



AfricaGIS 2017

CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Geospatial and Statistical information imperatives for the *'Africa We Want'*

DAY ONE

20-24 November 2017



AFRICAGIS 2017 OPENS IN ADDIS ABABA

By Sandra Nyaira.

All is set for the AfricaGIS 2017 Conference, which is being organized jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and EIS-AFRICA in collaboration with the Ethiopian Mapping Agency to discuss geospatial and statistical issues on the continent.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

AFRICAGIS 2017 OPENS IN ADDIS ABABA
pg. 1

INTERVIEWS
pg. 3

DAY 1 AT A GLANCE
Pg. 4

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ECA's Director of the African Centre for Statistics (ACS), Mr. Oliver Chinganya, says AfricaGIS 2017, which runs from 20 to 24 November, will set the agenda for geospatial information and statistics as critical tools in Africa's transformative processes.

"We are excited and ready now that conference is almost here. Monday we begin to deliberate on geo-information and how it has made an impact on people's lives, particularly through support to local development efforts, and how such applications could be scaled up towards transforming the continent into the Africa we want," said Mr. Chinganya.

He said the conference is crucial as it will allow those in the field to discuss what has been learnt and achieved through ef-

AfricaGIS 2017 Conference is a flagship Geospatial Information global event in Africa, which creates a unique opportunity for the worldwide geospatial community to share current developments in the industry, maximize visibility and showcase their products. As ECA, we are therefore delighted to host this important event which brings over 300 professionals geospatial information and technology experts from government, private sector, UN and other development agencies, geospatial industry and academia from Africa and from all corners of the world. ECA being an institution at the forefront to promote the use and management of geospatial information and space-based technology, we are providing exciting opportunities to champion the use of this technology in Africa to address the major challenges the continent is facing including climate change, disaster risk, water shortage, food insecurity etc. We know geospatial information and technology is a driver for sustainable development and a crucial tool for decision making processes. It is therefore our hope that the geospatial technology will contribute enormously toward the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. I am therefore pleased to welcome all the participants to the AfricaGIS 2017 Conference in Addis Ababa. The International Organizing Committee and the Local Organizing Committee have put it in their best in all respects to organize this event, including in accommodating all the requests for participation.

continued on page 2

continued on page 2

fective management and utilization of geospatial and statistical information on the continent.

The main theme for AfricaGIS 2017 is: "Geospatial and Statistical Information Imperatives for the Africa We Want."

To fully examine different components of the theme as well as various issues relating to Africa's transformation, the theme will be further explored through the following sub-themes.

The themes are; Transforming land-based resource management; Urbanization and settlements with the emphasis on secondary cities and human geographies; Geospatial information and the blue economy; and Geospatial information and statistics for forward planning and risk management.

"Geospatial and statistical information are imperatives that are essential for Africa's development and its transformative agenda, not just a vain pursuit for the sake of it, but rather as foundations for implementing critical projects for the benefit of, and ultimately the transformation of, the lives of African citizens as expressed in the aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063 and also the UN 2030 Agenda," said Mr. Chinganya.

The conference will seek to address the challenge of demonstrating the necessity of geospatial and statistical information as critical decision-support tools to influence local, national, sub-regional, and regional priorities, as well as emerging issues as the continent engages on its transformative agenda.



ECA

We are all looking forward to exciting presentations and discussion on the new trends, share experiences and good practices on the geospatial and statistical imperatives with a view to better inform the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and Agenda 2063, "the Africa we want".

Great thanks go to sponsors of the conference and all institutions and individuals who contributed to the preparation including sponsoring country participants and exhibitor.

I wish you an enjoyable stay in Addis Ababa and a fruitful deliberation during the conference.

— Oliver Chinganya, Director
African Centre for Statistics (ACS)/ECA



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INTERVIEWS

with Ernest Cho Chi



ATO GETACHEW
ADEM,
State Minister and
Deputy Commissioner of the National
Planning Commission,
ETHIOPIA

This conference is very important in that it brings together geospatial information managers and other experts to share experiences on the use of geospatial information for development. 'Geospatial' is about people. It has to do with knowing where people are, in order to provide them with the necessary infrastructure, education, health and whatever other services they may be in need of. I am happy, therefore, that this conference has taken this agenda and is helping us share experiences on how to strengthen the development of geospatial information networks and how African countries should work together in order to realize the African Renaissance, Africa Rising, the 2063 Agenda and the SDGs.



GRAHAM DEANE,
International Business
Development Intelligence
Communications, AIRBUS

This conference is a good venue to meet technical people who can use our products and work together unlike other conferences where you are talking, perhaps, only to the decision makers. I think here there's a high level of technical involvement and that's a good mix.

As a company, we've got products to show into this community that other people can make good use of as part of the services they're providing. But also, we've got some services that we can offer and work with partners in African countries particularly in the land administration sector where we can work with governments to produce databases of land information, valuation, and property taxation.

This conference is very important because it highlights the importance of data and information as very important tools for development planning. Data and information are the biggest commodities on sale in the world today.

It is clear from this conference that there's so much data available in the world today. But this data is not being used by our decision makers. This is partly because our scientists are not analyzing the data in a way that it is usable at policy-making levels. Most of the data analyzed remain highly technical. It's, therefore, a challenge to our technical partners in the geospatial field. They must tailor their information in a way that it can be understood by decision makers because most decision makers are not technical. Also of vital importance is the need for our scientists to understand the importance of participatory GIS, that is, making people understand their environment by showing them things that are familiar to them in a way they never thought possible.

So I believe we should strive to move from highly scientific data analysis methods to lower levels where we are focusing on problems and looking for solutions.

As for me, I am a geospatial expert and a politician who have used geospatial data effectively and we great success in my county in Kenya. I really want to promote the use of geospatial data for development planning both in other parts of Kenya and Africa at large. That's why I came to this conference. I want to be a champion of geospatial and statistical information in Africa for decision making and rational planning. This information is very crucial for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Vision 2063.



WILBER OTTICHILO, Governor of
Vihiga County, KENYA

THE FIRST DAY AT A GLANCE

