



International Society for
Digital Earth

International Society for Digital Earth

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Executive Director, ISDE

5 Sept., 2025 Beijing, China

WHAT IS DIGITAL EARTH?



January, 1998

The Digital Earth: Understanding our Planet in the 21st Century

— Albert Arnold Gore Jr., the 45th vice president of the United States.

Digital Earth is a concept of an interactive digital replica of the entire planet that can facilitate a shared understanding of the multiple relationships between the physical and natural environments and society. To do so, it needs to be accessible globally from multiple platforms (mobiles, tablets, computers); be able to display information in ways that are easily understood by multiple audiences (the public, decision-makers, scientists); and be constantly updated with data coming from sensors (space-based, airborne, in-situ), citizens, and both public and private sectors.



THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DIGITAL EARTH

From Nov. 29th to Dec. 2nd , 1999

01



▲ Mr. Li Lanqing, the former Vice Premier of China's State Council, delivered opening remarks.

02



▲ Prof. Yongxiang Lu, then President of Chinese Academy of Sciences, made a keynote speech.

03



▲ The Opening Ceremony

THEME

Towards Digital Earth

- More than **500 delegates** including Chinese and foreign scholars, experts and entrepreneurs from **27 countries** attended the symposium.
- 33 topics on the definition, theory, technology and application of Digital Earth were discussed.
- The *1999 Beijing Declaration on Digital Earth* was officially approved.
- The decision of holding the **International Symposium on Digital Earth** every two years was made.
- The **International Steering Committee** of the International Symposium on Digital Earth was established.
- Prof. Yongxiang Lu, then President of Chinese Academy of Sciences, was elected as the Chair of the International Steering Committee, and Prof. Huadong Guo the Secretary General.



July 2004



In July 2004, the **International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE)** was founded.

ISDE Secretariat is hosted by the Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

ISDE' s MISSION

*To benefit society by promoting
the development and realization
of Digital Earth*

The International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) is a non-governmental international academic organization initiated by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and co-founded by relevant institutions from different countries. It principally promotes academic exchange, science and technology innovation, education, and international collaboration towards Digital Earth.



▲ The ISDE Launch Ceremony



▲ The 1st ISDE Executive Committee meeting



▲ The 1st Executive Committee

ISDE ORGANIZATION

ISDE Bureau

ISDE Bureau consists of 7 members, including the Honorary President, President, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary General, Diversity Head Officer, and Executive Director.



ISDE Council

ISDE Council consists of 29 experts from 18 countries.

• Council Member (In Surname Alphabetical Order)



National & Regional Chapters



Working Groups



ISDE ORGANIZATION

ISDE - DIGITAL BELT AND ROAD ALLIANCE (ISDE-DBRAAlliance)



Founding International Organizations & Institutions

- Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
- Committee on Data of the International Science Council (CODATA)
- Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI)
- Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- Center for Earth Science and Digital Earth (INSTeG-UTM)
- Malaysia Polytechnic University
- Neogeography R&D Group
- Bulgarian Cartographic Association
- Masaryk University, Czech Republic
- Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences (RADI/CAS)

Letters of Support to the founding of ISDE-DBRAAlliance



ISDE-DBRAAlliance was established in Australia on April 5, 2017. It aims to boost scientific and technological exchanges and collaborations with countries and relevant institutions along the Belt and Road, and strengthen the geospatial information capacity of these countries to realize the SDGs. The Alliance hosts the Belt and Road Forum on Digital Earth, regular workshops and seminars on Digital Earth-related subdomains.



2023 Belt and Road Forum on Digital Earth (BRFonDE 2023)

The BRFonDE 2023, themed “Digital Earth and Sustainable Development of the Belt and Road Countries,” was held in Beijing, China on 6-8 Dec 2023. It brought together more than **150** leading scientists, government officials, educationists, entrepreneurs from **33** countries and international organizations.

