government Partner while **Speck Systems** is the Corporate Partner for the Forum.

As Affiliate Partners, the Forum already has some key International Societies as its partner organisations - International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), Geospatial Information Technology Association (GITA), International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) and Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC).

Map World Forum will be promoted by its Media Partners - Directions Media, GIM International and ASM newsletter in different parts of the world. Directions Media is the premier news and resource guide for geospatial professionals based in the USA. GIM International is the Global Magazine for Geomatics based in The Netherlands and ASM newsletter is an Australian bi-monthly newsletter that reports on events in the

spatial industry in Asia. The publishers of ASM newsletter also bring out a magazine for the Australia/New Zealand region specifically, known as Position.

The Technical programme of the Forum will include 12 sub themes for Plenary Addresses, 4 Seminars, 8 Vertical Theme Based Symposia, 20 Technical Sessions, Panel Discussions, Technology Shows, User Meets, Social Programmes and an 1800 sq mtr plus area of Exhibition space. The sub themes for Plenary Addresses have been chosen to cover a wide range of issues. One set of themes cover issues like Climate Change, Environment, Wildlife and Forest, which reflect the natural environment that is bearing the brunt of modern day lifestyle. The other set of Plenary themes will focus on sectors like Transport, Oil & Gas, Mining, Energy etc. that need to be in sync with the needs of the environment while contributing simultaneously to economic growth of nations.

The Forum will also host 8 Vertical Theme Based Symposia on different aspects of Geospatial Technology and its applications, like Education, Governance, Social Infrastructure, Petroleum & Mining, Design & Engineering etc. There will also be two-day Symposium on Location Technologies known as Location Summit.

Sanjay Kumar, the Chief Executive Officer of GIS Development and Convenor of the Forum invites participation of delegates by stating, "Map World Forum will not just be a conference, it will be a Forum that will aim to Converge Ideas and Expand Horizons for Sustainable Planet Earth. It will aim beyond speeches and discussions to find practical ways to protect the Earth and improve people's lives. Its mission, therefore, will be to encourage the geospatial family and the society at large to function in ways that protect the Earth's natural environment and its capacity to provide for the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. I welcome participation of all the individuals and organisations who would like to contribute to this goal for making our planet a better place to live in."

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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