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First meeting of the OneGeology Steering Group

The first meeting of the OneGeology steering group was held in Paris on 23–24 April 2009. The meeting was attended by geological survey directors representing each of the global regions. The agenda included issues such as success criteria, Intellectual Property Rights, the governance structure of OneGeology, sponsorship and the sustainability of the initiative. Dr Alex Malahoff was appointed as Chair, with Dr Gabi Schneider as his deputy.

In summary, the meeting achieved many of its goals; modified success criteria and Terms of Reference were estab-

lished, the governance structure and issues such as sponsorship were discussed in detail. It was recommended OneGeology should be a 'not-for-profit' legal entity, with an associated but separate OneGeology 'Foundation' to raise funds (this allows Geological Survey Organisations separation from the fund raising). Further information for this option is now being prepared to allow it to be taken forward. IPR and international relationships policy documents were approved.

More detailed information is available in the minutes of the meeting: www.onegeology.org/meetings/steering_meetings.html



'The prime focus of OneGeology is improving access to geological data and scientific advancement. OneGeology should be as free from political and commercial influence as is possible'

OneGeology Steering Group members and the Secretariat at the Paris meeting (left to right: Francois Robida; Katy Booth; Dr Hirokazu Kato; Sarah Gaines; Dr Alex Malahoff; Dr Suzette Kimball; Dr Marko Komac; Dr Gabi Schneider; Ian Jackson; Dr Robert Missotten; Dr Manuel Pubellier).







Members of the OneGeology Steering Group.

Region/Role	Representative
Africa	Dr Gabi Schneider, Namibian Geological Survey
Asia	Dr Hee-Young Chun, CCOP (represented by Dr Hirokazu Kato)
Europe	Dr Marko Komac representing the President of EuroGeoSurveys
Latin America	Dr Agamenon S L Dantas, Serviço Geológico do Brasil (CPRM)
Northern America	Dr Suzette Kimball, USGS
Oceania	Dr Alex Malahoff, GNS Science New Zealand
CGMW	Dr Manuel Pubellier, Ex-officio Member
UNESCO	Dr Robert Missotten, Ex-officio Member
<i>Supported by</i>	
<i>Executive Secretary</i>	<i>Ian Jackson, British Geological Survey</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Katy Booth, British Geological Survey</i>
<i>Technical Co-ordinator</i>	<i>François Robida, Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM)</i>

Current participation: June 2009

There are currently 106 nations participating. More than 40 countries/regions are now making their map data available on the Portal.

 Welcome to Turkey and East Timor (represented by CCOP), the most recent countries to participate in OneGeology.




خريطة للحالة الراهنة / 目前状况图 / Current status map / Situation actuelle / карта настоящего состояния / Mapa del estado actual

Currently **106** nations participating.



مفتاح / 钥匙 / Key / Clef / Llave:

 البلد الذي يشارك في OneGeology
 参加“地理一体化”的国家
 Country participating in OneGeology
 Pays participant à OneGeology
 Страна-участник проекта OneGeology
 País que participa en OneGeology

 البلد الذي يعمل الآن ببيانات الـ بوابة شبكة OneGeology
 目前为“地理一体化”网络提供服务数据的国家
 Country serving data to OneGeology portal now
 Pays fournissant actuellement des données au portail OneGeology
 Страны предоставляющие информацию в портал OneGeology в настоящий момент
 País que actualmente proporciona datos al portal de OneGeology.

OneGeology and GEO



The Group on Earth Observations is an inter-governmental initiative with 77 member states and 56 participating organisations, like EuroGeoSurveys. GEO coordinates international activity towards building a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). OneGeology is fully involved and is recognised as an official sub-task of GEO, providing important information on global geology as a component of GEO's efforts to develop a full set of global data sets. OneGeology is now set to become a key in-situ element in the GEO landscape, alongside elevation, landcover, environmental and meteorological datasets. GEO's emerging public infrastructure is interconnecting a diverse and growing array of satellite, airborne and in-situ observing systems, datasets and information management tools used for monitoring and forecasting changes in the global environment. Like OneGeology, it is promoting interoperability and open access to data. As GEO was launched in response to calls for action made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and is endorsed by the G8 (Group of Eight) leading industrialized countries, it has a high profile among politicians, government departments, international agencies and their officials. The next GEO Ministerial meeting will be held late in 2010 and it presents OneGeology with an opportunity to further increase its profile within this important, global decision-making community.