The Forum released the *Atlas of Resources and Environment in South Asia along the Belt and Road* and the *Declaration on Digital Earth in Support of Sustainable Development in Belt and Road Countries*.

ISDE ORGANIZATION

ISDE - Young Scientist Innovation Network (ISDE-YSIN)

The ISDE-YSIN was launched on **May 26, 2023** with the aim of empowering young scientists in the field of Digital Earth. The Network serves to promote innovative technologies related to Digital Earth, while also making contributions to the global sustainable development.

The Network organizes the **Youth Innovation Forum on Digital Earth** annually, and the **ISDE - Lecture on Digital Earth Youth Innovation** with the objective of building a youth-driven academic sharing and collaborative platform. By now, two Forums and three Lecture sessions have been held. The 3rd Lecture expanded into the **1st IEEE GRSS/ISDE-YSIN Symposium on GeoAI for Remote Sensing Data Analysis** in Morocco, attracting nearly 100 participants.



21-23 Aug 2023 · The 1st · Beijing, China



4-7 Dec 2024 · The 2nd · Hong Kong, China

Youth Innovation Forum on Digital Earth

The 1st Youth Innovation Forum on Digital Earth with the theme of “Digital Earth in Support of Global Sustainable Development” was held on August 21-23, 2023 in Beijing, China, attracting more than **160** participants from 13 countries, including Algeria, Austria, Bolivia, Germany, Hungary, etc.

The 2nd Youth Innovation Forum on Digital Earth, themed "Digital Technology Innovation Driving Sustainable Development", was held on December 4-7, 2024 in Hong Kong, China. It gathered nearly **500** delegates from 18 countries and regions, fostering seamless integration between academia and industry.

The 3rd Youth Innovation Forum on Digital Earth

Theme: Innovation and Future Trends in
Geo-digitalization for Sustainable Development

Website: <https://sot.kcau.ac.ke/ISPRS-2025-conference/>



December 2-4, 2025

CONTACT

Website: <https://sot.kcau.ac.ke/ISPRS-2025-conference/>

Address: P.O. Box 56808 - 00200, Nairobi, Kenya

Email: info.isprs-conf@kcau.ac.ke

Dr Lucy Waruguru, mburul@kcau.ac.ke

The 3rd Youth Innovation Forum on Digital Earth, also the joint ISPRS/ISDE Conference on Geo-Digitalization for Sustainable Development Goals will be held from December 2-4, 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya. Organized by the International Society for Digital Earth, KCA University, and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the Forum, themed “Innovation and Future Trends in Geo-digitalization for Sustainable Development”, will serve as a platform for experts, practitioners, researchers and people of like mind to share experiences and best practices for enhancing geo-digitization across the globe.

ISDE ACTIVITIES- INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DIGITAL EARTH

The 1st International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: 29 Nov. - 2 Dec., 1999
- Location: Beijing, China
- Theme: Towards Digital Earth

The 3rd International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: Sep., 2003
- Location: Brno, Czech Republic
- Theme: Information Resources for Global Sustainability

The 5th International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: 5 - 9 Jun., 2007
- Location: Berkeley, USA
- Theme: Bring Digital Earth down to Earth

The 7th International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: 23 - 25 Aug., 2011
- Location: Perth, Australia
- Theme: The Knowledge Generation

The 2nd International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: Jun., 2001
- Location: Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada
- Theme: Beyond Information Infrastructure

The 4th International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: Mar., 2005
- Location: Tokyo, Japan
- Theme: Digital Earth as Global Commons

The 6th International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: 9 - 12 Sep., 2009
- Location: Beijing, China
- Theme: Digital Earth in Action

ISDE ACTIVITIES- INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DIGITAL EARTH

The 9th International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: 5 - 9 Oct., 2015
- Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- Theme: Towards a One-World Vision for the Blue Planet

The 11th International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: 24 - 27 Sep., 2019
- Location: Florence, Italy
- Theme: Digital Earth in a Transformed Society

