



Seattle's Strategic Planning Office makes creative use of ArcView 3D Analyst to conduct viewshed analysis.

(Courtesy City of Seattle 1999 annual Report)

(K&A Newsletter)

## Jacques Ekmekji addresses the GIS Strategic Directions Forum City of Seattle

On Tuesday March 21, 2000 Faisal Alami and Jacques Ekmekji participated in the GIS Strategic Directions Forum organized by the City of Seattle, WA. USA. Mr. Ekmekji was among four speakers during the event. The Seminar was held at the Bell Harbor Conference Center.

The Seminar started with a panel discussion on Vision and Issues concerning the City of Seattle GIS in operation since 1990. Senior officers of the city and divisions' directors participated in the panel discussion. Participants were given six minutes each to address their needs and issues. Issues rose focused on business practices that lend itself to GIS such as maintaining a safe community, responding in a timely manner to citizens' needs for emergency services, and coordination among different divisions, departments, and sectors. Reasons for not using GIS more extensively and in real-time were discussed. Cost-effectiveness and deployment of GIS more broadly were also addressed.

The Seattle City panel discussion was followed by four presentations, half-hour each, on GIS solutions. Elizabeth Groff, from the Crime mapping Research Center at the US Department of Justice (DOJ), addressed the role of GIS in Public Safety, Emergency Response, and Conflict Resolution. Bob Niles Director of the Knowledge Center at the City of Orlando, FL. discussed the role of the Doers, Users, and Viewers. Barbara Quinn, Manager of GIS at the City of Cincinnati, OH. addressed the Cincinnati Integrated GIS and its role in the Operation and Maintenance of Utilities. Jacques Ekmekji, from Khatib & Alami - Lebanon, discussed GIS implementation in the Lebanon, the driving forces, the challenges, the prospects, and the enterprise GIS at Electricity of Lebanon. These presentations were followed by an interaction with the Forum participants. It addressed pitfalls and opportunities in GIS implementation and commented on the City specific needs, issues and ways to improve the City of Seattle GIS.

The forum facilitator and panel discussion moderator, Mrs. Nancy Tosta GIS Consultant, ensured with great talents the consistency, productivity, timeliness, and the success of the GIS event.