



Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services Receives Special Achievement Award for Exceptional Use of GIS Technology

San Diego, California—July 15, 2009—The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) received a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award today at the 2009 ESRI International User Conference (ESRI UC) in San Diego, California. The organization received this honor for its vision, leadership, and innovative use of ESRI's geographic information system (GIS) technology. INCOIS was selected from more than 300,000 organizations worldwide and recognized during today's SAG awards ceremony for making extraordinary contributions to our global society.

[INCOIS](#) provides a number of oceanographic services to the Indian Ocean region. The organization directly impacts the lives of millions who are dependent on the coastal areas and are also directly vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters. For example, the organization's Tsunami Warning Centre notifies local residents that a tsunami may be approaching. GIS tools are also used to generate and analyze spatial data. The INCOIS Potential Fishing Zone Advisories identify areas where fish activity is high. These advisories have proven to be helpful in reducing fisherman search time by 60 to 70 percent, thereby reducing fuel consumption and valuable human effort.

Prior to implementing a GIS in 2001, most of the organization's spatial information was disseminated in a textual form. Now, the organization is able to provide services through maps accessible from a GIS-enabled Web site. Users can perform analysis and customize personal maps. Furthermore, location-based services are provided by sending alerts on mobile phones.

"Our world is being challenged by rapid change," says Jack Dangermond, ESRI president. "GIS technology is increasingly being deployed as a way to understand the issues facing our society. At ESRI, we are always extremely impressed with the work of our users and want to recognize their efforts with our Special Achievement in GIS Award. Their work is a great example of using GIS to improve our world."

GIS combines computer hardware, software, and data to collect, manage, and analyze geographic information. Virtually any information can be linked to a geographic location, helping people see that information as part of a complete picture. With GIS, users can view relationships, processes, patterns, and trends in the form of maps, globes, reports, and charts. Whether they are selecting routes to transport ethanol or studying landslides, GIS helps them see how the

world works and changes. More than one million people across the globe rely on GIS to solve problems and make better decisions by thinking and planning geographically.

Other organizations being honored at the [ESRI UC](#) include Artesia Water Company, Montana State Library, NASA Langley Research Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Yosemite National Park, City of Madrid, DHL Express, Polytechnic of Namibia, Victoria Police in Australia, and the Grammar School at Leeds.

To learn more about the 2009 SAG Award winners and to view their photos and project descriptions and images, visit www.esri.com/sag. More information about ESRI and its GIS solutions can be found at www.esri.com.