GIS For Petroleum: Case of UAE University

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Oil revenues represent the main source of national income in UAE and this indicates that large number of jobs is available in this sector. Generally, the field of petroleum industry is dominated by geology and engineering graduates. The Geography Department at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, UAE University had renovated its curriculum recently to meet the market demand. Among the vibrant and promising markets that had been identified is the field of petroleum industry and based on this a new course entitled “GIS for Petroleum” was introduced. Although the course opens new job opportunities for geography graduates there are some problems related to a suitable textbook that fits the course, heterogeneity of students enroll in the course, language constraint, difficulty in obtaining local petroleum data to train students on, the need for specialized GIS and subsurface 3D software, and harshness of the petroleum environment. Meetings with customers (where graduates seek employment) helped in reshaping the course to meet the skills needed by the market. This paper will share experience on teaching GIS for petroleum course.

Biography:
Yagoub is an Associate Professor of Remote Sensing and GIS at the Department of Geography, UAE University. He is the chair of Graduate Studies at the Department (2015-2017), Chair of the Department (2005-2007), and Director of the Master Program of Remote Sensing and GIS at the UAE University (2002-2005). He teaches various courses related to GIS/GPS/Remote Sensing. Dr. Yagoub supervised nine master students in the Remote Sensing and GIS Master program during the period 2007-2014 and one PhD student (2015-2017). He secured many research grants related to the application of GIS and remote sensing. His scholarship work is indexed in Scopus and in the American Society of Civil Engineers Abstracts CSA/ASCE Illumina. He is a referee for many organizations/journals such as Emirates Foundation and Qatar National Research Fund.