GEOSPATIAL LAB

地理空間實驗室
Geospatial Lab

The Geosaptial Lab (GeoLab) is now in operation!

It was established on 10 May 2021 with a webinar attended by hundreds of participants from various disciplines including the start-ups, academia, non-governmental organisations, professional institutes, industries etc. During the webinar, Ms Bernadette Linn, Permanent Secretary for Development, (Planning and Lands), Development Bureau, HKSAR Government delivered the welcome address, followed by presentations from project director of GeoLab, Mr. Albert SU; Head of Spatial Data Office, Sr. Winnie SHIU; Chair Professor of Urban Planning and Geographic Information System, the University of Hong Kong, Professor Anthony YEH and Founder and Honorary President of Smart City Consortium, Dr. Winnie TANG to introduce the services provided by the GeoLab and share the latest development of spatial data in Hong Kong.

Objective of GeoLab

The aim of establishing the GeoLab is to provide a platform and nurture a geospatial community by encouraging the younger generation, start-ups and creative minds to discuss, explore and exchange ideas for harnessing the use of spatial data, improving daily convenience and promoting business opportunities.

The GeoLab is operated by Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) supported by Smart City Consortium (SCC) engaged by the Government for providing fitted-out working space, computer facilities as well as a wide range of engagement activities for students, younger generation and start-ups including application developers. It acts as a platform for the Government to reach out to various stakeholders and understand their views on spatial data through engagement activities. It also complements the Government's emphasis on the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths ("STEM") education and nurture a culture to establish a harmonious and well-connected community that can help incubate creative minds, spur innovation and promote greater use of spatial data.

Location of GeoLab

The GeoLab is located at Units 915-918 of Millennium City 1 Tower 1, 388 Kwun Tong Road, Kwun Tong, which has an area of about 280m^2. It is conveniently located with easy access to major public transport and in close proximity to city centre to encourage collaboration between different stakeholders and younger generation. The GeoLab will be opened to public in mid-2021.

Engagement Activities

The GeoLab would provide the extra-curricular activities, start-ups supporting and promotional activities:

(a) Extra-curricular activities: to advise participants to acquire knowledge and develop proper attitude and skills in the use of spatial data and relevant technologies.

(b) Start-ups supporting activities: to support the expertise and creative minds of start-ups to explore the value and applications of spatial data and develop innovative applications for improving quality of life.

(c) Promotional activities: to cultivate public awareness and arouse interest in using spatial data.

Upcoming Activities

A series of publicity and educational activities, including but not limited to CSDI Ambassador naming competition, summer talks for

students on "Little STEM Application Designers using CSDI" and professional geospatial talks will be conducted from June to August 2021.

For the latest activities, please visit the GeoLab website at www.csdigeolab.gov.hk.

Some Updates on Spatial Datasets

The CSDI portal for government and the public will be in full operation at the end of 2021 and end of 2022 respectively, with a release of about 320 spatial datasets from Government bureaux/departments (B/Ds). All the spatial datasets to be released on the CSDI portal will be for free download and use, and in standardised, and open and machine-readable format, and offer Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) so that the data can be easily shared, processed and used by different interest groups including application developers

For spatial data which is currently released for a

charge and will be made available on the CSDI portal for free, the concerned B/Ds will seek approval to waive the charge if necessary. For example, the charge for the provision of Light Detection and Ranging data by Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) has been waived since July 2020, and the charges for 12 Lands Department (LandsD) digital map products including Digital Topographic Map, Digital Land Boundary Map, Geo-Reference Database, GeoCommunity Database, low resolution of digital orthophoto and digital aerial photo, and 3D Spatial Data, have been waived from 1 April 2021.

The Development Bureau will continue to explore with Government B/Ds to release more data apart from those committed. B/Ds shall prepare an Annual Spatial Data Plan announcing their spatial datasets to be opened up to the public through their websites. Through the Common Spatial Data Advisory Committee, we will tap the views of outside experts on suitable types of datasets to be made available on the CSDI portal.

Quick-win Project: Geo-tagging Tool

Apart from the Map API services launched in December 2020, the Geo-tagging Tool will be available on the Hong Kong GeoData Store (geodata.gov.hk) by June 2021 for public to use. Geo-tagging Tool is a web-based application for

data owners to convert their data into digital format with geographic component such that an efficient data sharing and support further computing can be achieved with just a few clicks. Interactive map interface and intelligent location search engine are also provided to facilitate the geo-tagging task.

CSDI Talks

CSDI Development and Data Standardisation in Construction Industry

Sr. Winnie SHIU, Head of the Spatial Data Office of the Development Bureau, joined the Construction Industry Group Webinar – Data Standardisation and Utilization for Construction Industry organised by the Hong Kong Computer Society to deliver a speech about the development of CSDI on 13 April 2021. The theme of the webinar is about data standardisation in the construction industry. Our spatial data with defined data standards

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Common Spatial Data Infrastructure

would be beneficial to the development of smart infrastructure in the construction industry, and support the development of smart city.

Challenges & Opportunities of CSDI

Sr. Winnie SHIU, Assistant Director / Spatial Data of Lands Department, joined the webinar of the Third Open Data Conference Panel 3 — BIM, GIS, Common Data Infrastructure and Smart Cities: Challenges & Opportunities organised by the University of Hong Kong to deliver a speech about the development of CSDI on 14 April 2021

Sr. Winnie SHIU shared with the participants from various disciplines about the development of CSDI in Hong Kong and highlighted the establishment of the first Geospatial Lab in Hong Kong which is targeted to be launched in mid-2021.

Development and Roadmap of CSDI

Sr. Winnie SHIU, Head of the Spatial Data Office of the Development Bureau, joined the Smart Infrastructure Conference 2021 held in HKUST.

The Smart City Blueprint promulgated in December 2017 acknowledges the importance of CSDI as a necessary infrastructure to facilitate the sharing of spatial data to support inter-department and government-to-business applications.

At the presentation on 13 May 2021, Sr. SHIU introduced the road map of the development of CSDI for supporting the smart city development of Hong Kong and highlighted the establishment of the Geospatial Lab in Hong Kong which will come into full operation in July 2021.