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The Effect of Space Visualization Tools in Commercial Markets (3)

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THE EFFECT OF SPACE VISUALIZATION TOOLS IN EMERGING MARKETS

Abstract

Advancements in computing of ‘space’ have created a paradigm shift in the way we as ‘space technologists’ have existed in our cocoons and today with the explosion of a variety of tools that aid in demystifying space technologies we seem lost. The tools have adopted to address social challenges in an unprecedented way that today all one has to do is equip themselves with a mobile phone to enable them to enjoy the benefits of ‘our technologies’ and create impact in appropriate management of their communities. This paper describes some of the challenges faced at the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) prior to the advent of visualization tools and after the introduction of these tools, how the projects implemented have impacted upon the communities. The reliance on space technologies (ST) in developing worlds cannot be over-emphasized as lack of ready spatial information for development purposes is hardly available such that ST allows us the opportunity to look at the past and project the future. Many of the projects implemented at the Centre have depended upon (at great extent) application of these ST products, yet the user has differed from scientists to administrators/policy makers to the general populace. By application of use of visualization tools, the information contained in a single multispectral image can be ‘scene’ with much more information from an eye other than that of the expert. This has consequently resulted in a revitalized space race since it is presently easier to describe ST as Google Earth type of products other than its older description synonymous with that of Remote Sensing. This paper assesses projects implemented at the RCMRD using applied ST where impact to the people and their livelihoods within their study areas was of immediate concern.