The 13th International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: 11 - 14 Jul., 2023
- Location: Athens, Greece
- Theme: Earth Intelligence to Understand and Protect Our Living Planet

The 8th International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: 26 - 29 Aug., 2013
- Location: Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
- Theme: Transforming Knowledge into Sustainable Practice

The 10th International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: 4 - 6 Apr., 2017
- Location: Sydney, Australia
- Theme: Digital Transformation - Our Future

The 12th International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: 6 - 8 Jul., 2021
- Location: Salzburg, Austria
- Theme: Digital Earth for Sustainable Societies

The 14th International Symposium on Digital Earth



- Date: 21 - 25 Apr., 2025
- Location: Chongqing, China
- Theme: Digital Earth Facilitating Sustainable Development Goals

ISDE ACTIVITIES- DIGITAL EARTH SUMMIT

The 1st Digital Earth Summit



- Date: Aug., 2006
- Location: Auckland, New Zealand
- Theme: Digital Earth Summit on Sustainability

The 3rd Digital Earth Summit



- Date: 12 - 14 Jun., 2010
- Location: Nessebar, Bulgaria
- Theme: Digital Earth in the Service of Society:
Sharing Information, Building Knowledge

The 5th Digital Earth Summit



- Date: 9 - 11 Nov., 2014
- Location: Nagoya, Japan
- Theme: Digital Earth for Education
for Sustainable Development

The 2nd Digital Earth Summit



- Date: 12 - 14 Nov., 2008
- Location: Potsdam, Germany
- Theme: Geoinformatics: Tools for
Global Change Research

The 4th Digital Earth Summit



- Date: 2 - 4 Sep., 2012
- Location: Wellington, New Zealand
- Theme: Digital Earth and Technology

ISDE ACTIVITIES- DIGITAL EARTH SUMMIT

The 7th Digital Earth Summit



- Date: 17 - 19 Apr., 2018
- Location: El Jadida, Morocco
- Theme: Digital Earth for Sustainable Development in Africa

The 9th Digital Earth Summit



- Date: 6 - 8 Sep., 2022
- Location: Chennai, India
- Theme: Digital Earth to Bridge Digital Divide for Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

The 6th Digital Earth Summit



- Date: 7 - 8 Jul., 2016
- Location: Beijing, China
- Theme: Digital Earth in the Era of Big Data

The 8th Digital Earth Summit



- Date: 30 Nov. - 2 Dec., 2020
- Location: Moscow, Russia (Online)
- Theme: Digital Earth in a Changed World: Challenges and Opportunities

The 10th Digital Earth Summit



- Date: 24 - 26 Nov., 2026
- Location: Melbourne, Australia

International Sympisium on Digital Earth & Digital Earth Summit

Since 1999, ISDE has held **14** International Symposia on Digital Earth in **10** countries, and **9** Digital Earth Summits in **8** countries.



Welcome to apply for hosting and participate in these activities.

ISDE Workshop on Digital Earth Vision

China Digital Earth Conference

Youth Innovation Forum on Digital Earth

ISDE International Lectures

ISDE Lecture on Digital Earth Youth Innovation



These conferences have attracted tens of thousands of experts, scholars, government officials, industry and business representatives from more than **70** countries and regions.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION-GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS (GEO) International Society for Digital Earth

Nov 17, 2009

On the 6th plenary meeting of GEO held in Washington, US.

- **ISDE** was admitted to the world intergovernmental organization the **Group on Earth Observations (GEO)**, composed of 117 member governments, 157 Participating Organizations, and over 20 private sector associates.
- ISDE became one of the major international organizations in the field of global geospatial information science.

Nov 9, 2023

- ISDE was selected for a 2nd term (2024-2026) on the **GEO Programme Board**, having previously served from 2016 to 2018.
- It is one of the 7 **Participating Organizations** selected, alongside 7 GEO Members.

May 6, 2025

- **Digital Earth Approaches Community of Practice** (Digital Earth CoP) under GEO was launched at the GEO Global Forum in Rome, Italy.



