

- GIS
- Remote Sensing
- Web-based mapping and GIS
- Geostatistics / spatial statistics
- Geospatial data access
- and more...

Do you have layout and design skills? You can help by applying your skills to make OSGeo-News even better. Translators into different languages are also needed. You can help by volunteering as:

- Editor
- Layout Designer
- Reviewer

- Translator
- etc.

Please take a moment to thank the editorial staff and contributors of GRASS-News who have made a great newsletter. I am encouraged to see their interest in making the publication applicable to even more people. I look forward to seeing the next edition.

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## GRASS-News Editorial

*by the GRASS-News staff*

**Dear former GRASS-News readers,**

As you may have noticed from the joint logo and title on the front page, this is the last issue of GRASS-News in its current format. GRASS is currently in the incubation process as an OSGeo member project, and as part of the integration with OSGeo we've agreed with the OSGeo publicity committee to broaden the scope of the newsletter to cover other OSGeo projects. Many articles have already covered use of GRASS along with utilities from other OSGeo projects, and we're confident that this widen-

ing of coverage can only add to the usefulness and relevance of the articles in the GRASS-News. As a result, from the next issue onwards the newsletter will be known as OSGeo-News. Rather than have less GRASS-specific content, we anticipate the GRASS content will remain the same, and the frequency and/or size of the newsletter will increase to accommodate wider OSGeo material! To this end we need your contributions!

Thank you for your interest in the past and looking forward to OSGeo-News volume 1 with some very interesting GRASS articles included!

Your GRASS-News staff

## FOSS4G 2006 Conference: The meeting of the tribes

*by Helena Mitasova*

The Free and Open Source Software for Geoinformatics (FOSS4G, <http://www.fooss4g2006.org>) Conference held in Lausanne, Switzerland in September 2006 was a great success. It was the first joint con-

ference that brought together the different FOSS4G "tribes", merging the GRASS Users conference series, with the Mapserver, EOGeo and Java developers meetings. Hundreds of people, including software developers, power users and newcomers, had a chance to meet, discuss projects and present new developments and ideas. More than 25 hands-on workshops were offered providing an opportunity for the

participants to learn established and new software tools. Five sold out GRASS workshops were offered including advanced topics such as visualization and lidar data processing. In addition to the plenary sessions, more than 120 presentations were given in eight parallel sessions covering wide range of topics and projects, from Webmapping and desktop GIS to Geodata and OGC standards. The GRASS sessions included presentations on hydrologic modeling, urban planning applications, processing of massive data, support for hazard and emergency response management, visualization, python tools and many others. Jim Westervelt from USA CERL discussed the evolution of GRASS from public domain to FOSS4G in his keynote. All workshop material and presentation slides are available online Videos and conference photos from the conference are also available on the FOSS4G website under "Souvenirs". Several informal brainstorming sessions were organized as "birds-of-a-feather" (BOF) meetings to work out open access to geospatial data issues, seed national user groups, start new programming projects and more.

During the final afternoon several keynote talks were given as well as a discussion panel on FOSS4G

"politics". Also the second annual Sol Katz award for important contributions of an open source GIS community member was presented. This year Markus Neteler from the Center for Scientific and Technological Research (ITC-irst, Italy) was honored, recognizing his instrumental work on the GRASS GIS project. Congratulations to Markus for the well deserved award thanks for all the work that he has done for GRASS, keeping it growing and getting better for the past 10 years.

The excellent conference organization was carried out by Camptocamp, the University of Lausanne, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) and the University of Applied Sciences, Western Switzerland. The conference attendance by far exceeded all previous meetings. Great social events accompanied the technical parts of the conference.

The recently established Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo, <http://www.osgeo.org>) was introduced during the conference and offered an information booth as a focal point for learning more about the foundation and how to get involved. The foundation will take lead on future meetings in the FOSS4G series; the upcoming **FOSS4G2007** will be held in Victoria, Canada from **24-27 September 2007**.

## Report on OSGeo Promotions at GIS-IDEAS 2006

8-11 November, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

by Ho Dinh Duan and Venkatesh Raghavan

The GeoInformatics for Spatial-Infrastructure Development in Earth & Allied Sciences (GIS-IDEAS) 2006 Symposium was held in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), Vietnam, 9-11 November 2006 (<http://wgrass.media.osaka-cu.ac.jp/gisideas06/>).

