



# MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

## ISDE New Year's Message

It has been a challenging year for humankind. Our daily life got interrupted.

The concept of Digital Earth was launched in 1998. During these 22 years, we have never had such an urgent need to have a Digital Earth platform in place and operational. Clearly real time data became critical to support countries in managing the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. However, only data is not enough, a digital platform is required, where worldwide researchers can store, retrieve, visualize and process data to analyze and model the diverse aspects of the pandemic. Such a digital platform will be beneficial for governments to support their decision making. Similar situation occurs with the UN SDGs where Digital Platforms are being identified as the most suitable tool for research on sustainability. This highlights the importance of the efforts of the International Society for Digital Earth and strengthens the need to bring much more expertise together to further encourage and guide the implementation of Digital Earth.

This year we could not have the pleasure to meet personally our ISDE growing community but despite the uncertain situation, we had a successful online virtual Summit co-organized jointly by our colleagues from Russia and Austria late in November.

2020 has been a successful and fruitful year for our Society. The ISDE Secretariat, the ISDE Bureau and the ISDE Council have been very active: we have now new Statutes and Bylaws better adapted to our evolving Society; we started the process to revise the Digital Earth Vision 2030 in an ad hoc workshop in July with relevant experts and we have in mind to finalize this work in early 2021; the establishment of ISDE Working Groups is entering an advanced phase; the planning for the ISDE Symposium (Salzburg July 6-8, 2021) is well on track. Our two International Journals continue to obtain high level recognition and the worldwide downloading of the "Manual of Digital Earth" exceeds the half million copies.

Looking to the future an overall ISDE strategy is under development aiming to improve communication, outreach and a stronger engagement of researchers, government and industry in our Society. The new ISDE Web site will be soon on line and an ISDE Forum established.

Everything let us assume that we will enter into 2021 full of energy and with many new activities to be put in place. We hope that in 2021, we will continue counting with your very valuable contribution and support. Only all of us jointly, we can achieve excellent results.

We wish you a very happy New Year, hopefully less disturbed as 2020 and we are looking forward to work with you in 2021.

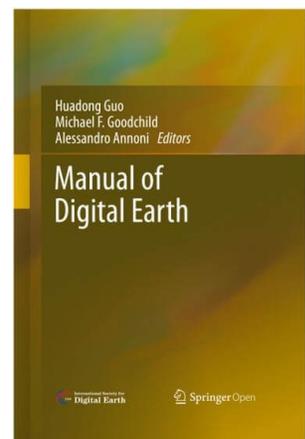
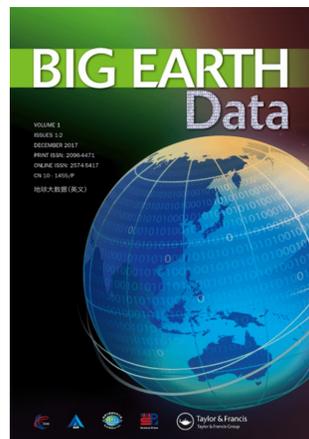
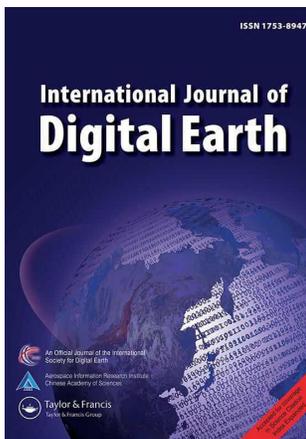


Alessandro ANNONI  
President, International Society for Digital Earth



The banner features a central graphic of a hand holding a globe with a network of people icons. Text on the banner includes: "12th International Symposium on Digital Earth", "Digital Earth for Sustainable Societies", "Salzburg (Austria), July 6-8 2021", and "ISDE12 Call for Papers".

See more information on ISDE 12



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