

Key meet to focus on geospatial tech

FOUR-DAY MAP MIDDLE EAST 2006 CONFERENCE FROM SUNDAY

By a staff reporter

DUBAI — The capability that geospatial information and technology provide for governance, national security and infrastructure will be highlighted in a regional conference on geospatial technology next week.

To be organised jointly by Dubai Municipality and GIS Development, the four-day Map Middle East 2006 conference will commence on Sunday at the Dubai World Trade Centre under the theme 'Geospatial for All and All for Geospatial'.

Addressing a Press conference yesterday to announce the event, Mohammed Abdullah Al Zaffin, Director of Dubai GIS Centre, said geospatial technology is fast evolving as an important tool for various application segments. Owing to the diversified applications of geospatial techniques, its usage as a 'public utility tool' is being established worldwide. The Middle East, in particular, has been

GREAT POTENTIAL

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a leading region in accepting geospatial technologies as a 'public utility tool'.

He added that geospatial tools have the potential to become an enabling platform for a wide range of application needs of citizens belonging to the various nations of the region. In view of the relevance of geospatial technology as public utility tool, Map Middle East 2006 will have this theme. It will explore manners and ways in which geospatial tools can reach out to citizens and benefit them in future.

Zaffin noted that Map Middle East 2006 will

provide an exclusive platform to discuss and network amongst the participating delegates from the member nations of the region along with professionals and industry representatives from the rest of the world. It will bring all the stakeholders in the geospatial domain — researchers, students, academia, and the industry — onto one platform to deliberate, interact, share and collaborate in the field of geospatial technologies and applications. Senior government officials, industry leaders and respected academicians from various countries of Middle East

and rest of the world will attend the event.

Zaffin was joined at the Press conference by Sanjay Kumar, CEO, GIS Development, and Manal Al Shamlan, Head of GIS Section at Dubai Municipality.

The conference will be addressed by Prof. V.S. Ramamurthy, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, and Prof. Milan Konecny, President of International Cartographic Association.

An important feature of the conference will be the Student Forum, which is an initiative taken by Dubai Municipality to spread awareness on mapping technology amongst the school kids in the age-group of 12-15 years.

Also, about 51 exhibitors are expected to participate in the exhibition from the government and the industry.