Newsletter October 2020

Members and liaisons of ISO/TC 211, geospatial standard users and geospatial community,

**We are our members and liaisons**

These last six months, the committee has really proven its adaptability to work under new conditions. The participating experts, project leaders and convenors developing the standards and supporting the work, are doing a tireless work despite the pandemic still paralyzing parts of the world.

Members and liaisons are however not only the participants in the standards development. Members are also the delegates participating in decision making in setting the scope and strategic direction and contributing to demonstrate the implementation of standards in their organizations. We are our members and liaisons.

**Updates on the development and production**

Some updates since the recent Newsletter in April, and the recent 50th plenary virtual-only week in June follows below.

Ad hoc groups (AHG) or preliminary work items (PWI) initiated:

- AHG on digital transformation of public administration (e-Government);
- AHG to study non-relational database technologies;
- AHG on automated documentation, to study machine-readable normative statements and model-driven documentation of standards;
- PWI for maintaining addresses assigned to objects in the physical world;
- PWI on definition of a revised structure and content for the Geographic Data Files (GDF) jointly with ISO/TC 204 Intelligent transport systems.

In line with the committee openness for solutions facilitating for developers and users, the Terminology Maintenance Group (TMG) has been approved by ISO for participating in the pilot project on ISO Standards Machine Applicable, Readable and Transferable (SMART) Standards.

The committee welcomes the appointment of Dr. Nicholas Car from the National body of Australia as the co-Convenor of the Advisory group 6 Group for Ontology Maintenance (GOM).
New standards projects in September

- Geographic information — Land Administration Domain Model (LADM) — Part 1: Fundamentals;
- Geographic information — Classification systems — Part 2: Land Cover Meta Language (LCML);
- Geographic information — Classification systems — Part 3: Land Use Meta Language (LULM).

For all three projects above, there is a great interest in participation from a large number of national bodies and liaisons. In particular, I would like to mention the great work of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the National bodies of Australia and United Kingdom in making these projects prepared for takeoff.

Published standards during 2020

- ISO 19161-1:2020 Geographic information — Geodetic references — Part 1: International terrestrial reference system (ITRS);

ISO/TC 211 Good practices

Through the dedicated work of the Secretariat Committee Manager Mats Åhlin, SIS, the ISO/TC 211 Good practice resource is now launched on the committee website, a welcomed and useful tool to guide the projects in the standard development stages.

Sustainable development goals and implementations of standards

ISO/TC 211, in cooperation with International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), develops geospatial standards in direct support of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). At the 10th session of UN-GGIM in August, the joint annual standard report was presented.
Standards in Action

The successful ISO/TC 211 Standards in Action Seminar in June provided many examples of the use of standards, e.g. the ISO 19160-1 standard on addresses, widely used in monitoring and blocking the contagion chain of the COVID-disease. Keep a lookout for the next seminar during the 51st plenary week.

The User Story collection

Finally, I encourage all members and the geospatial community to continue sending us examples of implementations of standards to the ISO/TC 211 User stories collection. To date we have great examples from Australia, Austria, Canada, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and the Pan American Institute for History and Geography (PAIGH).

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I hope to see you at the 51st plenary week, scheduled for November 30th–December 4th,

Agneta Engberg, Chair ISO/TC 211

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The Newsletter is made by Outreach at ISO/TC 211

On the committee website you find more on published standards, ongoing projects (programme of work), and meetings. Find this and earlier versions of the newsletter here.

For any questions or comments, please contact the committee manager Mats Åhlin, Swedish Institute for Standards (SIS) mats.ahlin@sis.se.