

The Free State Department of Education participated in its maiden World GIS Day on 16 November 2022 at the Free State University, Equitas Auditorium.



A world map with a dark grey header bar at the top containing the text "GIS Day" and three navigation links: "Overview", "Resources", and "Registration Details". The map itself is a light blue and green color scheme, showing continents and oceans. Numerous blue circular markers are placed across the map, indicating the locations of GIS Day events. These markers are densely clustered in North America (USA and Canada), Europe, and East Asia (China). There are also scattered markers in South America, Africa, and Australia. The map includes labels for major countries like Canada, USA, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Russia, China, India, and Australia, as well as major bodies of water like the North Atlantic Ocean, South Atlantic Ocean, and Indian Ocean.

Many kinds of data can be shown on one map, such as streets, buildings and vegetation which enables people to easily see, analyse and understand patterns and relationships.

But really, what are the benefits of GIS? Everything that exists does so in space and time and knowing and understanding the information provided by GIS helps to manage our lives, improves communication and leads to better decision-making. It creates an understanding of the world we live in.

What is GIS Day?

GIS Day is a worldwide event that promotes awareness of GIS, GIS in Education and its different applications.

Introduction of GIS within the Free State Department of Education

GIS being a new tool within the Free State Department of Education, we realized that GIS Day would be an excellent opportunity to get colleagues together, to introduce GIS.

The program was divided into two parts. During the morning session, we had presentations from ESRI representatives that offered an in-depth description of what GIS is, its uses and how it can be applied specifically in the Free State Department of Education.

Then there were presentations from the Free State Department of Education's GIS Technicians. Ms. Molamu presented an overview of GIS in Education in relation to IT & Information Systems, and Mr Majola did an overview of GIS in Education in relation to Infrastructure. These technicians gave descriptions, findings and illustrations of how GIS has been applied in the Department thus far.

Two lecturers (Dr Clark and Mr Combrink) from our partner, the Free State University, spoke about the uses of Drones in GIS and Big Data and its impact.
Click the below to see the program of the day:

[Program_.pdf](#)

As the Free State Department of Education, we take pride in being 1 of only 7 registered GIS Day events in the country. Details of our event can be found on the ESRI Website: <https://www.gisday.com/en-us/overview>

The second part of the day's program was exhibitions where attendees could interact with the exhibitors at different stalls.

Participants and their contributions

The following companies were present:

- ESRI
- Acer
- Mustek
- Kolok
- Pinnacle Micro

- Huawei
- CHM
- PPM
- Parrot
- Rectron
- Axiz
- UFS Departments

These companies contributed either towards the goodies bags that each attendee received or the giveaway that took place at the end of the program.

The prizes that were won were:

- 3 x Pocket Routers
- 2 x Headsets
- 2 x Power Banks
- 1 x Visualizer

Our prize winners



Each attendee went home with the below goodie bag:



How can GIS add value to your Directorate?

This is a question that we would like to answer for you. We are available and willing to assist you in adding value as we apply GIS to the best of our ability in the Free State Department of Education.

Labels: Education, GIS Day, Geography

