

Geomatics in Asia

Conflicts and compatibilities

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GIS Development

Changing Mindset

GIS@development, The Asian GIS Monthly

Www.GISdevelopment.net, The Largest GIS Portal

Events: Map India (www.mapindia.org)

Map Asia (www.mapasia.org)

Asia

- Still not a single community
- Socio-economic peculiarities of each country dictates the growth of GIS there
- Many languages, cultures, history and their visions of the future
- Strong challenge of building the common Asian identity

Outward Looking

- Look for solutions outside their region
- Asking neighbours for problem solving is not the trend

Geomatics in Asia

- Many initiatives
- Fragmented approach

US – Europe Centric Mindset

- Adopting a ‘western’ technology
 - US Centric / Euro Centric ‘mindset’
 - More
 - Asia – US
 - Asia – Europe
- collaborations than,
- Asia – Asia collaborations

Is GIS Asia Compatible?

- The concept of GIS has emerged in the west
- Challenges in adoption of the technology in different socio-political environments

India: A case in point

- Challenges in other countries are not entirely different
- High level of neighbour conflict situation
- Military budgets are high
- Security concerns are high
- They compete with each other in ‘restrictions’
- Site each other’s example in doing the above

India: A case in point

- Restricted access to geographic data
- No map culture

The Framework for Change

- Has to emerge from within
- Asian countries and institutions have to talk to each other more
- Asian software / Reducing cost
- Faster learning due to cultural proximity

What if we don't act?

- Continuation of a fragmented GI market
- Reduced international and global competitiveness
- Increased dependency on technology from outside Asia
- Lack of a clear view of GI problems
- Continuation of adopting costly ad-hoc solutions

The Asian Strengths

- National and sub-national govt depts in many countries
- Remote Sensing
- Huge Asian market for GIS products and services
- Asia's strength in S/W / H/W and Services
- Recent initiatives of e-governance

Initiatives in Asian Nature

- ACRS
- PCGIAP
- Map Asia
- Digital Asia Network

Is GIS Asia compatible?

Probably Yes

Thank You

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