The symposium was organised by Japan-Vietnam Geoinformatics Consortium (JVGC) and Institute for Environment and Resources (IER-HCMC) with support from several other institutions and GIS Development as the Media Partner. GIS-IDEAS 2006 Symposium was the third international GIS-IDEAS Symposium to be held in Vietnam since 2002. The main theme of the GIS-IDEAS 2006 was **Geoinformatics for Regional Sustainable Development**. The GIS-IDEAS 2006 Symposium provided a unique opportunity for sharing of knowledge and valuable experiences amongst the academia, researchers, industry and students. The GIS-IDEAS 2006 attracted 150 participants belonging to organisations spread over 9 countries Australia (1), (Belgium (2), France

(1) Germany (5), India (1), Japan (24), Russia (1), Thailand (2), Vietnam(110)).

As a part of activities to increase awareness about Open Source Software for Geoinformatics and promote OSGeo in Vietnam, a pre-conference workshop entitled Open Source for Geoinformatics was organised at the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) on 8th November, 2006. The details of the workshop **Open Source Geoinformatics Workshop** at the Institute of Information Technology HCMC are as below:

Coordinators: Dr. Tran Van Lang and Dr. Ho Dinh Duan, VAST-HCM by theme Japan-Vietnam Geoinformatics Consortium, the Institute of Information Technology, the Institute of Physics, VAST HCMC and supported by Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo). 47 participants from Vietnam and 7 participants from Japan attended this workshop.

The pre-conference workshop on Open Source Software for Geoinformatics attracted enthusiastic response with more than 50 participants attending. The workshop provided an overview of GIS applications (Prof. Mamoru Shibayama,



Joint Secretary JVGC) and Open Source software tools (Prof. Venkatesh Raghavan, Director, OSGeo). The afternoon session included actual installation of Open Source software tools and demonstrations including Vietnamese language localisation (Dr. Go YONEZAWA, Kyoto University and Mr. Ninsawat SARAWUT, Osaka City University) Participants were presented with the Osaka City University (OCU) FOSS4G toolkit CD including GIS/RS and Web-GIS software for self-learning.

The post-workshop meeting for establishing the Vietnam after the workshop that was attended by more than 40 participants and members decided to establish the Vietnam OSGeo Chapter. Mr. Dao Van TUYET, Institute of Information Technology, VAST-HCMC was nominated as the Vietnam OSGeo Chapter representative and Dr. Ho Dinh Duan, Institute of Physics, VAST-HCMC was nominated as one of the coordinators of the Vietnam OSGeo Chapter. The proposal for establishment of OSGeo Vietnam Chapter is being prepared by the chapter representative and will be finalised in January, 2007. The highlight of the workshop along with the news about the proposed Vietnam OSGeo Chapter was broadcast on Ho Chin Minh television news on 8th November, 2006. This was per-

haps the first official television news program in the world wherein OSGeo was specifically mentioned several times ([http://wgrass.media.osaka-cu.ac.jp/gisideas06/foss4g\\_ws\\_on\\_hcmctv.swf](http://wgrass.media.osaka-cu.ac.jp/gisideas06/foss4g_ws_on_hcmctv.swf)).

The OSGeo booth was operated on all the three days (9-11 November, 2006). The poster session was preceded by lightning-talk on proposed activities of OSGeo Vietnam by Mr. Do Long Van. Details about activities of OSGeo were also presented in the Technical Session by Prof. Venkatesh Raghavan (<http://wgrass.media.osaka-cu.ac.jp/gisideas06/viewabstract.php?id=166>). The OSGeo Booth at GIS-IDEAS 2006 included attracted attention of almost all the symposium participants. Brochure and posters explaining the activities of OSGeo and various OSGeo projects were made available at the booth.

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## Quantum GIS

What's New in 0.8

by Gary E. Sherman

### Introduction

Version 0.8 of Quantum GIS (QGIS) is nearing release. Many of you may be wondering why its been so long in coming. At 0.8, we converted the QGIS code base to use Qt 4.x. This was a major overhaul and took longer than anticipated. With that job behind us, we look forward to more frequent incremental releases in the future.

In addition to the port to Qt 4.x, version 0.8 adds a number of new features and enhancements.

### New Features and Enhancements

New features in QGIS 0.8 include:

- WMS support
- Improved vector and attribute editing
- Improved measure tools with area measuring
- Attribute searching
- New legend structure
- Refactoring of API to allow the use of QGIS libraries in mapping applications
- Improved MapServer export tool