

A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE THE SCHOLARS TO TAKE A CAREER IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE

GISc Week/day is a fun way to celebrate the “Science of Where” with everyone. It is an opportunity to discover and understand the benefits of GISc and showcase its uses to your old schoolhouse, community, leadership in business, government and the public alike. The unfortunate part is that, for South Africans, it might not be possible to showcase the value of GISc with your old schoolhouse because the celebrated International GISc day coincides with the most important activity in the school calendar, the year-end examinations. This has resulted in our school learners being deprived of the opportunity to participate in the activities planned around the country and the world.

At some point in time, the GISc Veterans must hand over the baton to the next young generation. Therefore, a concerted effort by key stakeholders and role players from the public sector, private and academia is required to ensure that GISc knowledge is transferred from one generation to the other.

Committee for Spatial Information (CSI)

a statutory body established in terms of section 5 of the Spatial Data Infrastructure Act, 2003 (Act No.54 of 2003), through its subcommittee on Marketing and Communication, in collaboration the

Geo-Information Society of South Africa (GISSA)

a voluntary body representing the interest of people involved in Geographic Information Science, are proposing another GISc Week celebration titled “ SA GISc Week for Schools” to be celebrated during the third week of April each year.



International GIS day

The international GIS day is celebrated on the third Wednesday of November each year. According to Esri Newsroom (2014), the first formal GIS Day took place in 1999. Esri president and co-founder Jack Dangermond credits Ralph Nader for being the person who inspired the creation of GIS Day. This worldwide grassroots celebration provides an international forum for users to demonstrate and learn about real-world GIS applications that are improving daily life everywhere. The event traditionally is held on the third Wednesday of November each year during Geography Awareness Week. Although the formal GIS Day was first celebrated by ESRI, it has now become a worldwide celebration involving many GIS users, service providers and academia. South Africa also celebrates GIS day through the hosting of events by the government, the industry and academia

South African GISc Week for Schools

The South African GISc Week for Schools is to be celebrated during the third week of April each year with the first to be launched in April 2022. Although the Department of Basic Education (DBE) recorded a significant improvement in performance of the Gateway subjects (including Geography), some schools recorded a lower pass rate. Map work and GIS accounts for 25% of the matriculant’s final examination paper with map work also applied in other topics such as Climatology (synoptic chart/maps), Settlement and Economic Geography. The strategy is to work with the DBE to implement interventions that can assist learners and teachers to improve learner performance in subjects like Geography. GISc Week for Schools is one such interventions to bring into play map work and GIS in an interesting and practical way. The objective is to motivate not only the matriculants, but other high/secondary school learners to make an informed subject choice when they reach Grade 10. Most importantly, entice learners to take up a career in GISc by sharing information about bursary opportunities offered by GISSA and various government departments.

Best of Both

We must continue participating in International GIS day celebrations to empower ourselves as individuals, business and government. These celebrations create a platform to learn about new trends in GIS required to better position our respective organisations to remain competitive.

We can, as individuals and organisations invest resources (mostly timewise) to share GISc knowledge with learners through participating in SA GISc Week for Schools. New trends and GIS developments learned during the International GIS day celebrations can be shared with the learners to ensure a well-informed generation that will build businesses that will withstand the test of time.

As an important stakeholder and role player, your views are important and will be greatly appreciated. Kindly submit your views by clicking the link and completing the survey below:

[SA GISc Week for Schools](#)

CONTACT US: For more information send an email to nsif@dalrrd.gov.za

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