

What is UNIGIS? UNIGIS is a network of universities co-operating to supply post-graduate Certificate, Diploma and Masters courses on GIS by distance learning as well as short workshops on current developments in GIS. It was founded in 1990 and currently includes sites in eleven countries on three continents. About 900 students have taken the UNIGIS Diploma Course world-wide. For more information: <http://www.unigis.net>.

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Friends of UNIGIS Organisations which work closely together with the UNIGIS International Network are ESRI and Intergraph. These Friends of UNIGIS make available their products for UNIGIS students for a low price and support students in MSc-projects. Currently UNIGIS is in negotiation with other potential 'Friends'. For more information on the Friends of UNIGIS Programme contact: Henk Scholten, henk@geodan.nl.

emGIS Completes Training for First Group of Participants

Two Separate Courses

In March 2005 two UNIGIS institutions initiated the project 'Environmental Management with Geographic Information Science (emGIS - www.zgis.at/emGIS). The Centre for Geoinformatics (Z_GIS, www.zgis.at), Salzburg University, Austria is coordinating the project.

By Dr. Shahnawaz



ground of GIScience and environmental management. Lectures were delivered and participants were exposed to data generation and GIS software by providing them with 'hands-on' exercises. The main task during the winter semester was to make

Asia IT&C Programme

Its partners in this project are the Royal Bhutan Institute of Technology (RBIT, www.rbit.edu.bt), Phuentsholing, Bhutan and Institute of Geography and Spatial Management (www.geo.uj.edu.pl), and Jagiellonian University (UJAG), Krakow, Poland. The project is co-funded by the European Commission under Asia IT&C Programme for a period of two years, from March 2005 to March 2007.

Three Processes

emGIS wants to achieve its goal through three major processes:

- Organizing periodic blocked courses at RBIT: one for mid-level professional and one for university level students from Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal;
- Facilitating a short academic stay of the selected faculty members of RBIT at the European partner institutions;

- Establishing an eLearning platform at RBIT for continued and wider access of the project outcomes for the benefit of those who cannot participate in the courses to be organized within 2 year duration of the project. This will also make the utilization of project outcomes sustainable beyond the fixed project period.

Two Courses

The emGIS project is completing its first year of commencement on the 9th of March 2006. During this period, the emGIS Team organised two separate courses. Course-1 (TECH-COURSE) is designed for university level teachers and mid-level professionals. Course-2 (UNI-COURSE) is designed for university level students. The courses were organised in two stages, the first stage during the summer semester and the second during the winter semester. During the summer semester, the main aim was to develop a conceptual back-

the participants define their own GIS projects, generate required data, perform various type of spatial analysis and achieve the objectives.

Land Use Changes

Since the participants came from Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh they mainly concentrated on various aspects of environmental and development issues in these three countries from national to local level scales. The major themes covered under these projects were land use changes, eco-tourism planning, potential areas for housing construction, identification of areas for industrial development, landslide susceptibility zoning, Land Information system for selected cities etc.

Dr. Shahnawaz (s.shahnawaz@sbg.ac.at) is emGIS Coordinator. More information on Course-1 can be found on www.uni-salzburg.at/zgis/emgis/course-1.htm. For Course-2 have a look at www.uni-salzburg.at/zgis/emgis/course-2.htm.

	Summer Semester	Winter Semester	Number of Participants	Number of Projects Completed
Unicourse	4th to 20th July 2005	8th to 23rd January 2006	21	8
Techcourse	23rd July to 2nd August 2005	25th January to 4th February 2006	16	9