Introduction to the GISSA Ukubuzana Special Issue of the South African Journal of Geomatics

The papers in this special issue of SAJG originate from the academic track of the Geo-Information Society of South Africa (GISSA) Ukubuzana 2012 conference, held on 2-4 October 2012 in Kempton Park, South Africa. Authors of a selected number of high-quality papers on the academic track of the conference were invited to submit an extended version of their paper to SAJG for consideration in a special issue. The papers went through the journal's double blind peer-review process and accepted papers are included in this special issue.

A wide range of topics are covered: multi-temporal remote sensing land cover change detection, geographic information science (GISc) competency requirements, spatio-temporal analysis of unemployment in South Africa, community mapping, GISc education for sustainable development in South Africa and an application of the land administration domain model (LADM) to the City of Johannesburg. The papers reflect the conference theme: *Ukubuzana – African dialogue. Geomatics for Infrastructure Development and Service Delivery*: each paper touches on a different aspect of this theme.

Du Plessis and Van Niekerk (2013), as well as Coetzee, Eksteen and Grundling (2013), contribute to the ongoing debate around GISc/geomatics education in South Africa: which competency requirements should be included in GISc/geomatics curricula, and which curricula should include GISc/geomatics content? This debate is essential to ensure that the country has the required GISc/geomatics human resources to facilitate infrastructure development and enable service delivery.

Zuckerberg *et al.* (2013) investigate methods for conservation planning and management with the goal of prioritizing conservation efforts and facilitating appropriate planning in sensitive areas. Weir-Smith and Ahmed (2013) explore ways to integrate different sources of South African unemployment data from 1991 to 2007. Their results have important implications for unemployment interventions and they conclude with recommendations for the release of unemployment data to ease the integration and analysis of such data in the future.

Pánek (2013) tells the story of a local South African community, Koffiekraal, pooling efforts to literally and figuratively put themselves on the map (i.e. OpenStreetMap). The Community Assets Mapping Methodology (CAMP) was followed in Koffiekraal, a methodology in which community development is effected through mapping.

The research results by Tjia and Coetzee (2013) raise concerns about the disintegrated way in which land administration information is maintained in South Africa. The authors compared the data model of the land information system at the City of Johannesburg to the International Standard, ISO 19152, *Geographic information -- Land Administration Domain Model (LADM),* and found that most of the required data is available but maintained in different systems, in some cases without any link between them, negatively impacting on service delivery and land development applications.

Finally, I would like to thank the Editor and Board of the South African Journal of Geomatics not only for making this special issue possible, but also for their important contribution to the development of scientific GISc/geomatics scholarship in South Africa.

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