

FIFTH KNSDI WORKSHOP (KNSDI 5)

Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi 14th March 2006

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

By

Prof. G.C. Mulaku

- The KNSDI Education WG, like the others (Standards, Legal and Dissemination), was formed at the KNSDI second workshop which was held on 26th April 2002. At that time, the WG was mandated to deal with matters pertaining to **training, curriculum, research and sensitization** in respect of KNSDI. This mandate was confirmed at the KNSDI 4 workshop held 30th November 2005. At the latter workshop, the membership of the group was reviewed and expanded to include the following 17 organizations.

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT PERSON
University of Nairobi	Prof. G.C. Mulaku
JKUAT	Dr. M.K. Gachari
Kenya Polytechnic	Mr. P. Kimeu
JICA	Mr. M. Ishizuka
RCMRD	Dr. W. Ottichilo
Kenya Meteorological Dept.	Mr. Mwika
Survey of Kenya	Mr. H. Ngomo
Nairobi City Council	Mr. J.K. Barreh
ICRAF	Dr. A. Awiti
ILRI	Mr. K. Chege
KEFRI	Mr. C.J. A. Mullah
Land Adjudication and Sett. Dept	Mr. W.K. Korir
NEMA	Mr. S. Bokea
Ministry of Housing	Mr. S. Kaburu
National Museums of Kenya	Mr. D. Milewa
National Housing Corp.	Mr. B. Mochire
KISM	Mr. B. Kumunga

The University of Nairobi was nominated to be the convenor for the WG.

- The WG held its first meeting on 24th February 2006 at KISM and the following developments arose there from:

1. **Liaison** was added to the WG's mandate

2. **Specific tasks** for the WG were formulated as follows:

- (a) To identify the skills required by KNSDI personnel and to encourage relevant institutions to include them in their courses after reviewing their current curricula.
- (b) To sensitize the public about KNSDI through the media, seminars , workshops, fliers, etc.
- (c) To generate KNSDI relevant research proposals and carry out the research where possible.
- (d) To liaise with sister NSDI organizations in other countries.
- (e) To liaise with relevant professional bodies on CPD for their members.
- (f) To encourage the sharing of SDI facilities among learning institutions.

3. **A tentative work plan for 2006** for the WG was formulated as follows:

- (a) Make a report for KNSDI 5.
- (b) Acquire curricula from institutions that offer NSDI related courses.
- (c) Generate the requisite skills set for KNSDI personnel.
- (d) Evaluate curricula from (b) and advise in view of (c).
- (e) Develop a public awareness strategy.
- (f) Carry out relevant research .

(g) Liaise with sister WGs on their work .

(h) Contribute the Education component of the KNSDI policy.

4. The part of the **KNSDI draft policy dealing with Education was revised by the WG** and now stands as:

11. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Introduction

NSDI is a relatively new concept that rides on the technologies of Remote Sensing (RS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS), otherwise referred to as geo-information technologies. Just as is the case in most African countries, the establishment of these technologies in Kenya is still at the infancy stage. This implies that there is an urgent need for training and capacity building for stakeholders, from both the public and private sectors, if the country is to fully embrace these technologies for her much needed socio-economic development. Focus for training and capacity building for NSDI, rests on five key pillars, namely, human resource training in geo-information, geo-information curriculum development, research in geo-information technologies and applications, public / user sensitization campaigns, and liaison with strategic partners. Whereas there is need to create awareness in geo-information at the primary and secondary schools levels, the need to establish sound dynamic training and capacity building programmes at the tertiary level based on these five pillars cannot be overemphasized.

Policy Recommendations

- GI projects to include a training component for various grades of manpower (operators, supervisors, managers, etc) in relevant aspects of geo-information.
- The KNSDI coordinating agency and other stakeholders to carry out public awareness programmes from time to time on KNSDI related issues.

- All institutions of learning offering geo-information related programmes to review their geo-information curricula on a regular basis.
- Impact assessment of geo-information projects on the society to be carried out by the KNSDI stakeholders.
- Government, through the KNSDI coordinating agency to encourage research on new innovations in geo-information and its applications.
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for geo-information practitioners to be mandatory.
- Geo-information stakeholders to be encouraged to forge strategic liaisons with reputable local and international partners.
- Accreditation of geo-information training programmes based on international standards and practices to be encouraged.