

Geomatics Education in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Geomatics education in Nigeria is offered at three main levels namely, (i) University (ii) College of technology/Polytechnic and (iii) Technical College. Some low-level manpower is also produced through apprenticeship and on the job training.

Initially, the training offered in these Institutions was geared towards training in the field of Land Surveying. The advent of large memory personal computers and the need to store, manage and retrieve geo-referenced data led to the changing pattern of training. Production of maps can now be achieved almost in real time. By these developments, there is a change of emphasis from Surveying to Geomatics. Geomatics can be regarded as the integration of the traditional Surveying techniques and applications with the modern methods of Global Positioning System (GPS), Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System. Due to this change of emphasis, the training of surveyors in Nigeria is being modified to meet the training needs of geomatics education.

Apart from the traditional surveying training institutions which are adapting to the new situation, some other departments (such as Geography) also offer training relevant to Geomatics, particularly in Geographic Information Systems. Products from these training programmes can be employed in such organisations as the Federal and State Survey Departments, Federal and State Environmental Protection Agencies, Oil Companies, National Electric Power Authority, Nigeria Ports Authority, Federal Airports Authority and the Military, as well as private survey firms and companies.

In spite of the above, lack of facilities and dearth of the right calibre of staff is a major set back in Geomatics education in Nigeria. It is suggested that government should provide adequate funding for training and purchase of facilities. A clear policy on geomatics education in Nigeria is also important.

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