

Revitalized Toronto Branch of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics (CIG)

By Dr. Songnian Li, Chair of CIG Toronto Branch

The Canadian Institute of Geomatics (CIG) is the Canadian association that represents the interests of all groups in the geomatics community and is the Canadian official representative to the three major international societies in Geomatics: International Cartographic Association (ICA), International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), and International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS).

The CIG Toronto Branch represents the members of CIG in Toronto and its surrounding areas. The current Branch Directors are from universities, government agencies and private industry. The Branch currently has 104 active members. The objectives of the Branch are in line with those of the CIG National association, as stipulated in its bylaw, and include:



Photo taken at GIS Day at York University.

- To advance the development of the geomatics sciences and engineering in Toronto and its surrounding areas;
- To enhance and demonstrate the public usefulness of geomatics;
- To further the professional development of its members;
- To foster cooperation between, and promote unity of purpose and action among Toronto geomatics organizations; and
- To represent and promote the Branch members' interests in geomatics nationally.

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At the recent CIG Toronto Branch Directors' meeting held on the York University campus on October 2011, several future activities were discussed, such as sponsoring geomatics-related events at universities and colleges, promoting CIG student memberships in Ontario universities and colleges, creating branch newsletters, developing a new branch website, and organizing seminars and conferences. The Branch will co-organize the fourth International Conference on Earth Observation of Global Changes in May 2013. An annual meeting for the whole membership is planned for the spring of 2012.

The recent 2011 GIS Day events held at both the University of Waterloo and York University campuses, which were sponsored by the Branch, were very successful. The events featured students' presentations, a chance to exchange ideas and projects, live demos of GIS and mapping, poster displays, a GIS 'play' table, GIS roving experts and opportunities for networking. For more information about the events, visit:

<http://www.environment.uwaterloo.ca/gisday/2011/> and
<http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/Map/gisday2011/> or

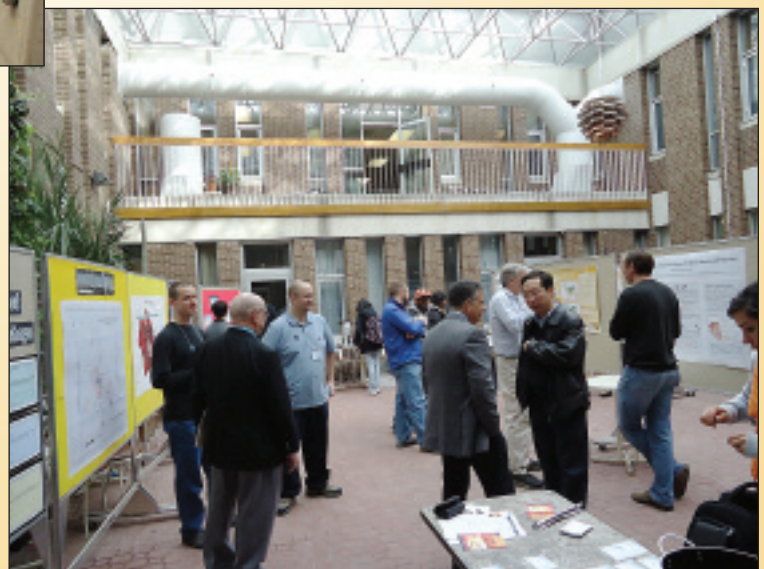


Photo taken at GIS Day at the University of Waterloo.

<http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=17954>.

The Branch welcomes new members and volunteers from all areas of geomatics in Toronto and its surrounding areas. We count on our members and volunteers to work together on various initiatives and branch committees to fill its objectives. AOLS members have long been playing an important role in the Branch. We hope to continue this tradition by calling on AOLS members to join CIG and become part of the Toronto Branch, and to work with us to build a stronger geomatics community.

For more information about the Branch and its activities

and for contact information, please visit the branch website:

<http://www.cig-acsg.ca/cigtoronto/default.html>.

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Sites to See

Geography Network Canada

<http://geographynetwork.ca/index.html>

The *Geography Network Canada* is an online resource for finding and sharing geographic content, including maps and data, from many of Canada's leading providers.

It provides the infrastructure needed to enable the sharing of geographic information between data providers, service providers, and users around the world. Through the Geography Network Canada, you can access content including live maps, downloadable data, and more advanced services.