

GDI Capacity Building in Practice: An Analysis Based on Experiences with and in Developing Countries

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SUMMARY

In support of formulating future training, educational and capacity building strategies for Geospatial Data Infrastructure (GDI), this paper describes the results of an ex post evaluation of the various capacity building projects, and training and education experiences of ITC in this subject. ITC have conducted a number of courses and projects in GDI in recent years, varying in length, scope, participants, participants' professional or academic background, objectives and purpose. These include modules in regular GI Management and Geoinformatics programmes, refresher courses on GDI for ITC alumni in South Africa (2002), Ethiopia (2003), Guatemala (2004), and modules for Dutch and European university students, amongst others. For all these experiences data have been collected through ex ante expectation and ex post evaluation questionnaires, through monitoring GDI training requests, through interviews with selected participants, through regular communication with various national GDI coordinating committees and managers in Africa and Asia, by module and course coordinators evaluation reports, and through an analysis of future GDI requirements in literature.

From these empirical data, a number of conclusions are derived concerning:

- The origin and type of organizations requesting support in GDI capacity building.
- Their expectations concerning content of training and education.
- The relative percentage of trainees that actually starts working in GDI development after their training.
- The degree of GDI awareness among GI (related) scientists and professionals.
- The entry requirements of participants to make a course in GDI successful.
- The degree to which GDI concepts and technology development are in sync with GDI reality and current GDI implementation strategies.
- The difference in courses that emphasize either management skills or technical skills.
- The degree to which one can rely on scientific paradigms for GDI capacity building.

From these conclusions a number of recommendations are derived how to develop and improve GDI courses for developing countries in the future.

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