

KNSDI NEWSLETTER

A newsletter from the KNSDI Secretariat

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The Project for Strengthening Survey of Kenya for GIS Promotion in the Republic of Kenya

KNSDI Standards Seminar

Theme: 'Strengthening Capacity and Promoting Geo-information sharing in Kenya'

The seminar was held on 29th November 2006 at the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD), Juja, Nairobi. The objectives of the seminar were firstly, to brief the participants on the overall project design in terms of its goal, the scope and how it would function. Secondly, to explain the significance of standards as a component of NSDI and, thirdly, to provide a schedule regarding standardization activities.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Mr. Kombo Mwero delivered the opening speech. In his statement the PS emphasized the need to strengthen the capacity of Survey of Kenya to promote the use of Geographic

Information System (GIS) in Kenya. He went further to explain that the project was initiated by Kenya and that JICA-Kenya was providing technical assistance. Mr. Kombo thanked JICA for their continued support and in particular towards this project. Being the Implementing Agency the Ministry of Lands and in particular Survey of Kenya was challenged to rise to the occasion and be responsible and committed to the project. The Permanent Secretary further reminded the participants that all stakeholders should be brought on board. He concluded his speech by thanking all the participants and JICA for attending the seminar.



The PS, Mr. K. Mwero opening the seminar.



Mr. Y. Kano, welcoming the participants.

In his welcoming speech the Resident Representative JICA-Kenya office Mr. Y. Kano thanked the KNSDI secretariat on behalf of JICA for organizing the seminar and Japan for sponsoring the project. He reminded the participants of the long history of JICA-Kenya co-operation spanning over five (5) decades. Mr. Kano shared the Permanent Secretary's sentiment that the project was initiated by Kenya. JICA's role was to facilitate capacity building by providing financial, technical and human

support to ensure its success. He expressed his wish that Kenya were the first African country to achieve NSDI goals. The Resident Representative challenged the participants to identify a NSDI suitable for them and work hard towards achieving its goals. Mr. Kano pointed out the need for co-operation among all the stakeholders. He concluded by thanking all the participants for attending the seminar.

Presentations followed immediately.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Project outline** by [B.N. Owino – Survey of Kenya](#)
2. **Standardization outline** by [P. Gota - Survey of Kenya](#)
3. **History in Japan** by [J. Sato- JICA](#)
4. **Geoinformation standardization at ISO** by [S.K.A. Masinza – KEBS](#)
5. **Current status of standardization activities in the region** by Dr. W. [Ottichilo - RCMRD](#)
6. **Current status of nsdi standardization in Kenya** by [Prof. G.C. Mulaku – University of Nairobi](#)
7. **Technical aspects of KNSDI** by [Yamada – JICA](#)
8. **Schedules regarding standardization** by [B.A. Oluande - Survey of Kenya](#)

For details on these presentations please, see the program schedule and the handout. It was agreed unanimously that standards

should be formulated through consultations and consensus building.

At around 12:00 noon, participants took a break.



The participants at the KNSDI Standardization Seminar at AICAD, Nairobi.



Taking time off for refreshments. It's tea time.



Time to catch up with the latest from colleagues.

At 2:00 pm the participants took a short break to enjoy their lunch served at the AICAD cafeteria.



Time for lunch. Participants enjoying their meals.



For others, space was equally important.

On resumption a discussion session followed after two more presentations were made. The discussion was chaired by Mr. Reginald Okumu, chairman, ISK.

- One participant wanted to know whether the resolutions passed in the previous seminars had been incorporated in the Standards Seminar. In response he was reminded that the Standards seminar was not a follow-up on the resolutions. However, the participants were informed that the

resolutions were being looked into by other Working Groups established for the same.

- He further wanted to know the extent to which KEBS incorporated KNSDI Standards in the legal system. The participants were reminded that Cap 496 of the laws of Kenya mandates KEBS to conduct standardization of all activities involved in the formulation of standards. The committee was composed of all stakeholders and

that Kenya Bureau of Standards' role was to facilitate documentation through a consensus. The

application of the existing procedures was necessary and would be followed.



Mr. B. Owino presenting the project overview.



Participants keenly following the presentations.

A request was made on the issue of budget and Uganda was cited as an example where a budget had been set aside to cater for their NSDI.

- It was reported that a KNSDI policy paper had been prepared and submitted to the Permanent Secretary (Lands and Settlements) who had recommended that officers from the Treasury would have to be involved and a cabinet memo prepared, which would allow for budgetary allocation.
- On the other hand, KNSDI was expected to be income generating and thus self supporting.

The following comment was made:

- The nation was faced with various problems such as poverty, diseases, etc. GIS Action Plan needed to be started right then to mitigate such problems.

The following suggestions were floated:

- There was a need to work on the legal framework workshop and develop its contents.
- Digitization of information and documentation should be undertaken.
- Standards for metadata should be developed.
- We don't need an earthquake to jolt us into action as happened in Japan; a way forward should be thought of.
- The sequence of events to establish a NSDI appears to be too long. A parallel process was preferred.
- Policies should be formulated.
- A clearing house was required to be put in place.

