

» INPE-ifgi Cooperation

The field of Geoinformatics is undergoing an important transformation. During the 1980s and 1990s, the scientific results produced by researchers in this area helped to set up the current billion dollar industry of Geographical Information Systems (GIS). GIS is now regularly being used as a corporate tool to manage large geospatial databases, and as a research tool for understanding our environment. However, almost all of current GIS applications use static data, which represent temporal and change information too simply, if at all. The new generation of GIS, called GIS-21 (or "GIS for the 21st century") will be different from GIS-20 (or "GIS for the 20st century"), thanks to scientific and technological advances. These advances include the distributed spatial processing on the Web and a new generation of mobile devices and remote sensors. The two institutes, ifgi and INPE, have been instrumental in pushing ahead the state of the art in these two directions: INPE as a world leader in remote sensing technology and spatial analysis methods, ifgi as a world leader in research and development for distributed spatial processing standards.

The Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE) and the Institute for Geoinformatics (ifgi) of the University of Münster, Germany, have cooperated for several years. Based on previous personal contacts, we have jointly initiated the ALFA projects eduGI.LA and, as a follow-up, eduGI.LA2, www.eduGI.net/eduGI.LA, which performed a summer school, mobility measures for students and teachers, virtual mobility by exchange of e-Learning courses. Apart from these projects, additional mobility measures for students and researchers have been performed without project funding. The INPE Director General, Dr. Gilberto Camara, has visited Münster as a guest lecturer in the ifgi Spring School 2008 (<http://ifgi.uni-muenster.de/springschool/>), for a 2006 block course on spatial analysis, and as a keynote speaker at the GIScience 2006 conference, the most renowned scientific conference in this field.



ifgi
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eduGI.LA consortium @ GeoBrasil 2005 Fair
2.l.: Dr. Gilberto Camara, Director INPE; 4.l.: Dr. Christoph Brox, Project Manager ifgi; 2.r.: Prof. Dr. Werner Kuhn, Director ifgi

On March 9, 2009, twelve professors, post-docs and PhD students made their way to Brazil for the joint "GeoChange" research workshop with INPE (www.geochange.info). During the intensive ten-day event, the partners made a significant progress in initiating a joint research project, appoint further mobility measures, write joint publications, and define topics for joint Masters and PhD theses. Common research topics are, for example, climate change, protection of rain forests, spatial analysis, sensor networks, migration and poverty.



INPE and ifgi participants of the GeoChange workshop, March 2009, Brazil



GeoChange workshop, Brazil. Dr. Gilberto Camara, Director INPE and Prof. Dr. Werner Kuhn, Director ifgi