
*7th Digital Earth Summit 2018 (DES-2018)
El Jadida, Morocco, April 17-19, 2018*

First Circular

BACKGROUND:

The 7th Digital Earth Summit 2018, DES-2018, **on Digital Earth for Sustainable Development in Africa** will be held in El Jadida, Morocco, at the Faculty of Science, Chouaib Doukkali University from April 17-19, 2018.

This conference will be a major event in the African and international community of Earth observation and geo-spatial information science in 2018. It will be organized by International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE, <http://www.digitalearth-isde.org>) and the Chouaib Doukkali University (UCD, <http://www.ucd.ac.ma>) in partnership with the the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) and the Moroccan Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (MARSE).

Since the concept of "Digital Earth" was put forth in 1998, by the vice-president of the United States Al Gore, the development of Digital Earth has thrived with the help of active promotion by scientists from various countries. In recent decades the concept has evolved thanks to the development and adoption of technologies such as earth observation, geo-information systems, global positioning systems, communication networks, sensor webs, electromagnetic identifiers, virtual reality and grid computation

The International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE), founded in Beijing in 2006, is a non-political, non-governmental and not-for-profit international organization principally promoting academic exchange, science and technology innovation, education, and international collaboration towards Digital Earth.

The purpose of ISDE is to promote international cooperation of the Digital Earth vision, and enable Digital Earth technologies to play key roles in, *inter alia*, economic and socially sustainable development, to promote information technology and to reduce digital divide

Among the main activities of ISDE, the Society organizes every even year the International Symposium on Digital Earth" and every odd year the "Digital Earth Summit". The International Symposium on Digital Earth series commenced in 1999, in Beijing (China) and has been held in Fredericton (Canada) in 2001, Brno (Czech) in 2003, Tokyo (Japan) in 2005, Berkley (USA) in 2007, Beijing (China) in 2009, Perth (Australia) in 2011, Kuching (Malaysia) in 2013, Halifax (Canada) in 2015 and Sydney (Australia) in 2017.

The "Digital Earth Summit" started in 2006 in Auckland (New Zealand), then Berlin (Germany) in 2008, Nesebar (Bulgaria) in 2010, Wellington (New Zealand) in 2012, Nagoya (Japan) in 2016 and Beijing (China) in 2016. The 7th Digital Earth Summit (DES-2018) will be for the first time in the African continent in El jadida (Morocco)

The main objective of DES-2018 is to bring together scientist and professionals from the African and international community to present latest achievements, discuss challenges and share experiences. The conference program will feature keynote speeches delivered by leading scholars, technical sessions with reports of the latest research outcomes, discussion sessions on operational topics such as capacity building, Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), big

data, space policy, programmes and projects, as well as commercial exhibitions showing latest products and services in Digital earth and geospatial information technologies.

Paper selection is based on abstract and full paper peer review following the guidelines provided in the “Call for Paper” document that can be downloaded from the conference website: www.desummit2018.org

CONFERENCE THEME:

The DES-2018, will cover all the aspects of geo spatial data and information themes , Earth sciences, space sciences and information sciences and technology to assess, monitor and forecast natural and human phenomena under the overarching theme: “ *Digital Earth for Sustainable Development in Africa (DESDA)*”

CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES:

- 1: Digital Earth: best practices and applications
- 2: Earth Observation and Applications to Science and Policy
- 3: Digital Earth technologies to Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals
- 4: Digital Earth and Citizen Well-Being
- 5: Zero Hunger with Digital Earth technology
- 6: Geo-ethics, Educating next-generations with Digital Earth

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Participation in DES-2018 is open to all individuals interested in or working in the fields of earth observation and geo-information science. For all sub-themes, papers for oral presentation, discussion and poster sessions are invited.

Abstracts received by the deadline will be considered for program placement under the standard peer review process. Late abstracts cannot be accepted due to the large number of submissions and short review schedule. Authors should indicate the sub-theme under which their papers fall.

The DES-2018 Scientific Committee (SC) will organize all accepted abstracts into either oral or interactive poster sessions based upon their potential contribution to the conference and the composition of high-quality sessions.

Only accepted papers that are registered and presented at the conference in El Jadida will be published in the conference proceedings (CD-rom) and be considered for peer-reviewed publication in a dedicated international journal.

Oral Presentations

Keynote presentations of 30 minutes will be given in plenary sessions. There will be no discussion during these sessions. However, those who give a lead paper for a specific theme are encouraged to take part in the subsequent thematic session. Oral presentations in the technical/ scientific sessions must not exceed 15 minutes.

Conference languages

The conference will be conducted in English.

Poster Presentations

Poster preparation and material to be used

The poster session code corresponding to your paper ID will be posted at the top of the board. Authors must use the board with this number when setting up their posters. Posters will be mounted on 90 cm (width) x 150 cm (height) plastic boards - portrait format only. It is requested to use substantial paper sheet (instead of thin cardboard) as posters must be mounted with scotch tape, and not with drawing pins.

Mounting of posters and display

Authors on the assigned board (indicated by a tag showing your paper code) must mount posters in advance of the dedicated poster session (to be confirmed). Authors, according to instructions by the LOC, must also do removal of posters.

Poster Attendance

At least one of the authors is required to attend their poster during scheduled poster sessions to answer questions by the attendees. Photocopies or high quality copies made from the reduced photograph of your poster and additional material may be distributed by the author(s) at the poster site.

PUBLICATION OF ABSTRACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

A printed book with all DES-2018 accepted abstracts and a CD-rom containing all extended abstracts received by February, 28, 2017, will be distributed to registered attendees at the registration desk.

Only papers that are presented at the conference by one of the listed authors registered for the conference will appear in the proceedings. The organizers reserves the right to exclude a paper from distribution if the paper is not presented at the conference.

Please note that the CD-rom of the conference proceedings does not constitute a refereed publication recognised by international standards. Authors who wish to have their paper considered for publication in a peer-reviewed international journal may indicate so in the submission form. Outstanding papers will be forwarded for consideration for publication in topical international journals.

IMPORTANT DATES

April, 30	2017	Announcement and call for papers
October, 31	2017	Notification of abstract
December, 31	2017	Deadline for papers
February, 28	2018	Early registration closed
March, 31	2018	Final Program
April, 17	2018	conference

REGISTRATION FEES

Category	Until 28 February 2018	After 28 February 2018
Ordinary participants with paper submission	550 \$	600 \$
ISDE Members with paper submission	450 \$	500 \$
ISDE Student with paper submission	400 \$	450 \$
Participant / Exhibitor (without conference paper/presentation)	400 \$	450 \$
African participant	350 \$	400 \$

Registration fees for the Conference include attendance for two days, the proceedings, lunches, and coffee breaks.

Additional Items:

Additional CD proceedings	10 \$
Additional page surcharge (*)	30 \$ per page)

(*): The surcharge is per page for every paper that contains more than 4 pages (Max 2 extra pages allowed – Total of 6 pages).

For more information and updates please continue to visit the conference website: www.desummit2018.org or contact: info@desummit2018.org

