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KTIMATOLOGIO SA**

Dear Colleagues and friends, I would like to share with you my great pleasure to have you all here for this important workshop.

I would like to thank the organisers for giving me the opportunity to address the workshop and inform you about a very important spatial Information Management activity, which is under development presently in the country.

Actually, I would like to inform you very briefly about the Spatial Information Management activity of HEMCO.

HEMCO, the Hellenic Mapping and Cadastral Organization is the Official Public Agency responsible for Mapping of the country and for the Cadastre.

Several very important Spatial Information Management Projects are now under development coming from the mapping activity of HEMCO.

The most important is the creation by HEMCO of the NSDI under the auspices of the state, which will include the most important spatial databases of the country.

For this activity, HEMCO is preparing and is going to include in to the system the management of the cadastral information, specific geographic information systems operating at the level of counties, prefectures and districts and a special data base for digital cartographic information where several digital topographic and thematic maps will be included.

Equally important information management activities come from the cadastral part of HEMCO.

Even the efficient management of the cadastral base is a huge program and big challenge for HEMCO and the country.

Thus, the interest of HEMCO for the workshop is great. Because we believe that we will find in the sessions valuable material for our work.

Looking at the program of the workshop one can see that there is a variety of subjects, which can satisfy even the most demanding participant. We can also observe that although geographic information systems and digital information management are around for about twenty years, now with the creation of NSDI's there are going to be fully operational leading to a real information society.

Such a workshop then is an important service to the society and I want to congratulate the organisers, to wish a great success for the work of the meeting and for our foreign guests a good and pleasant stay in our country.

Thank you very much.