公開報告書

ER-RBIB RIM 201720532　システム情報工学研究科　社会工学専攻

GIS: the business of solutions

1 month Internship at Spatial Innovision Limited (Jamaica)

Overview:

the opportunity to be embedded in a commercial GIS business organization where the student is exposed to current geospatial technology and solutions and participate in sales, support and project activities.

Objective:

Increase the capacity of selected intern to use, sell or support geospatial solution and greater understanding of commercial work environment; Increase Spatial Innovision Limited (SIL) resource bandwidth temporarily to address inadequately attended tasks.

Results:

Grasp of latest geospatial solution and underlying technology relating to particular business opportunities through the participation in meetings with clients (STATIN) or business partners (LICJ on the users' conference), the participation in the preparation of weekly webinar about GIS technologies, and the completion of pending tasks (demonstrate cost benefits of GIS to HAJ; draft model of site selection of Third City in Jamaica). Through the interaction with members of different department in SIL from software managers to surveyors and salesmen, the wide usage of GIS products in all type of industries, institutions and purposes was practically understood. The GIS business is not limited to providing adequate products to the client but it also includes tech support, training and requires constant academic research and permanent learning to keep up with the latest updates from the products provider and the latest trends in demand from the various clients. After spending a month at SIL, I understood how interesting and versatile is to have a career in GIS. It combines academia, client support, sales, surveying, training etc. This internship gave me insight into a career option that I am willing to strongly consider now.

On the other hand, doing this internship in Jamaica, give me an insight into the working culture of the country. Having interned in all three countries, I could compare between the working atmosphere of Japan, Jamaica and Morocco (my country of birth). Jamaica and Morocco, being both developing countries, I could say had a similar atmosphere. People don't necessarily come on time in the morning, lunch time takes more than one hour and people take the time to eat and chat with each other. People don't spend all day at their desks. The opposite was noticed in Japan, where most people actually eat their lunch at their desk. In terms of how much work is actually achieved in either country, I can't say much but when I was in SIL people seemed to achieve their tasks for the day before leaving and still leave on time. The atmosphere was very relaxed and it was easy to chat with other members. I felt very

comfortable and not stressed at all. I am very grateful for the opportunity and I can definitely see myself working there in the future if the opportunity presents itself.

The tasks:

I was first assigned the task of drafting a document for the Housing Agency of Jamaica (HAJ). HAJ has been intending to implement GIS in its workflow since 2016 for better management, optimization and unlocking latent business opportunities. However, the latest financial reports demonstrated that HAJ has lost significant amounts of money during the past three years due to poor governance and weak project management. Such findings might dissuade HAJ from introducing new systems such GIS in order to minimize spending. For SIL to convince HAJ of the implementation of GIS regardless of the losses they needed to showcase the benefits of GIS in terms of cost. Based on the literature, I had to draft a document that demonstrated how GIS saves money and time and generates profit.

My second task, which was the main mission, was to draft a comprehensive document that will help build a model for the site selection of the Third City in Jamaica. Being prone to all types of natural disaster, and having both its main cities – Kingston and Montego Bay- on the coast, Jamaica needs a third core to prevent the complete damage of human, governmental and economical assets. Since I didn't have access to the spatial data available in Jamaica, and only to the titles and an idea of the type and contents of the data, I was only able to build the criterion for site selection in a theoretical and vague manner. I also had to explain the Multi-Criterion Decision Analysis and the Analytical Hierarchy Process and the composite suitability map in GIS.

I also had the opportunity to take part in a few meetings. The first meeting concerned the preparation of the users' conference. In addition to SIL members, members from the LICJ were present. The content of the conference had to be discussed again. A workshop and hackathon were added. The presenters and keynotes speakers had to be revised based on their availability and the new content. The main themes were crime prevention, law enforcement, defense, disaster prevention, health. Themes that are relevant to the country's context. Quite different from the themes discussed in the users' conference in Japan which is usually new-technology-oriented. Another concern was how to get more people interested in the conference. This is the most challenging part, since many organizations and companies are not even aware of what GIS is or what is its potential. Therefore, the marketing of the conference is very crucial to the success of the conference. Solutions such as contacting directly the relevant parties or organizing free pre-sessions were suggested.

In the same context of spreading knowledge about GIS and its latent potential, at the same time when I was interning there SIL started holding weekly webinars about GIS. Attracting beginners and keeping the informed ones interested at the same time was the main challenge. I got the chance to take part in preparation of the first webinar. The preparation of the slides and the script took a full day and everyone's efforts. Presenting a worthy content is not an easy task. More than 100 people took part in the webinar the next day. The constant preparation of presentation slides at university turned out to be very useful and helped me give a decent feedback during the webinar preparation.