

Circular 01

06/06/19

Pacific Islands GIS&RS User Conference 2019

Theme:

“Ecological water protection, a spatial issue”. The theme correlates with the theme of the 2019 STAR Meeting which is scheduled to take place one week before the conference.

Time, Duration and Venue:

The 2019 Conference will begin on Monday 25th November and is expected to deliver 60 presentations over the course of 4 days. A ***discussion session*** is included as part of the agenda on Day 4 on Thursday 28th November. A number of technical ***workshops*** will take place on Day 5, Friday 29th November and ending the week-long deliberations with a planned picnic at the sandbank in the Suva reef on Saturday 30th November. The week’s agenda is dominated by power-point presentations and discussions, however the ***social functions*** allows for more interactions and networking between scientists, company representatives and GIS&RS users, to exchange experiences and ideas.

The venue will be the USP Japan Pacific ICT Auditorium, in Suva, Fiji.

Opening:

The Opening Session and speeches has recently been presented by Fiji Lands Department, SPC and the Pacific GIS and Remote Sensing Council (PGRSC). This year the University of the South Pacific will also be presenting during the opening session.

Expected Participants:

The Conference provides the platform where three types of participants meet and interact: **(A)** Pacific island GIS&RS users from various backgrounds like government administrations, utilities and private enterprises, **(B)** Scientists from Pacific and international universities as well as research institutes or regional organisations and **(C)** companies of the GIS and RS market providing hardware, software, image data and service.

Registration:

The registration is free and should be done through the Conference and PGRSC website. There will be also the possibility to register on arrival. However, participants who register before, have an easier entry. This year the name tags will be scanned at the entrance. Please visit the PGRSC website: <http://www.picgisrs.org/>

Discussion Session:

The discussion session again hosts companies, scientists and GIS&RS users. The session provides the opportunity for external groups to interact between these three blocks and will allow addressing your application problems in your country.

Workshops:

At the GIS&RS Conference 2018 six high level workshops have been conducted where participants were guided by high level resource persons. QGIS development was explained by one of the main QGIS developer and a GBDX platform workshop was held by an DigitalGlobe specialist.

This year, Hexagon confirmed that they will host a workshop and MAXAR (company which took over DigitalGlobe and three other spatial businesses) most probably will conduct a workshop. Others workshops to be confirmed.

Link to Other Conferences

2019 STAR Conference (Pacific Islands Science Technology and Resource Network) will be held from 20.11.2019 to 22.11.2019 one week before the GIS&RS Conference. This is an opportunity for participants to attend both platforms using one ticket.

Social Events

The social events show Fijian hospitality and allow to interact between the users, scientists and companies and also between Pacific users themselves. Every evening there is one organised function, **a)** the opening cocktail, **b)** the yaqona night, **c)** the Fijian night and picnic.

life, **d)** the closing cocktail, **e)** Talanoa Club night and **f)** the sandbank picnic.

Conference Agenda:

The conference agenda will be published on the PGRSC website two weeks before the start of the Conference. To have Pacific islanders participating and presenting this is absolutely necessary as tickets are often released last minutes in the countries. There are also no printed versions of the Conference agenda. This is because Pacific flights are often cancelled or tickets are suddenly not available for participants. The agenda will be updated two times per day or more visible on the website, <http://www.picgisrs.org/>

History of the Conference

The Pacific Islands GIS & RS User Conference started more than 20 years ago as a Fiji Conference between USP and Fiji Lands Department to have a platform to combine the presentations held during the monthly GIS&RS user group meetings. Through a SOPAC based regional project with strong focus on GIS&RS this Conference became a Pacific Conference with strong leadership of SOPAC/SPC. Then, the organising committee had to form an independent Council, PGRSC. Now, PGRSC slowly loose the pure Fiji base as it has Focal Point in nearly all Pacific Island Countries providing country input to the Conference. In 2020, it will be the first time that the Conference will be held in a different Pacific island country.

AGM of the Pacific GIS and Remote Sensing Council:

This year there will be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the last day of the Conference, where the members will elect a chair of the “committee of focal points” and vote for other decisions. The AGM will only be open to Council members, however, interested people are welcomed to apply through the website <http://www.picgisrs.org/>. The membership is free!