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION-INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL (ISC)



October 2017

On the ICSU 32nd plenary meeting held in Taipei, ICSU President announced ISDE as one of its official members.

July 2018

The International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) were merged into the International Science Council (ISC). ISDE is **an ISC Affiliated Member**.



From our members

The International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE), an affiliated member of ISC, has just published an open access book: *the Manual of Digital Earth*. "Digital Earth" is a global initiative to construct a comprehensive virtual representation of our planet. With the advance of digital technologies, this vision is quickly becoming a reality. The book covers the current status and future directions for Digital Earth research. It also showcases the capability of Digital Earth technologies in various areas, such as for the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change research, disaster mitigation, and so on.



Members

ISDE, International Society for Digital Earth

ISDE is a member since 2016.

Digital Earth stands for the vision to construct a comprehensive virtual representation of the planet. It generated a collaborative effort between Earth sciences, space sciences and information sciences to monitor and forecast natural and human phenomena. The International Society for Digital Earth, established in Beijing in 2006, is a non-political, non-



President, Huadong GUO
Tel.: +86-10-82178000
Email: hguo@isdnet.ac.cn

10 January, 2016

To: The International Council for Science (ICSU)

ISDE fully endorses ICSU's Mission and Vision, and strongly believes that ISDE can fully support the objectives of ICSU through active participating in ICSU's scientific programs and activities, both globally and regionally. Becoming an International Scientific Associate member of ICSU, ISDE will definitely contribute all of its expertise and experience to ICSU and take all opportunities to broaden international collaborations between ISDE and other international bodies of ICSU through scientific communication.

I, as the President of ISDE, attest that the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) will adhere to ICSU's Statutes and Rules of Procedure, as an International Scientific Associate member of ICSU.

On behalf of ISDE, I sincerely hope ICSU can accept our application.

Date: 10 January, 2016

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Huadong GUO.

Huadong GUO, Prof.
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Position: President of International Society for Digital Earth

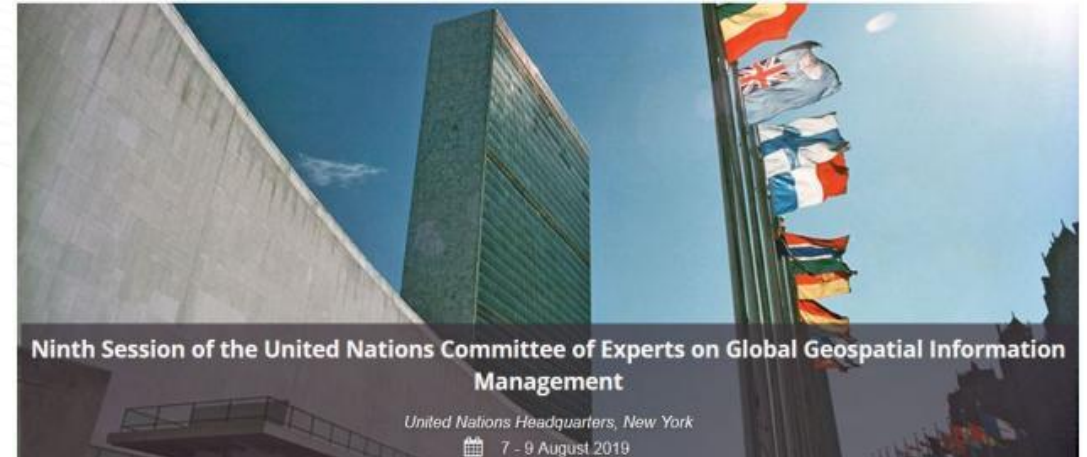
7 Aug 2019

ISDE became a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management: Geospatial Societies (UN-GGIM GS).



