

Open geo-spatial consortium standards for sensor networks*

A seminar on 'OGC standards for sensor networks' was held recently. Over a certain period, sensor web enablement (SWE) has become a content development workflow for spatial data infrastructures (SDIs). Due to its importance for generating information regarding earth processes across various scales, there is need for understanding design prototypes of SWE in the Indian scenario.

The objective of the seminar was to understand and explore areas of participation in OGC-related test bed standards, activities (OWS3, OWS4 and OWS5) and SWE, and implementation of conceived/inclusive prototypes.

About 300 participants from varied disciplines like computers, geography, community health, etc. attended this seminar. In the inaugural session, R. Shiva Kumar (NRDMS, DST) presented a lecture on OGC activities and its requirement for global observation of climate as well as local events. The Chair of inaugural session B. B. Bhattacharya (JNU), emphasized how space techno-

logy is exploring unknown locations and their economic significance.

Eight talks were delivered in four technical sessions apart from the inaugural lecture. In the first session on 'OGC standards and current trends for sensor web enablement', the lead talk was presented by B. N. Jain (IIT, Delhi) on 'Target tracking using energy constraints for sensor network'. He spoke about sensors, and their ability to detect a target, for tracking a fleet of vehicles based on the presence of the target in the vicinity and route activation in no time. He also stressed upon technologies to track mobile target using RFID, wired sensor network and GPS technology. Energy constraints/back-ups for sensor was discussed regarding bandwidth, range, interference and density of sensors. Jain also discussed applications, namely sensors for monitoring the environment, to locate sources of polluters/pollutants, predicting disasters, and to monitor and predict landslides in rail corridors. K. R. Murli Mohan (NSDI-DST) delivered a lecture on 'OGC standards for sensor network'. He stressed upon adapting OGC standards and architecture for SWE. Sameer Saren (IIRS (NRSA)) talked about 'Web-GIS services in distributed systems', where he shared his views on distributed web services given for interoperability, data dissemination and analysis. Uttam Kumar

(IISc, Bangalore) talked on 'Sensors and networks for geospatial data'.

In the second session, three papers were presented. Milap Punia (CSR, JNU) spoke about 'Sensor web enablement for traffic and perceptual studies'. He shared his views on the use of SWE for traffic monitoring in real time, so that one can plan his/her route in the wee hours. Generating volunteered information about elderly crime vulnerability for crime perception studies through geographic locations and their shared narrative. M. P. S. Bhatia-NSIT spoke on 'Machine learning application in sensor network'.

Harlan J. Onsrud (Mein University, USA) shared his views on 'Ethics and privacy perspectives of sensor networks'. He elaborated his views on 'How can privacy be protected in ubiquitous spatial computing environments?'. He also spoke about the use of passive RFID in retail marketing and ethical issues with some other possibilities.

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National nutrition policy*

The Indian constitution enjoins the Government to give a high priority to nutrition. Providing a balanced diet to meet the nutritional and not just the energy needs of every individual is not only a matter of human right, but also a necessity if the nation has to progress. A comprehensive National Nutrition Policy was

formulated in 1993 for providing the policy framework and strategies to improve the nutritional status of the population and set the goals for the future.

The new century has witnessed the emergence of dual nutrition burden in India. While under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies remain the major public health problems, over-nutrition and associated non-communicable diseases are increasingly seen, especially among urban and affluent segments of the population. The Tenth Five-Year Plan indicated that there is a need for focused and comprehensive interventions aimed at

improving the nutritional and health status of the individuals with a paradigm shift from: (i) Household food security and freedom from hunger to nutrition security for the family and the individual. (ii) Untargetted food supplementation to screening and targeted management. (iii) Lack of focused interventions on the prevention of over-nutrition to the promotion of appropriate lifestyles and dietary intakes for the prevention and management of over-nutrition and obesity.

The Nutrition Policy for the new century incorporating these is yet to be formulated.

*A report on the symposium on 'National Nutrition Policy: Essential Elements'. The symposium was organized by the Nutrition Foundation of India, New Delhi and the Centre for Research on Nutrition Support Systems and held on 27 and 28 June 2008.