



Letter of Invitation

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

GIScience as a theoretical foundation, Geoinformatics as a science and technology based on information science infrastructure and GIS as the software implementation provide powerful means for linking information from different sources by location for better decision making. This is exactly what is needed to manage our environments and natural and cultural resources, and to assess risks faced by natural and social systems. Therefore, as a continuation of the Annual 'GIS in Central Asia' Conference, GISCA 2014 -- **Silk Road in space and time: the Urumqi node** is jointly organized by the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Austria-Central Asia Centre for GIScience, the Interfaculty Department of Geoinformatics, University of Salzburg, Austria, the Xinjiang Association for Remote Sensing Applications, and the Xinjiang Association for Natural Resources in Urumqi – capital city of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China from **May 29 to 31, 2014**. The conference is also sponsored by the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet, Trimble Navigation International Ltd and several other industry leaders in Geoinformatics.

The main objective of this international conference is to bring academics, researchers, and practitioners from the Central Asian countries and beyond together to foster international cooperation and exchange in GIS education, research, and development.

The conference encourages submissions of proposals for oral or poster presentations focused on Central Asia and China as a regional theme, and/or workshops in remote sensing and GIS applications. Themes include but not limited to (any new themes and sessions are welcome):

- GIS for Environmental Management
- GIS for Disaster and Emergency Management
- GIS for Regional Sustainable Development
- GIS for Natural and Cultural Heritage management
- GIS for Business and Logistics
- GIS for Public Health
- New Trends and Technologies in Surveying, Cadastre and Land Management
- GIS and Ecosystem Modeling
- Education programme in Geoinformatics
- International networking in teaching and use of GIS technologies
- Development of Spatial Data Infrastructures
- Remote Sensing Applications

Accepted papers will be published in the proceedings of GISCA 2014 in English, and expanded versions of up to 12 articles will be invited for additional peer review with the goal of publishing a special issue of **the Journal of Arid Land (JAL)**, (<http://jal.xjegi.com>) in **Spring 2015**.

On behalf of the conference organizing committee, I cordially invite you to this exciting event, and share your experiences with the colleagues of diverse expertise from around the world on the application and promotion of Geospatial Science and Technology. For more information, please visit the conference website at <http://gisca14.aca-giscience.org>

We look forward to meeting you at GISCA 2014 soon!

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