

PROCEEDINGS FOR THE 1st KNSDI STANDARDS SEMINAR

OPENING STATEMENT

(By Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands)

The PS expressed his gratitude for being invited to attend the seminar, which is meant to provide solutions to the previous workshops and seminars. He emphasized that there was need for survey of Kenya to be strengthened in order to promote the use of GIS in the Republic of Kenya.

GIS will facilitate the purpose of establishing KNSDI which will enhance sharing and accessibility of Geo-information. He emphasized the time had come for practical implementation of NSDI.

The PS made it clear that the project at hand is not for JICA but for Kenya. Survey of Kenya was therefore challenged to take the responsibility to implement NSDI in Kenya. The major role of Survey of Kenya would be to train GIS users and create the clearing house for dissemination of Geoinformation. He stressed on the need to have all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project, to be fully committed and take full responsibility on their tasks to enhance partnership.

He reiterated that Kenya is patiently waiting for NSDI to take effect and if each one of us plays their rightful role through this initiative, this will be realized. Kenya needs to move into the 2030 vision when NSDI is implemented. With the arrival of JICA experts, this seminar will be valuable and assist in the formulation of standards.

The various in attendance will ensure that this is accomplished.

An organization dealing in Spatial Data Management (Pamoja Trust) which is working together with Physical planning has collected a lot of data in Kisumu and therefore, there is need to move quickly and provide Geoinformation to the public before this organization does the same. He added that if we do not play an active role others are going to fill the vacuum while we dwell on bureaucracy. He said he had requested them to liaise with the ministry so that they volunteer the information to the Director of Surveys. He advised on the need to invite such groups on board so that they participate in the implement of NSDI.

He took the opportunity to thank all the JICA resource persons and all who offered their time to participate in the forum and that he looked forward to a fruitful participation from them.

WELCOMING SPEECH

(By: Kano, Resident Representative JICA Kenya Office)

He expressed his pleasure to be in the seminar and took the opportunity on behalf of JICA to thank the KNSDI secretariat for organizing the seminar and to Japan for fostering this project. He had the pleasure to invite all the participants to AICAD.

JICA has had various co-operations in Kenya for past 50 years.

He also emphasized that the 'promotion of GIS use' project is not owned by Japan but rather Kenya. JICA will support in capacity building and also in finances to ensure that it is successful.

He wished that Kenya would be the first African country to achieve NSDI goals and thus help develop the economy. He stressed on the need for information to be organized and available for utilization for the purpose of sharing the experience and what kind of NSDI we need. He was hopeful that the seminar would be useful for closer communication among the participants.

He thanked all the participants for attending the seminar.

DISCUSSION

Chaired by Reginald Okumu – Chairman LSK

Q. Resolutions were made in the previous seminar yet nothing has been discussed concerning them. What has been achieved so far?

- This is a new project and not a follow up of the 5th KNSDI workshop. Another workshop will be organized and discussions will be held concerning the achievements which had been discussed in the 5th KNSDI workshop.

Q. When something new comes up, it should be integrated in the system. To what extent does KEBS incorporate KNSDI standards in the legal system?

- Cap 496 mandates KEBS to conduct standardization of all activities involved in formulation of the standards. The committee is composed of all the stakeholders and KEBS have a purpose to facilitate in documentation since consensus is necessary.
- Use of existing procedures is necessary.

Q. Request was made on the issue of budget, an example of Uganda was cited.

- A policy paper has been prepared and submitted to the PS who recommended that officers from Treasury will have to be involved and a cabinet memo prepared, which will allow budgetary allocation.
- On the other hand, NSDI will be income generating and thus self supporting.

Q. Comments made:

- Nation is faced with various problems such as: poverty, diseases, etc. GIS action plan need to be started right now to enable solve these problems.

Other suggestions made were as follows:

- There is need to work on legal framework workshop and develop its contents.
- Digitizing of information and documentation should be undertaken
- Standards for metadata should be developed.
- Think of a way forward. We don't need an earth quake as in the case of Japan to wake us up.
- Sequence of events as planned by JICA is not very useful (seems too long), a parallel process is preferred.
- Policies should be formulated
- A clearing house required to be put in place.

Q. Recommendations made as follows:

- Start implementing metadata straight away
- Collect the attributes
- Standards for data exchange should be put in place
- Standards for GIS consortium should be agreed on.

