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I have just noticed that GIS is not listed in the Price Waterhouse Cooper's Technology Forecast: 2003 – 2005. This is a rather interesting find, well to me anyway, a staunch supporter of GI Systems, Science, Technology .....call it what you may.

This forecast gives an analysis and evaluation of current and emerging information technologies.

What is information technology? A definition offered by whatis.com states "IT (information technology) is a term that encompasses all forms of technology used to create, store, exchange, and use information in its various forms".

Then where does GIS fit in and why is it not considered an emerging or even current technology?

As GI crosses many boundaries, I think it is our duty and challenge to educate and empower the non-believers and the unacquainted.



### UNIGIS NETWORK

Austria	- <a href="#">U of Salzburg</a>	Canada	- <a href="#">Simon Fraser U</a>	Czech Rep.	- <a href="#">Mendel U, Brno</a>
Ecuador	- <a href="#">U S F de Quito</a>	Hungary	- <a href="#">U of West Hungary</a>	Italy	- <a href="#">UIAV, Venice</a>
Netherlands	- <a href="#">Vrije U, Amsterdam</a>	Portugal	- <a href="#">U Nova de Lisboa</a>	Russia	- <a href="#">Ministry of Education</a>
South Africa	- <a href="#">P E Technikon</a>	South Africa	- <a href="#">U of Pretoria</a>	Spain	- <a href="#">U Girona</a>
UK	- <a href="#">UNIGIS UK</a>	USA	- <a href="#">U of Southern California</a>		

## First European ESRI Education User Conference

Educators from all over Europe will gather in Innsbruck, Austria, from October 10-11 2003 for the First European ESRI Education User Conference (euEdUC) organized in conjunction with the Annual European ESRI International User Conference (October 8-10 2003). The theme of the conference is “GIS Training and Education in Europe”. Secondary school teachers, college and university instructors are ex-

pected to attend and participate in paper presentations, panel discussions, and computer labs to learn how GIS is taught. Hands-on computer workshops on a variety of topics and ESRI software will give attendees a chance to “test-drive” GIS activities designed for the classroom.

[www.congress-insbruck.at](http://www.congress-insbruck.at)

[www.esri2003.info](http://www.esri2003.info)



## EUROGIS Module now released

Europe’s boundaries are receding, traveling becomes easier and the use of a single currency further strengthens the sense of becoming one. Yet geographical information is predominantly restricted to national borders. Spatial data are often collected by national institutions who describe them in their national language according to the own conventions. The data are usually positioned in a country-specific coordinate.

This poses no problems as long as the data are used in a national context. But with increased European integration the need for cross-border information is growing. For efficient planning on an international level or in emergency management the so-called “cross-border datasets” are crucial. For an adequate reaction on for example a

possible river flooding it is vital to have quick access to data of water levels and meteorological conditions in upstream countries. Disasters have no borders!

This educational module deals with the European aspects of Geographical Information Systems (GIS). As the technical (systems) part of GIS does not have many specifically European aspects, the main focus of the module is on geographical information and ways to provide access to it. A Geographical Information Infrastructure (GII) is a phrase that is commonly used to describe the organizational and technical prerequisites for giving access to Geographical Information. The theme of the module can therefore be summarized as: “Towards a European Geographical Information Infrastructure”.

The EuroGIS Module results from a cooperation of the Free University, Amsterdam and the University of Salzburg and is structured as follows:

- The European Dimension of GIS
- European Datasets
- Technical Developments
- Setting up a GII for Europe
- Relevant European Organizations
- References
- Final Assignment

The entire module has been developed in English and shows in several case studies and exercises that data integration requires information sharing and that international projects do have international needs.

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*The European Dimension  
of Spatial Information*

## InterGIS Curriculum Project Kick-off



InterGIS Project Group at Kick-off meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, May 2003. From left to right: Milap Chand Sharma, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Shahnawaz, University of Salzburg; Irene Compte, University of Girona; Josef Strobl, University of Salzburg; Mathilde Molendijk, Free University of Amsterdam; Mahender Kotha, Goa University; Karunakaran Suthakar, University of Jaffna.

A UNIGIS-based group of European GIS-Labs from University of Salzburg (Austria), University of Girona (Spain) and the Free University of Amsterdam (Netherlands) are partnering with Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi; Goa University, Goa (both from India) and University of Jaffna (Sri Lanka) in a two-year project "International Cooperation for GIScience Education (InterGIS)" aiming at establishing improved GIS education. The InterGIS project is co-sponsored by the European Commission under the "Asia-Link" programme and provides resources for curriculum design and human resources development at partner institutions and beyond.

A Kick-off meeting held in Jaffna and at the University of Colombo, May 8-11 set the stage for an ambitious development schedule for a standardized curriculum framework applicable on different levels and for various modes of delivery. The

next get-together will occur during a major InterGIS-sponsored staff development workshop at JNU in early fall of 2003, where GIS instructors from higher education institutions will be offered a short intensive programme in the scholarship of GIS teaching and learning.

Information about InterGIS is available from [www.gis-learning.net](http://www.gis-learning.net), with more details coming online as the project progresses. All project partners are looking forward to interacting with other institutions and individuals from academia and industry as it is anticipated that the InterGIS curriculum will have a substantial long-term impact on GIS learning across many disciplines.



## UNIGIS and INTERGRAPH collaborate to support education program

Intergraph Mapping and Geospatial Solutions recently delivered four hundred copies of their GeoMedia® Professional 5.0 software to UNIGIS for free distribution to students. At market prices, this represents a donation by Intergraph of some €4 946 800 to the UNIGIS educational program.

