Open data

Left: OSGeo shake hands with ICA on their collaboration.

technology. The widespread application of e-learning tools and open source GIS will help enable greater access to geospatial education.

Open Source collaboration worldwide In September 2011, the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo) and the International Cartographic Association (ICA) signed a memorandum of understanding with the aim of developing collaborative opportunities for academia, industry and government using open source GIS software and data on a global basis. The MoU will provide expertise and support for the establishment of open source geospatial laboratories and research centres across the world to enhance local development of these technologies, training and expertise. In 2014 the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) formally joined the initiative.

Geo For All: Open is the word!

Suchith Anand explains the philosophy and organisation behind Open Source Geospatial Laboratories – motto 'Geo For All' – a global partnership aiming to spread the use of geospatial technologies to any application where they may be useful. The essential ingredient is 'open' - open software, open data and open standards together with open, online 'e-learning'. The partnership involves the open source movement, international cartographic and photogrammetric organisations, and educational establishments in every continent.

> **Geo4All will also start work on a "Train the Trainer" programme for school teachers all over the world.**

THE TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN THE POWER and use of geospatial technologies over the last few decades has not been matched by the number of universities offering courses in geospatial science. Universities, as well as private and public sector organisations, are in search of alternative means of educating a new generation of geospatial professionals. Free and open source geospatial software applications have now made it possible for a large number of private and government agencies and academics in both developed and developing countries to make use of geospatial software that could not previously be justified. Applications for GIS, spatial database management, and remote sensing abound for environmental protection, transportation, alleviating urban poverty, town planning, waste management, rural development, public policy, public administration and education. By combining the potential of e-learning tools and open source geospatial software, the academic community can strengthen education in GI science providing students with holistic education covering open source, open standards, and open data in the context of geospatial

http://wiki.osgeo.org/ wiki/Geoforall_criteria

The motto of the ICA-OSGeo-ISPRS Lab initiative is "Geo For All". Having free and open source GI software is the key to enabling students worldwide from disadvantaged backgrounds to learn geospatial skills. Geo4All will also start work on a "Train the Trainer" programme for school teachers all over the world. It is therefore vital to have open source GIS and open standards (e.g. OGC) based solutions to achieve widespread application of geospatial tools at grassroots level, especially in developing countries. The open source software provides accessibility, reduces costs, and lowers the barriers to entry for the use of geospatial technologies. Over 90 Open Source Geospatial Labs have already been established in universities on every continent as a part of this initiative. We thank our colleagues everywhere for their strong support for this initiative. It is very gratifying that the initiative has now grown rapidly from very humble beginnings and is helping to widen the benefits of geospatial education opportunities to thousands of students worldwide.

The creativity, dynamism and high-profile success