UN-GGIM: Geospatial Societies

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Current Members

- IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (IEEE-GRSS)
- International Association of Geodesy (IAG)
- International Cartographic Association (ICA)
- International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)
- International Geographical Union (IGU)
- International Map Industry Association (IMIA)
- **International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE)**
- International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)
- International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)

Observers

- The International Hydrographic Office
- Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION-MOU SIGNING



With MARSE (2018)



With BCA (2018)



With SSSI (2017)



With AARSE (2016)



With CODATA (2011)



With ANSO (2023)



With MGA (2023)



With MAPIN/ISRS (2023)



With ISPRS (2022)

SCI-E

March, 2008

The *International Journal of Digital Earth (IJDE)*, launched in March 2008, is a peer-reviewed, open access, international journal focusing on the theories, technologies, and applications of Digital Earth.

Its Impact Factor in 2024 is **4.9**, and it ranks in the **Q1** both in SCI journals of Remote Sensing and Physical Geography.



Taylor & Francis Group



PUBLICATIONS-BIG EARTH DATA

Indexed by the databases of ESCI, EI, Inspec, Scopus, GEOBASE, CSCD, DOAJ, etc.

Launched in December, 2017

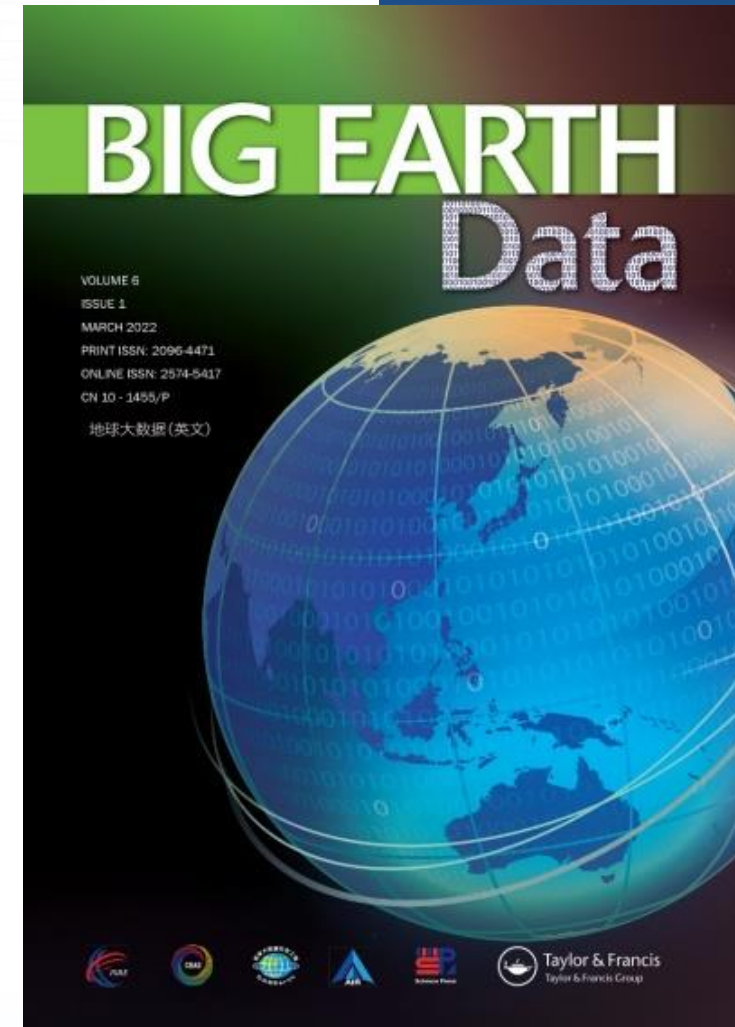
The *Big Earth Data* is an open access journal, also the world's first big data journal in the Earth sciences.

It is a sister journal of *International Journal of Digital Earth*.

It is dedicated to the publication of big data articles and geoscience data.

It is published by ISDE jointly with the Aerospace Information Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals, Taylor & Francis Group, and China Science Publishing and Media Ltd.

