Dear members and liaisons of ISO/TC 211,

Most has been said about the times we now are experiencing during the pandemic - such a great challenge for society. I hope you are in good health, although knowing most of us are affected in some way. References are changing. I notice that things that occurred some weeks back, now seems as ages ago. Images from media from somewhere else, could now be from right here. On the other hand, what looked like potential threats to habitual routines, now might make me more open minded for other solutions.

Our place in the world

Being overwhelmed and impressed by the massive work people are doing in the front line all over the world to ease the effects of the pandemic, I think it is important to remind us of our own contribution to society. Much of what geographic information is about, and more so standards, concerns concepts such as facts, location (of course), movement, visualization, connection, sharing, quality, efficiency and more. Concepts so important to society. Here the committee plays an extremely important role together with other Standards Development Organizations.

Helping others. Learning ourselves

I am pleased by the positive feedback from our members on the initiative the ISO/TC 211 50th Plenary Anniversary User Story Challenge. I look forward to many contributions already before the 50th plenary. By showing the geospatial community how geospatial standards are used today, we can help others. Please share with us also other ideas of how you can contribute to facilitate for others.

The UN-GGIM Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) Implementation guide, including the part on Standards has been jointly developed by ISO/TC 211, OGC and IHO. The draft is published at https://ggim.un.org/IGIF/part2.cshtml. The Standard Development Organizations will continue this work.
Please follow us on the new ISO/TC 211 LinkedIn page https://www.linkedin.com/company/iso-tc211. The page is open for the whole world to follow, so please go to the page, and click on the button Follow. Outreach convenor Simon Vrečar and I invite you all to contribute to ideas for the page, as well as texts which gives insights from your committee work.

Working with influencing and developing standards can many times be perceived as entering a completely new world. ISO has many publications that are really valuable and easy to read, and I would like to recommend this one, which is targeted to all delegates and experts, both experienced and new ones: ISO publication My ISO Job. As always, please contact the TC 211 Secretariat for any questions you may have.

First Virtual-Only plenary weeks

The 50th plenary meeting weeks are two fully Virtual-Only weeks during June 1st - 12th. Information has been sent out, and is available at the ISO/TC 211 website, where you find updates and how to register for the 50th plenary weeks. Committee manager Mats Åhlin is doing a great job considering the logistical and technical challenges. One thing we are sure about, is that we will learn from this. The great engagement among the committee convenors in planning the weeks, also shows how virtually mature this organization is and shows the spirit in the committee when it comes to adjusting to new situations and solving problems. Looking forward to meeting you in June.

Stay safe,

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The Newsletter is made by Outreach at ISO/TC 211

Do you want to be added or removed from the mailing list of the newsletter please send an email to mats.ahlin@sis.se