Responses were as follows:

- Time span seems to be long
- Capacity building to end users a necessity

Q. Who is the actual end user? Is it the GIS software users?

- GIS end users are in two categories:
 - Professional users: those with a specific profession e.g. a surveyor, geologist, engineer or a researcher who will download the information and use it directly or add value to it to suit his task.
 - Non professional user: Those who may have either some education or non at all, but need data for some respective reasons.
- The clearing house should be able to cater for all such users.

Q. The following statements given:

- Discussion on GIS is still on going. Some issues like copyright, security, etc are being looked into.
- All stakeholders were advised to be involved in this discussion.
- Data sharing in Kenya seems a difficult concept but yet it's very important.

Q. A few observations were made as follows:

- KNSDI issue seems a wide concept, yet the Kenya government is currently working on a national land policy.
- Millennium goals and poverty eradication programs need to be included in the NSDI concept.
- Procedure for obtaining data is very bureaucratic
- There is fear that the existing out dated maps would be digitized and disseminated.

Is revision taking place or is there any plan for the same?

Response

- The ministry is overwhelmed by other pressing issues e.g.:
 - The national land policy
 - District boundary maps
 - Settlement of people in Coast province
 - Survey of government houses and police houses

Yet still KNSDI is being fostered since it is very important.

- The PS has created awareness among Permanent Secretaries from other ministries.
- Digitizing of both Cadastral and topographic maps is in progress.

- Revision of outdated maps is taking place. Regional center has assisted by providing satellite imagery to facilitate the revision. Three maps already completed.

Q. What inspired Survey of Kenya?

- Many organizations are carrying out digitizing yet it does not correspond with those in Survey of Kenya.
- The ICT policy dictated Survey of Kenya's role in provision of digital data.
- There are 60 institutions with GIS and this has encouraged duplication of effort and hence wastes of government resources.
- There is need for institutions to concentrate on their mandate and leave framework data to SOK.
- Digital map of Nairobi is up to date and this is what we shall start with. It was done in 2003. The rest of the datasets will follow after their revision.

Q. What is the way forward?

- Organizations with security issues to harmonize standards compare them and implement ISO standards.
- There is need to be issues oriented.
- To adopt a structure which is proposed by all stakeholders
- Better management of natural resources
- All ministries to work together in order to avail all the required information and solve issues that affect national security.
- NSDI secretariat has four working groups and they are working on the way forward.
- It is important that Willy Simons (Oakar Services) attends the next workshops so that he contributes to the way forward as will be discussed.
- The 6th workshop will incorporate all the stakeholders and other ministries

Q. How does SOK fit in this project?

- When the LIMS is developed, the use of standards in NSDI as an umbrella body will encompass the resolutions and enhance the use of City of Nairobi data.
- Members of LIMS are also in NSDI and thus are working together to ensure no duplication of effort.

Q. There was concern on the use of questionnaires as a means of data collection. The recipients submit them after a very long time and are inadequately answered.

How are they going to be administered?

Response

- People were requested to change their attitude on the questionnaires and try and respond when they are sent a questionnaire.

- Various organizations were visited and they promised to answer the questionnaires adequately.

CLOSING STATEMENT

By: R. Okumu (Chairman of ISK)

The country has suffered a lot due to lack of information. Lack of this information provides for ignorance in the society. It will be for example madness if you don't know about the schools that are close to you, resulting in taking your children to far off schools and waste resources transporting them there.

To achieve our goals, all information should be made available. The sixty organizations using the same tools to collect the same information, is duplication of effort which should be avoided if they are able to access the information others already have. We must know where each information is available.

There is likely to be inappropriate budgeting due to lack of information e.g. a district with some roads being allocated 3 billion shillings in development of roads while a district with no roads at all, being allocated 3 million shillings. The reason is unawareness. We should welcome this NSDI initiative in order to avail all the information and be able to eradicate poverty and manage our resources effectively.

It was agreed that computerization of our land records will help to speed up retrieval of information. Digitization was begun but has now come to a halt due to interference from some destructors. There is need to deal with such people even as we get to implement NSDI. All of us are in agreement that we need NSDI and therefore we must establish the standards.

NSDI will incorporate business people, the industry and other professionals. We know where we want to go. As we work on standards, we should not allow a culture of intrigues to ruin our sectors. We therefore need to implement NSDI before destructors take over.

A proposal was made for formulation of GIS association which will include all GIS users. He challenged Professor Mulaku to spearhead the registration and he will support him. The more GIS organizations in place, the better it will be for us all.

He attributed thanks to JICA, the NSDI Secretariat and the facilitators for their sleepless nights preparing the presentations and all the participants. He wished all happy x-mass and a happy GIS year.