OneGeology Portal: NEW version released

The new version of the OneGeology portal was released in June 2009. This version displays a much improved 'catalogue of registered services' (left of

image), improved listing of countries and regions (right of image), including states, provinces and countries as well as improved access compatibility through numerous web browsers including Firefox 3, Opera, IE6 and 7, Safari and Chrome. All available at www.onegeology.org/portal/home.html



OneGeology-Europe Update

The OneGeology-Europe project has had a productive first nine months since the launch meeting in Rome in September 2008. All the Work Packages have started their respective work tasks and progressed their development and deliverables. The aims of the first months of the project were the initiation of each of the Work Packages, through Work Package meetings and discussions, the building of Work Package networks, followed by starting the various work tasks in accordance with the schedule outlined in the Description of Work. In these first six months, eight deliverables were scheduled for completion and these were delivered to the EC in accordance with the Grant Agreement at the end of February 2009. Management of the project has been carried out through scheduled Operational Management Group

(OMG) meetings and frequent communication between Work Package Leaders via contact, phone and e-mail. Two OMG meetings have been held and ensured common understanding of the project, resolved major issues and monitored progress against the original detailed project Work Package plans and taken constructive action when necessary. A number of issues have arisen during the first six months, something that is not unexpected given the complexity of the project deliverables and the considerable number of project partners across Europe. The majority of the issues have their origins in Work Package communication and also scheduling team member involvement from the different parts of the EU. These have been overcome with only minor alteration to schedules and through flexibility within Work Package teams and networks. Most Work Packages are on schedule but some tasks and deliverables have not been delivered as planned and corrective work has been necessary to bring these back on schedule. For more information on OneGeology-Europe please see the website (www.onegeology-europe.eu) or contact Gary Baker at grba@bgs.ac.uk.





Regional News

Round-up of recent activities from OneGeology participants around the world.

China

OneGeology is working with the China Geological Survey (CGS) with a view to serving 1:1M scale data for their country. Technical experts in OneGeology and GeoSciML informatics are due to visit the CGS in October to work with their IT team.

Australia

Geoscience Australia has recently released their new Australian 1:1M map data. This data is now available in OneGeology format (Level 1, Web Mapping Service) and has just been registered with the Portal.

Albania

The Albanian Geological Survey have completed and registered their web map data and, through the 'buddy system', is being served to the Portal by the Geological Survey of Slovenia.

Austria and Estonia

Web map data for these countries will be released imminently.

Europe

Ian Jackson (OneGeology Executive Secretary) attended a meeting convened by the European Environment Agency in Copenhagen on 13–14 May to discuss global environmental observations and



OneGeology: spotlight on Slovenia

- OneGeology and OneGeology-Europe have been presented at the 19th Conference of Slovenian Geologists (27 March 2009).
- The 22 April was Earth's Day in Slovenia and as part of the occasion OneGeology & OneGeology-Europe was presented to the Slovenian President Dr Danilo Türk.
- The media coverage of OneGeology on InfoTV ammission 'Oddaja Info 12' on 22 April 2009 can be seen at www.infotv.si/?p=arhiv&kat=17&id=2921
- The Geological Survey of Slovenia has also been engaging neighbouring countries and colleagues to participate in the initiative. It has also offered 'buddy' assistance to serve data to the Portal. As a result, Albania is about to serve its data through the Buddy System.
- Links with the Serbian Ministry responsible for geology and geological data have been established and activities of bringing them into OneGeology are proceeding. Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia, and Croatia have also been contacted and their response is awaited.



Dr Marko Komac (Director, Geological Survey of Slovenia) with the President Dr Danilo Türk.

monitoring. The meeting was attended by senior members of the global environmental community and concluded that there was a pressing need to intensify efforts to increase the sustainability, coordination, quality, extent and operational capabilities of today's

global observing, monitoring and forecasting systems and to demonstrate more effectively how these global systems are vital for the future of society. A ringing endorsement of the aims and aspirations of OneGeology.





Africa

Robert Tomas presented OneGeology during the Opening Conference of the launch of the African-European Georesources Observation System (AEGOS) project in Cape Town, South Africa in February 2009. The AEGOS project will contribute to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) through the setting-up of a Solid Earth observation system in Africa, Elaborate common strategies for capacity building and training programmes, and design a pan-African infrastructure of interoperable data to strengthen the sustainable use of georesources in Africa.

