



**NOTICE OF
UNIVERSITY ORAL**
GEODESY AND GEOMATICS ENGINEERING
Master of Science in Engineering

Man Yee (Teresa) Tang

September 22, 2006

@ 8:30 am

Room E11 - Head Hall

Board of Examiners:	Supervisor:	Dr. David Coleman, GGE
	Examining Board:	Dr. Sue Nichols, GGE Dr. Darka Mioc, GGE Dr. Michael Ircha, Civil Eng.
	Chair:	Dr. Marcelo Santos, GGE

**DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
A GIS-ENABLED ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM FOR
PARTICIPATORY PLANNING**

ABSTRACT

Public participation is a process whose ultimate goal is to facilitate consensus building. To achieve this goal, there must be intensive communication and discussion among the participants who must have access to information about the matters being addressed.

Recent efforts in Public Participation Geographic Information Systems (PPGIS), however, concentrate mainly on making GIS and other spatial decision-making tools available and accessible to the general public. Relatively little effort to date has been put into addressing the communication and discussion needs of participatory planning, such as facilitating the transparent exchange of ideas among the participants. Simply making such tools available and accessible cannot satisfy the communication needs during participation.

In this thesis, a prototype has been designed and implemented to demonstrate that web-based GIS can be integrated with online discussion forum to enhance communication during spatially-related discussions in participatory planning. Based on the evaluation criteria developed in this thesis, the prototype was confirmed to be able to enhance communication as compared with selected major online PPGIS applications.

Faculty Members and Graduate Students are invited to attend this presentation.