



# GISCorps Newsletter

June 2007

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## Other Organizations

URISA

## GISCorps Partner Agencies

EWB

GSDI

MMEX

The World Bank

UNDP

UNHCR

UNJLC

VVAF

Volunteers for Prosperity

## Relief Agency Links

Relief Web

*global hub for time-critical humanitarian information on Complex Emergencies and Natural Disasters*

## A Message from the Core Committee

Volunteers and Friends of the GISCorps -

On behalf of the Core Committee of GISCorps, we would like to present you with our June Newsletter.

There has been a great deal of activity since March, and we will be reporting on in this newsletter, including new deployment and partnership news and GISCorps activities at the ESRI Users Group Conference in June and the URISA International Conference in August. Please read on.

And for our Volunteers – we have a special request. We have started the recruitment process for a number of missions and have noticed that some of our contact information for you is out of date. **If you are a GISCorps volunteer, please make sure you update your information and resume frequently. That will greatly facilitate the recruitment process.**

As always, we sincerely appreciate your support and are looking forward to meeting you at upcoming events.

Warm Regards,  
GISCorps Core Committee Members,  
Shoreh Elhami, Juna Papajorgji, Mark Salling, Dianne Haley

P.S. Please send an email to [info@giscorps.org](mailto:info@giscorps.org), if you want your name removed from this list.

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## Deployment and Partnership News

- GISCorps volunteer, Chen Li, has returned from his month long mission from Kabul, Afghanistan where he trained the staff of UNDP/AIMS and USAID. Read more about his mission at: [http://www.giscorps.org/aims\\_2.php](http://www.giscorps.org/aims_2.php).
- GISCorps has entered into partnership with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) – International <http://www.ewb-international.org/>. The recruitment for the first project has already begun. EWB's partners are listed at: <http://www.ewb-international.org/partnerslist.htm>
- We have formed a partnership with Volunteers for Prosperity (<http://www.volunteersforprosperity.gov/>) and they have included information about GISCorps and its missions at:

## Data/Information Links

### Earthwatch Institute

*Earthwatch Institute is an international non-profit organization that brings science to life for people concerned about the Earth's future.*

### Service at Sea

*Service at Sea is a ship-based technology assistance program that will begin a circumnavigation of the earth in August, 2007, with a goal to assist conservation organizations who are using GIS technology to meet goals of their communities.*

### Society for Conservation GIS

*A non-profit organization supporting individuals using GIS and science for the conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage*

## GISCorps Core Committee

Shoreh Elhami, Chairperson,  
Co-founder  
Juna Papajorgji, Co-Chair, Co-founder  
Mark Salling  
Dianne Haley

## Contact Us

<http://www.giscorps.org>

Email: [info@giscorps.org](mailto:info@giscorps.org)

<http://www.volunteersforprosperity.gov/busorg/profiles/giscorps.htm>

- Several new projects are initiated and we will soon begin the recruitment process. These remote and on-site projects are in Sudan, Namibia, Kenya, Columbia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

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## ESRI's 27<sup>th</sup> Users Conference

GISCorps will be at ESRI's 27<sup>th</sup> User Conference (San Diego, June 18-22, 2007) and involved in a number of activities there.

- This year GISCorps' booth will be located at Ballroom 20 Foyer (to the west of the Sails Pavilion). Please come and join us on Monday June 18<sup>th</sup> during the Map Gallery hours from 4:30 to 8:30 pm.
- This year three presentations will be given by GISCorps volunteers. All presentations are held in one session and on Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 to 7:00 pm in room 28-A:
  - Chen Li will share his recent on-site volunteer experience with UNDP/AIMS in Kabul, Afghanistan.
  - Lori Quinn will talk about her remote mission with UNHCR in Egypt.
  - At last year's User Conference, and impressed by "My Wonderful World" activities, Beni Patel, one of our deployed volunteers, asked if GISCorps volunteers could also share their knowledge with their own communities and more specifically in the K-12 area. The idea especially made sense since GISCorps has never had as many projects as it's had volunteers (we have over 1,100 volunteers now). Following the conference, she formed a subcommittee and since then they have been looking into making this idea a reality. Two of the subcommittee members Leeanne Pacatte, and Laura Horton will be speaking about this new effort at this session. This is just one established effort in which GISCorps members could make a significant contribution. There are numerous formats and methods that can work. The committee is organizing and planning now and already see a need for volunteers to help form partnerships with similar organizations, to develop teaching materials and curricula, to coordinate volunteers and, of course, to go into classrooms and communities. There are many possibilities for how each of us can contribute. Please join us to explore these possibilities.
- On Wednesday following the presentation, there will be a no-host gathering at:

Moose McGillycuddy's Pub  
(619) 702-5595  
535 5th Ave  
San Diego, CA 92101

Join us (anytime after 7:30 pm) and meet the other GISCorps volunteers and Core Committee members.

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## URISA Announcements

### Upcoming conferences

#### URISA's 45th Annual Conference

August 20-23, 2007 - Washington, DC

### What's New

- 45th Annual URISA Conference Registration Opens
- URISA Board of Directors' Position in MAPPS, et al. v. the United States of America - February 8, 2007

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## URISA's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

GISCorps will once again be an active participant at URISA's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (Washington DC, August 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>).

- A presentation on the activities of GISCorps in 2006-2007 will be held on Tuesday August 21<sup>st</sup> from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. Join us and meet your fellow GISCorps volunteers and Core Committee members in a session where they will share their experiences with the audience.
- We are working on a few other activities and will send you further details about them as we get closer to the conference. For more information and also to view the conference program, visit URISA's web site at <http://www.urisa.org/conferences/annual/info>. We hope you can join us in Washington DC.

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## GISCorps Presentations

Occasionally, the Core Committee (CC) or URISA Board members make presentations about the activities of GISCorps at various conferences. A few of the recent presentations were:

- Dianne Haley, CC member, at the annual conference of the Utah Geographic Information Council ([www.ugic.info](http://www.ugic.info))
- Juna Papajorgji, GISCorps founding member, at the 2007 Florida's Joint GeoSpatial Conference (<http://www.flurisa.org/>)
- Ed Wells, URISA President and past CC member, with Martha Lombard, URISA Past President and past CC member, at Spatial Sciences Institute Annual Conference in Australia (<http://www.spatialsciences.org.au/> and <http://www.ssc2007.com/>)

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## Shop for GISCorps Stuff!!

Do you find yourself in need of a new T-shirt, coffee mug, ball cap or tote bag? Do you want to advertise GISCorps and your association with the organization? Well, you are in luck! You can now find various GISCorps items at our online shop at:

<http://www.cafepress.com/giscorps>