Canada

A paper from a Canadian Province with an interesting and significant section on its contribution to OneGeology and the rationale behind it has been published and can be accessed at www.gov.mb.ca/stem/mrd/geo/field/roa08pdfs/GS-14.pdf

East Asia

CCOP-GEO Grid Workshop

The second workshop of the CCOP GEO Grid project entitled 'CCOP-GEO Grid and Asian Geoinformation Infrastructure' was held in Bangkok, Thailand from the March 17 to 18, 2009. The purpose of the workshop was to exchange information about the works and progress of the CCOP-GEO Grid project in each CCOP member country and discuss strategies for the Geoinformation Sector of the region. Dr Masashi Matsuoka of the Information Technology Research Institute, AIST introduced the present status of the GEO Grid Project in AIST, Japan. Country reports from Korea, Indonesia Malaysia, Philip-

ines, PNG, Thailand, Vietnam were presented during the meeting. Dr Bruce Simons of GeoScience Victoria, was also present as a guest speaker. His presentation included a brief introduction about the GeoSciML project and its current status. The second day of the meeting was devoted to the discussion about the future plan of the Asian Data Infrastructure and Strategy of the Geoinformation Sector of CCOP. The second phase of this project will be implemented by the Geology and Geoinformation Research Institute, AIST in 2010.

The National Institute of Polar Research of Japan Joining the OneGeology Project

Representatives from the National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) and the Geological Survey of Japan (GSJ) had a meeting in May 2009. The NIPR formally informed GSJ about its decision to join the OneGeology project during the meeting. GSJ would be providing technical assistance to NIPR in setting up WMS and WFS sites of some maps covering the polar region. The WMSs would soon be included and registered to the OneGeology portal.



Robert Tomas, chair of the Geoscience Information Consortium (GIC) recently presented the OneGeology Initiative at the 24th Meeting of GIC in May in Tokyo, Japan. GIC is a forum for senior geological survey information managers. www.geology.cz/gic

Operational Management Meetings

The next operational management meeting will be hosted by SEGEMAR (Servicio Geológico Minero Argentino), and held in Buenos Aires on 2–3 July 2009. The agenda includes discussion and implementation of recommendations from the Steering Group, IPR, future governance, practical

achievement of the success criteria, forthcoming conferences and events, as well as progress updates from the different international regions. See www.onegeology.org/meetings/operational_meetings.html for full details.





GIN Update

Significant developments have occurred since 2007 when the AASG and USGS agreed to jointly develop a national, distributed, interoperable, data network (Geoscience Information Network—GIN) based on open-source standards and common protocols. Most significantly, a grant from U.S. National Science Foundation is underwriting development of key components for data discovery and access and forthcoming demonstrations of these services to state geological surveys. A GIN web catalog service is being implemented for the National Digital Catalog and National Geologic Map Database and subsequently with USGS' comprehensive science catalog. Productive partnerships have been formed in the last two years. The 21-nation OneGeology-Europe (1G-E) consortium is including compatibility with GIN as part of a European Union spatial data infrastructure. GIN and 1G-E technical leaders are working together on common standards and architecture. The Marine Metadata

Interoperability Initiative agreed to make their services and software for semantic ontologies and related functions available as a set of GIN-enabled applications. An emerging initiative in the international petroleum community to establish common metadata standards is adopting GIN to provide 'end-to-end' integration of data access and discovery. Similarly, the US Dept. of Energy has selected GIN as the architecture for a National Geothermal Data System to be created over the next 5 years at a cost of \$5 million, and is making an additional \$30 million available to fully populate the NGDS and use it as the basis for a national geothermal characterization and assessment program. Additional partnerships exist with the CUAHSI Hydrologic Information System and the iPlant Collaborative to share standards and architecture; with ESRI for a compatible geology data model in ArcGIS software; and with Schlumberger-MetaCarta for accessing geospatial data using geographic search.

Technical Working Group Meetings

The next Technical Working Group meeting will take place on Friday 25 September 2009 at the offices of the Geological Survey of Canada, in Québec. Further details will be posted at:

www.onegeology.org/meetings/technical_meetings.html nearer the time.

“Science, technology, and innovation proceed more rapidly and more cost-effectively when insights, costs, and risks are shared; and so many of the challenges that science and technology will help us meet are global in character.” US President Barack Obama

The next edition of the OneGeology newsletter will be released in early October. If you have any articles or images you would like us to include, please contact the Secretariat at onegeology@bgs.ac.uk.

Updated WFS cookbook

OneGeology participants are recommended to use the new GeoSciML Cookbook in order to develop a Web Feature Service. The GeoSciML Cookbook: How to serve a GeoSciML version 2 Web Feature Service (WFS) using Open Source Software has been updated to reflect recent small software changes and developments. Version V2_1.2 is now current and available at www.onegeology.org/misc/downloads.html.