Some recommendations were made as follows:

- Metadata should be implemented straight away.
- Their attributes needed to be collected right away.
- Standards for data exchange should be put in place.

- Standards for GIS consortium should be agreed upon.

A participant wanted to know who the actual end users were. Were they the GIS software users?

The response to this was that GIS end users were in two categories:

- Professional users: for example surveyors, geologists, engineers, researchers etc who would download the information and use it directly or add value to it to suit their tasks.
- The non professionals: those with limited or no GIS background but might need the data for one reason or another.

The clearing house should cater for both categories of users.

The following statements were made:

- Discussions on GIS were still going on. Issues such as copyright, security etc were being looked into.
- Data sharing although difficult idea to conceptualize was nonetheless very important.

A few observations were made namely:

- KNSDI issue seemed a wide concept yet the Kenyan Government was currently working on a National Land Policy.
- Millennium goals and poverty eradication programs need to be included in the KNSDI concept.
- The procedure for obtaining data was very bureaucratic.
- There was fear that the existing outdated maps which did not reflect the actual ground situation would be digitized and disseminated.

A participant wanted to know whether revision was taking place or were there plans for the same?

In response it was reported that the ministry was overwhelmed by other pressing issues such as:

- The national land policy
- The district boundary maps
- Settlement of people in Coast Province
- Survey of government and police houses etc.

The above issues, however, could not be allowed to overshadow the KNSDI. It was reported that:

- The Permanent Secretary had created awareness among other Permanent Secretaries from other ministries.
- Digitization of cadastral and topographic maps was in progress.
- Revision of outdated maps was taking place. The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development had assisted by providing satellite imageries to facilitate the revision. Three maps had already been completed.

Japan had been inspired by an earthquake to establish its NSDI. What had inspired Survey of Kenya? One participant asked.

In response it was reported that:

- Many organizations were carrying out digitization yet they did not correspond with those from Survey of Kenya.
- The ICT dictated to Survey of Kenya's role in the provision of digital data.
- There are close to 60 institutions with GIS facilities and these had

- encouraged duplication of effort and hence waste of resources.
- There was need for institutions to concentrate on their mandate and leave framework data to Survey of Kenya.
- Digital map of Nairobi was up to date and it should be used as a starting digital map. It was done in the year 2003. The rest of the datasets would follow after their revision.

What was the way forward? It was asked.

- It was proposed that organizations with security issues to harmonize standards compare them and implement International Organization of Standards (ISO).
- There was a need to be issues-oriented.
- A structure proposed by all stakeholders is adopted.
- Better management of natural resources.
- All ministries to work together in order to avail all the required information and solve issues that affected national security.
- KNSDI Secretariat has four working groups and they were working on the way forward.
- The sixth (6th) workshop would incorporate all the stakeholders together with other ministries.

One participant wanted to know how Survey of Kenya fitted into the picture.

- When the Land Information Management System (LIMS) was developed, the use of standards in the KNSDI as an umbrella body would encompass the resolutions and enhance the use of City of Nairobi data.

- Members of LIMS were also in KNSDI and thus were working together to ensure no duplication of effort.

There was concern on the use of questionnaires as a tool for data collection. Submissions of the same took so long and were inadequately answered. How were they going to be administered?

In response it was reported that:

- There was a need for people to change their attitude towards questionnaires.
- The Standards WG would simplify the questions as much as possible without compromising the objective. The questionnaires would be made as user friendly as possible.
- The participants were challenged to fill in and return the questionnaires.
- Some organizations had expressed their willingness to act on the questionnaires adequately.

There being no further point to discuss Mr. Okumu delivered his closing speech. He said that the country had suffered a lot due to lack of information. To achieve the KNSDI goals the chairman said all information should be made available. The 60 GIS installations using the same tools to collect the same information was duplication of efforts and this should be avoided. This could be solved by co-operation and intercommunication to know who has what.

Without information the ISK chairman pointed out that there was a likelihood of inappropriate budgeting for instance, allocating Ksh. 3 billion to a district with some roads while allocating Ksh. 3 million to one without any. The KNSDI initiative should be embraced by all in order to avail all information and be able to solve the main

problems afflicting Kenya namely poverty, diseases, mismanagement of resources etc. The chairman reminded the participants that it had been agreed that computerization of our land records would help speed up retrieval of information. Digitization had started but for some unknown reasons had stalled. He said whoever was behind it should be dealt with accordingly. He concurred that KNSDI was important and standards needed to be established.

He pointed out that KNSDI would incorporate business people, the industry and other professionals. He said that since we knew where we wanted to go as we worked on standards we should not allow a culture

of intrigues to ruin our sectors. There was an urgent need to implement the KNSDI before the distracters took over. He reminded the participants of the proposal by Prof. Mulaku on the formulation of a GIS association which would include all GIS users. He challenged the Professor to spearhead the registration. The chairman promised to support its registration. He opined that the more GIS organizations in place the better it would be for all.

Mr. Okumu thanked JICA office, the KNSDI Secretariat and the facilitators for their sleepless nights preparing the presentations and all the participants for turning up. He wished all participants a Merry X-Mass and a happy GIS year.



AICAD, Nairobi: the venue of the Seminar

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