Intergraph Mapping and Geospatial Solutions has been a long-term, and greatly valued, supporter of our UNIGIS educational program. During the early nineties, Intergraph offered informal support by providing guest speakers at our meetings. In 1998 Intergraph became a participant in our 'Friends of UNIGIS' programme and now signs a bi-annual Memorandum of Understanding with UNIGIS that provides a secure basis for our relationship including software, classroom training sessions and support. Our two organisations collaborate to develop high quality teaching materials based on Intergraph technologies for use within the UNIGIS curriculum.

Within UNIGIS, we use GeoMedia Professional to illustrate the capabilities of a 'new generation' GIS. Its ability to establish 'live links' with datasets held in proprietary formats of other vendors makes GeoMedia a particularly appropriate platform to explore modern concepts of interoperability. Using GeoMedia Professional allows UNIGIS students to gain insights into important geographic information concepts, while using a first-rate commercial product.

In addition to providing GeoMedia Professional 5.0 to our students, our current Memorandum of Understanding also means that:

UNIGIS students are eligible to purchase Intergraph products at educational prices.

Intergraph staff continues to offer support at UNIGIS workshops and tutorials. UNIGIS students have access to the experience of GIS professionals working at the forefront of technical developments within the industry.

We are evaluating Intergraph's GeoMedia Grid 5.0 product and will use this as a basis for some of our raster processing activities. Using GeoMedia and GeoMedia Grid allows our students to pursue both raster and vector processing within a modern integrated environment.

Last year, for the first time, Intergraph sponsored a UNIGIS student to work as an intern at their European Headquarters in the Netherlands. Antal Guszlev, from the UNIGIS programme at the University of West Hungary, worked for four months with Intergraph staff and UNIGIS colleagues based in the SPIN Lab at the Free University of Amsterdam to develop new teaching materials for UNIGIS. As part of the program Antal developed exercises detailing the advanced on-screen data capture facilities of GeoMedia Professional. Antal also explored the feasibility of incorporating exercises based on GeoMedia WebMap.

The success of this initial UNIGIS internship has encouraged Intergraph to offer another UNIGIS student an internship this year. Stefan Piet from the Free University, Amsterdam, has started his 6 month internship in May 2003.

It is not appropriate for any GI educational programme to be dependent entirely upon a single GIS product and within UNIGIS we currently support exercises based upon a number GIS packages, including particularly ArcView and IDRISI, as well as GeoMedia technology. Our long-standing collaboration with Intergraph, coupled with the undoubted technical sophistication of their products, however, means that we are confident that the GeoMedia family of products provides an extremely appropriate platform for our programme. We are very grateful for the confidence and support that Intergraph continues to offer to our UNIGIS programme.


 The logo for INTERGRAPH, featuring the word "INTERGRAPH" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are spaced out, and the word is underlined with a thick blue horizontal line.



<http://www.unigis.net>

THE GLOBAL GIS NEWSLETTER  
PUBLISHED BY THE UNIGIS  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

## **Book Review - Dr Tom Poiker, Simon Fraser University, Canada**

**Lo, C.P. and Albert K.W. Young: Concepts and Techniques of Geographic Information Systems. Prentice Hall, 2002**

“This book on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) provides a rigorous but balanced treatment of concepts and techniques in a single volume.”, so says the Preface.

Half of the chapters – and half of the pages – are devoted to GIS concepts – definitions, coordinates, data structures and databases, quality and standards and two extended chapters on raster and vector GIS. The second half provides techniques. Cartography and visualization, Remote Sensing, Digital Terrain models, analysis, system management and implementation and a chapter on modern issues and the future for good measure. The book does both areas credit and there are only a few topics that do not satisfy the generally high standard of the book.

It is interesting to compare this book with Longley et al (Paul A. Longley, Michael F. Goodchild, David Maguire and David W. Rhind: Geographic Information Systems and Science. John Wiley & Sons, 2001). Both are about 450 pages but Longley et al is lavish with many color pictures, inserts that tell about GIS personalities, etc. whereas Lo & Yeung is straight forward, with an ample number of black and white figures and diagrams and eight pages of color. Longley et al is clearly easier to read but Lo & Yeung has more descriptions and techniques.

<b>Calendar July—September 2003</b>						
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

[AGIT 2003](#)

2 - 4 July 2003  
Salzburg, Austria

[GIS Week](#)

30 June - 4 July 2003  
Girona, Spain

[ESRI International User Conference 2003](#)

7 - 11 July 2003  
San Diego, CA, USA

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[The Vespucci Initiative](#)

28 July - 8 August 2003  
Pratolino, Florence, Italy

[International Cartographic Conference](#)

10 - 16 August 2003  
Durban, South Africa

[GISBRASIL](#)

19 - 22 August 2003  
São Paulo, Brasil

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[International Summer School in GIS](#)

14 - 19 August 2003  
More details available : Prof. Bela Markus [gis@geo.info.hu](mailto:gis@geo.info.hu)

[GITA 2003](#)

18 - 20 August 2003  
Sydney, Australia

[Geospatial World 2003](#)

14 - 19 August 2003  
New Orleans, USA

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Leica Geosystems GIS & Mapping's Annual User Group Meeting & Airborne Sensor Workshop  
18 - 21 August 2003  
Denver, CO, USA  
Email: [info@gis.leica-geosystems.com](mailto:info@gis.leica-geosystems.com)

[INTERGEO](#)

17 - 19 September 2003  
Hamburg, Germany

**Q:** Why can fish measure distances so well?

**A:** Because they have their own scales

