



Esri India at India Geospatial Forum 2014: ArcGIS as a Platform

The 16th edition of India Geospatial Forum (IGF) 2014 started on a high note with this event marking a major milestone for Geospatial Media, the organizers, with this being their 100th conference. Scheduled from 5-7th February 2014 at Hyderabad International Convention Centre, Hyderabad, the key focus of the conference was around convergence i.e. how the overall GIS ecosystem is converging and getting integrated with other enabling technologies thereby empowering industries to make better decisions based on smart and intelligent geographic information. Reflecting this focus, the conference was aptly themed as "Converging Geospatial Trade & Practices". The conference and exhibition was well attended by 1400+ delegates represented by 325+ organizations from 16 countries.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. V.K. Dadhwal, Director, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) who emphasized how diverse industries were benefitting from the GIS technology evolution.

The Plenary Session opened the IGF 2014 with thought provoking deliberations from the various IT leaders and experts. Agendra Kumar, President, Esri India as a plenary speaker in "Convergence: Fostering Innovations in Applications" session shared Esri's technology vision on Location Analytics and how it adds a new dimension to various applications by bringing together geographic information existing in silos and integrating it together for better decision making. He emphasized on leveraging the location as a platform to integrate, connect and geo-enable an enterprise.

Esri India had the location platform offerings demonstrated at its exhibition booth as well. The demonstration showcased Esri's complete ArcGIS platform offering and how it is transforming the way people think, see, and use their data making it practical to apply geographic thinking everywhere across organization enabling better collaboration and sharing. Some of the key demonstrations included geo-enabling Business Intelligence (BI) enterprise data (IBM Cognos), 3D Visualization and analytics, Geo-event processor enabling real-time GIS, and ArcGIS Online, Desktop and Server offerings and showcasing various GIS applications as well.

In addition to the plenary sessions, IGF hosted a number of symposiums and special sessions on geospatial technology segments such as Mining, Energy, Water, Forestry and Land

Records, as well as seminars on technology developments and innovations. Seema Joshi, Head – Pre Sales, Esri India speaking at Symposium on Forest Management shared how ArcGIS platform can deliver real value to Forestry applications enabling cross-department collaboration, data sharing, and creating and sharing applications which are accessible on variety of device platforms like mobile, tablets and desktops.

A day long special session on National GIS (NGIS) was organized on 7th February 2014 in collaboration with National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Dr. Maj Gen R Siva Kumar, CEO, NSDI gave a brief overview of India's NGIS mission while highlighting the issues of data sharing, metadata, duplication of data etc. Vatsal Dave, Vice President, Esri India, as one of the keynote speakers talked about the importance of NGIS service applications as a critical success factor for its mainstream adoption and success. He emphasized on how technology platform vision needs to go beyond just providing an underlying technology for data sharing and dissemination to being an enabler for creating and delivering services and applications that can be shared and extended to the actual users and stakeholders. Technology is ready today to quickly create services served through simple apps and applications helping in everything from decision making to providing citizen services.

Some of the other speakers in the special session on NGIS were Dr. P S Acharya, Scientist G, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Vinod Bothale, Group Director, NRSC, Dr. S Subba Rao, Surveyor General, Survey of India and Dr. Vandana Sharma, Deputy Director General, National Informatics Centre •

