

New Urban Planning Council Joins AD-SDI Technical Committee

The Abu Dhabi Spatial Data Infrastructure (AD-SDI) Technical Committee welcomed a new member at its recent meeting. Representatives from the new Urban Planning Council joined the group, which helps facilitate the sharing of geospatial data among public and private-sector entities in order to reduce redundancy and support more efficient operations and better informed decision-making in government.

The Urban Planning Council was formally established to oversee the implementation of Abu Dhabi's new vision for its future - Plan Abu Dhabi 2030 - and guide further development of urban planning policy in the Emirate. Through ten policy statements, the plan specifies development aspects such as land use, building heights, and transportation plans for the entire metropolitan area of Abu Dhabi. Under the plan, the city is projected to grow to more than three million people by 2030.

The establishment of the Urban Planning Council is indicative of the tremendous and unprecedented rate of physical and economic development in the Emirate and across the Gulf Region. This growth requires an extraordinary degree of cross-sector coordination and information exchange. Keeping up with this development across all sectors is a huge challenge that can be met, in part, with geospatial technology.

The Urban Planning Council now joins major stakeholders in Abu Dhabi's SDI community to help leverage the significant investment already made in geospatial technology and data by establishing the necessary framework of policies, partnerships, standards, data, procedures, technology, and institutional capabilities to support more effective sharing and utilization of geospatial information in the Emirate. Such linkages help to ensure that the cumulative investment geospatial information is leveraged to serve many needs.

For more information about the Urban Planning Council and Plan Abu Dhabi 2030, visit <http://www.abudhabi.ae/Sites/Portal/Citizen/EN/root,did=83360.html>.