

Chief Guest

Partners

Invited Guest'... Good Morning

It is my great pleasure and privilege to join you today for the 2nd Ethiopia User Group Conference that has brought together key partners in the field of Geographic Information System. Rarely do people from such rich diverse background come together in order to share ideas and experiences with a view to developing a new agenda for prosperity and positive contribution to the human race. I therefore take this early opportunity to sincerely thank our partners for organizing this event and each of you for taking your time to come so that we can reason and put our minds together, not that you did not have commitments in your areas of undertaking... one writer Chinua Achebe said "A man who calls his kinsmen to a feast does not do so to save them from starving, they all have food in their own homes. When we gather together in the moonlit village ground it is not because of the moon. Every man can see it in his own compound. We come together because it is good for kinsmen to do so." We here also come together because it is good for us to reason together.

Imagining the progress that will be made in this country in relation to the geospatial technology in the next 3 years, 5 years... or 10 years will definitely be

a contribution from you people in this room, how better can it be us planning that tomorrow together today.

This gathering is united with one common purpose that can be summarized in the following objectives;

- ✓ To maximize the latest techniques and applications in Geographic Information System.
- ✓ Test new products, improve technical development skills, and gain new mapping techniques, expand our network, and receive invaluable ideas to energize our GIS operations.
- ✓ Meet and connect with each other, share ideas, challenges and find solutions. *(Make sure you meet and connect with someone new today)*

All this are geared towards "*inspiring what's next*"

The world is constantly changing, technologies are moving to the next level, everything is connected to every other aspect, the climatic change, loss of biodiversity, sustainable development, population growth, increasing urbanization, infrastructural developments, and so many emerging components some positive some negative have made the world a complex place. This complexity can be made easier by the power of computational geography.

The power of computational geography can only be realized when there is collaboration between different organizations, departments, units and even individuals, this calls for a shift from the traditional desktop GIS applications to organizational portals that serves the interest of the whole organization, maps are no longer printed and delivered to the next managers in hardcopy but shared as a service thus making our work easier saving on the environment.

ArcGIS continues to evolve and increasingly plays a larger role in the digital transformation of society. The maturity of ArcGIS helps users do their work better and helps organizations understand and communicate in many new ways. It breaks down organizational barriers and facilitates new forms of collaboration around shared geographic information. Today the new portal for ArcGIS is rapidly growing—making a difference across organizations.

ArcGIS is enabling the community to find answers to the most pressing issues. The Science of Where is opening up a plethora of opportunities, enabling us to learn how visualization can help in creating more livable cities. GIS is also moving into buildings. The applications of GIS are increasing manifold, and Esri ArcGIS is all set to explore GIS is inspiring 'What Next'.

ArcGIS is advancing rapidly, integrating innovations. A new generation of ArcGIS has been developed that is heavily based on sharing and collaboration, it is

important for me to repeat this, “heavily based on sharing and collaboration” leveraging technology to interconnect knowledge and engage everyone. The first generation of digital transformation in the mid 90’s involved digitizing workflows and now technology is becoming ‘simultaneous.’ We are moving towards achieving interconnection of workflows. Bringing together the power of WebGIS, smart maps, Web maps, location analytics, we are bringing everything together like a constellation. Web maps are becoming a common language for problem solving. Apps are taking The Science of Where everywhere. Earth observation combined with Artificial Intelligence and GIS is providing us with real-time intelligence. We as GIS professionals, we need to embrace this digital transformation and leverage The Science of Where for creating solutions.

We need to integrate The Science of Where in an accelerated way. We need to envision the future and participate in creating a geoscience-based foundation for our future. I call it societal GIS.” This is essential and inevitable. Esri ArcGIS is playing a vital role in achieving this transformation as it empowers all aspects of the organization through three main modules – System of Record, System of Insight and System of Engagement.

As Esri Eastern Africa, the distributor in the region, we pledge our support both with resources and technology to ensure that the uptake and utilization of the geospatial technology is taken to the next level, we will walk with you all the way

to realize your dreams in the geospatial aspect to you as individuals, as learning institutions, as organizations and as a nation.

God bless Ethiopia.