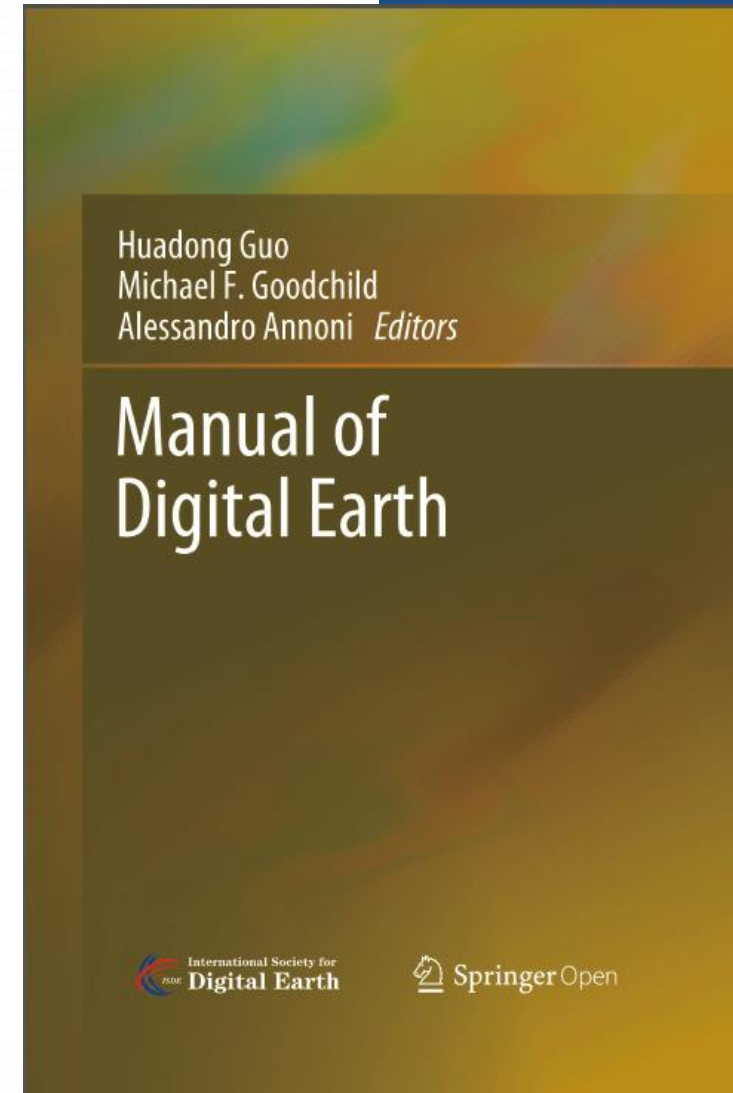
Its Impact Factor is **3.8** and it ranks **Q1** both in journals of Computer Science, Information Systems and Multidisciplinary Geosciences.



PUBLICATIONS- MANUAL of DIGITAL EARTH

Published in November 2019

- The **first** scientific book of Digital Earth
 - Contributed by **121** authors from **18** countries
 - More than **1.2 million** downloads worldwide
-
- It took 4 years to be finished, jointly published by the Springer Group.
 - It covers the Digital Earth-related theories, technologies and applications.
 - It summarizes the current status and future directions for Digital Earth research.
 - It is an open access publication and promotes the concept of Digital Earth.



<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-981-32-9915-3>



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Our Mission

To benefit society by promoting the development and realization of Digital Earth

Membership

ISDE Membership

Application

Membership Categories

Institutional Membership	Organizational Membership	Government Departments Universities & Research Institute International Societies National Societies Regional Societies
	Enterprise Membership	Large Enterprises Medium Enterprises Small Enterprises
Individual Membership	Individual Membership	Individual Life Members
		Individual Members
		Individual Student Members
		Individual Senior Members (65+)

Membership Application:

<https://www.digitalearth-isde.org/list-25-1.html>



Online application

Apply now >>



Paper application

Apply now >>

JOIN US BY
SCANNING QR CODE



Thank you

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