



## URISA CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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September 21, 2012

Frank Warmerdam

OSGEO

14525 SW Millikan #42523

Beaverton, Oregon

United States

97005-2343

Dear Mr. Warmerdam,

### **RE: Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) Caribbean High Level Geospatial Information Management Meeting**

The URISA Caribbean Planning Committee in association with the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change of Jamaica invites you or your representative to attend the **URISA Caribbean High Level Geospatial Information Management meeting on Wednesday November 14, 2012**, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the **Rose Hall Ballroom**, at the Hilton Rose Hall, Montego Bay, Jamaica.

You are being invited based on your technical expertise, experience, and leadership skills as well as the decision making role of your entity in geospatial information management, which gives you the ability to contribute significantly to the deliberations.

The objectives of the meeting are to examine geospatial information management issues across the



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region, to decide on strategic objectives and chart the way forward to strengthen the knowledge and use of geospatial technologies to facilitate improved decision making regarding the management of resources and sustaining the lives of the peoples of the Caribbean.

This High Level Meeting is being staged in an effort to have the nations of the Caribbean reap the benefits accruable from regional and global geospatial information management initiatives. A number of attempts to have regional consensus have been made over the past years with little success. The organizing committee thinks that this conference serves as an opportune time to advance the initiative given the achievements being made around the globe by other countries and regional spatial data infrastructure (SDI) groups such as PC-IDEA and INSPIRE, the increased importance of the role of geospatial information management in sustainable development, as affirmed at Rio+20, and the work of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) Secretariat in supporting the advancement of global geo-spatial information management.

One of the issues critical to successfully charting the way forward is the development of a Regional SDI. While some Caribbean states have made significant steps towards the development of National SDIs, there is still an appreciable amount of work to be done to achieve buy-in from stakeholders and all countries in the region. It is in light of this and other critical issues affecting the region that this meeting is being held.

It is the groups' intention, through the expertise of the participants in the High Level Meeting to forge a way forward for the creation of a regional geographical datum, SDI movement, establish methodologies and best practices, and formulate a working group of knowledgeable experts to advance regional development to address critical issues including climate change, disaster management, planning and development and the management of fragile ecosystems.

In light of the perceived issues affecting GIS users at all levels in the Caribbean, five (5) core areas will be examined in the meeting . These areas are:

1. The development of a regional framework for Geo-spatial Information
2. Capacity and Capability Building – Education and Training
3. Standardization of a Regional Datum
4. Provision of access to fundamental datasets & regulation of the quality of geo-spatial



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information and

### 5. Trends in Information Technology

Background documents on the five core areas will be prepared by the presenters before the session and circulated to all confirmed participants for review and discussion within their organisations and country. All participants are encouraged to send comments and position papers from their country before the meeting and should you wish to submit a short report on the status of SDI within your country you are also encouraged to do so.

Regrettably the conference committee will not be able to cover the cost for your travel and accommodation. However, it is hoped that given the importance of the meeting and the potential advantages for geospatial development your organization will be able to support your attendance.

We look forward to seeing you at the Hilton Rose Hall, Montego Bay, Jamaica on November 14, 2012 and request that you confirm your attendance on or before Monday October 8<sup>th</sup> 2012. Should you need further information or clarification you may refer to the URISA Caribbean web page at <http://www.urisa.org/carib2012>, additionally, information related to exhibits and sponsorship may be obtained at [http://www.urisa.org/carib2012\\_sponsorship](http://www.urisa.org/carib2012_sponsorship). For general enquiries, please contact the secretariat through your preferred mode of contact using the information on the letterhead.

Kind regards,

Valrie Grant, GISP  
Conference Chair



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