

# Announcing GISWORX City

*Message of Mohamed Abuziad, CEO of GISTEC, during GISWORX '13 held from 2-4 April 2013 in Dubai*

My Colleagues

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome all of you to GISWORX '13. We greatly appreciate the participation of our government partners and this being the eighth year of the event, we are adding 'Government' as its eighth element. Indeed, we have considered Government as one of the pillars of GISWORX from the very beginning.

We are pleased with the diversity of our plenary speakers this year from ADSIC, ADWEA, Esri, Garsdale Design, HP, and PCI Geomatics. The line-up of technical workshops is a collection of the familiar, the new, and topics that you have yet to learn about to keep you abreast with the latest GIS technology, its ecosystem, and its relevance to your work and our society. Specifically, don't miss the technical workshop of Elliot Hartley, who will also be speaking in the plenary, about Instant City using CityEngine, as well as the interesting topic from Robert of Azavea about looking through history using GIS.

Thanks to our key sponsors, HP, Canon and Epson and to our government sponsors- ADSSC, DEWA, ADSIC, Abu Dhabi Municipality, EAD, RTA, SCAD, Ras Al Khaimah Municipality and Sharjah GIS Center. During the three days, I urge you to find time to see the work of your colleagues from approximately 50 organizations who submitted their maps in our Intelligent and Online Map gallery. Also, get to know 10 teams of university students during the GMDC who have developed impressive mobile applications incorporating location and GIS for iOS, Android, and Windows platforms.

GISWORX began in 2006. The growth of the event can be compared to a building being constructed. In the beginning, this building only had two floors. At that time, we managed to equip and operate that small building for full three days with 3 hours x 30 advanced workshops. We accommodated 320 attendees including 25 technical leads. In the last eight years, we have built additional seven floors. We constructed easy access to this building. It has become a place where our GIS community plans to be every year. Now it is very well equipped, structured with these elements: Plenary, Online, Award, Exhibition, Workshop, Map, and Mobile. This year, the eighth element-Government, is built into this structure.

Today is another great gathering of our community, the sum of all our input and participation in each of these elements. I realize that GISWORX is not I or you, but 'we' as a community. Following our analogy, it has the promise to become more than a building, but a city! I propose to make it as one, following the objective of the UAE to be at the forefront and the vision of its leaders HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

All these put us in position to make this city alive, active, usable, functional and attractive to live in, for the purpose of learning and cultivating GIS. GISWORX City will be the place for GIS and its ecosystem of related technologies, the place for most of our future activities. It will become an essential place,

somewhere we go to and utilize for 365 days. We will need to build more buildings (more events and activities) and address other technologies. It will be the city that hosts other solutions. We will need to build and connect those buildings with a network of facilities and infrastructure. This cannot be accomplished by TIEM or GISTEC alone. It will take the entire UAE GIS community.

It will take us three years of continued development to build GISWORX as a city and an additional two years of management and operation experience. We envision that by 2018, we will have the infrastructure, participation and expertise to connect the whole community for 365 days. When that time comes, "GISWORX City" is ready to contribute fully to our society.

I would like to announce that today we have the opportunity to make this dream a reality. I propose that we establish such a society. I would like to be the first member of this society and am ready to make the initial contribution—GISWORX itself. We already have the structure, a very good foundation to start something great. We are ready to hear suggestions and proposals so that we can accomplish these lofty objectives.