

# A Scalable Skills Certification Program in GIS

## SDSU Team Meeting

Meeting of November 29, 2004  
11:00 AM SDSU, Geography Department, Seminar Room 321

### MINUTES

#### **PRESENT:**

Anthony Howser	Graduate Student – San Diego State University
Carl Eckberg	Co-PI, Assoc. Prof., Computer Science – San Diego State University
Jing-Yi Chen	Graduate Student – San Diego State University
Ming-Hsiang Tsou	Co-PI, Assistant Professor, Geog. Dept– San Diego State University
Yinghui Li	Graduate Student, Note taker – San Diego State University

#### **OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the progress of the project and announce project updates.

#### **I. PROJECT UPDATE**

M. Tsou noted that two people, Carrol and Kerski have already agreed to come to the National Visiting Committee. J. Johnson can not come to today's meeting because he is attending the DACUM training in Las Vegas this week. The books and materials we requested earlier from ESRI have been sent to J. Johnson. He will bring them to Dec. 20th's meeting for distribution.

#### **II. REPORT OF THE WESITE DESIGN PROGRESS**

A. Howser distributed the snapshots of the project website. He stated that the student group has achieved several goals.

- 1) Got the ASP web mail in the "Contact Us" page works. Because of the complicated server-side coding, there was a little delay of the progress for this week. Now all the ASP web mails are sent to A. Howser's email account.
- 2) Did numerous website style changes based on M. Tsou's recommendations, such as fonts, layouts and colors.
- 3) Installed the website statistics on our project website. Members can review the detailed statistics at:  
[http://my.statcounter.com/project/standard/stats.php?project\\_id=464758&guest](http://my.statcounter.com/project/standard/stats.php?project_id=464758&guest) . This link is not available to public.
- 4) Complete the "Research" page by adding research and conference links.
- 5) Our project website can be searched and is archived by GOOGLE now.

**Action: Add all the Meeting Minutes, private/security page and nature articles onto the website.**

### **III. WEB USABILITY DISCUSSION**

C. Eckberg showed people a book named “Web Pages That Suck”, which criticizes and suggests how to design website. The author of the book is Vincent Flanders.

C. Eckberg suggested several changes on our web pages:

- 1) The music plays on every page. It should only play on the first page.
- 2) Don’t have highly visible mission statement in page one.
- 3) Don’t have “site under construction” shown on the unfinished pages.
- 4) It would be better if we have different GIS logos in sub-pages. C. Eckberg also pointed out it’s good that the global navigation is on every page.
- 5) The loading for the flash images on the web pages is slow. It would be better if we use non-flash images since most of high schools have older PCs and slow internet connection. But it would be nice if there is an option to show flash image/menu in case someone wants to see some flash images.
- 6) Put Mission Statement into subfolder to make home page more attractive.

M. Tsou pointed out that we will create some different entry points for high school teachers and students in the future. Right now the website we created is just for the project purpose.

**Action: The student group will do the website modifications according to C. Eckberg and M. Tsou’s recommendations today.**

**M. Tsou will send the article about website design and GIS images to the student group.**

### **IV. REVIEW OF THE CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

J. Chen distributed copies of the draft of “GIS Applied in Grades Nine through Twelve: Two modules of Earth Science Standards and the Course of United States History and Geography”. The first module is earthquakes; the second module is greenhouse effects. Teachers can use ArcMap and ArcScene to draw maps to help students visualize earthquakes and understand greenhouse effects.

**Action: The student group will create a tutorial to show how to use ArcGIS in teaching based on J. Chen’s draft.**

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.*