



*From Maps to GIS and VGE:
A Discussion on the Evolution of the Geographic Language*

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Wednesday, 17 September 2008 (12:45 -14:00)
Room 829, Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong

Abstract:

One important achievement of the civilization in the 20th century is the wide acceptance of the concept about the sustainable development by people and governments around the world. One of the most important principles of the sustainable development is the participation of the general public in related decision making, regional planning and development in particular.

Scientists have the responsibility to find out some suitable platforms (languages) to improve the communication not only between professionals but also among decision makers and people. With the rapid development and applications of information technology, we, geographers, may need to explore better geographic languages for playing a more active role in the regional sustainable development. This lecture will discuss the evolution of the geographic languages from maps to geographic information systems (GIS) and virtual geographic environments (VGE).

About the Speaker:

Hui Lin received his Ph.D. from SUNY at Buffalo in 1992. He joined the Geography Department of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) in 1993. Now, Hui Lin is professor of the Department of Geography and Resource Management of CUHK. He also serves as the director of the Joint Laboratory for Geoinformation Science, The Chinese Academy of Sciences and The Chinese University of Hong Kong. After joining CUHK, Lin Hui has published over 180 papers, 1 atlas, 8 edited proceedings, and 8 co-authored research books. He was guest editor for several leading journals including *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* and *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing*. In last seven years, Lin Hui, as principal investigator, received over HK\$40 million of research grants from RGC and ITF in Hong Kong and the "863" Hi-Tech Program in the mainland. He was elected the Academician of The International Eurasian Academy of Sciences in 1995, and president of Hong Kong Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in 2001. Now Lin Hui serves as the guest/visiting professors in universities in India, Australia, and China. He is also the contact person in Hong Kong for ESCAP Regional Remote Sensing, GIS, and GPS Program of the United Nations.

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