



OneGeology

The Brighton Accord

Eighty one participants from forty three nations and fifty three national and international bodies met in Brighton, UK, between 12 and 16 March 2007 to discuss and agree how to improve the accessibility of global, regional and national geological map data and, in doing so, increase its usefulness to society.

Participants at the workshop asserted that geological map data are essential to advancing science and education in order to better provide solutions to the challenges of mitigating environmental hazards, ensuring the sustainable supply of energy, minerals and water, and addressing the urgent challenge of our changing climate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants agreed that the following 10 recommendations should be communicated to Geological Surveys and Organisations. Participants will encourage all Geological Surveys and Organisations not present in Brighton to embrace these recommendations.

1. The OneGeology initiative should proceed with the following mission:

OneGeology is a Geological Survey initiative launched in the International Year of Planet Earth, which will make public and Internet-accessible the best available geological map data worldwide, initially at a scale of about 1:1 million, to better address the needs of society.

2. OneGeology will focus on making accessible existing geological map coverage and it is recognised that this will catalyse scientific harmonisation of map data globally.
3. OneGeology will, as a priority, work to enable access to ~1:1 million geological map data. In addition, OneGeology will link to, and be interoperable with, applications for broad societal access and wider-resolution mapping.
4. OneGeology aims to benefit society and also improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Geological Surveys and Organizations providing the map data.
5. OneGeology and its participants will seek funding to support its work and goals and also develop strategies to provide mutual assistance to implement OneGeology and build participant capacity.
6. Participants recognise that map data distributed as part of OneGeology will remain in the ownership of the originating Geological Survey or Organisation, and ideally be available at no cost.
7. OneGeology will be managed by a Steering Group composed of representatives from Geological Surveys and Organisations and will link to an International Coordinating Committee, comprising global geoscience and related bodies. OneGeology will be cognisant of, and proactively interact with, the wider geo-spatial community. It will also set up task groups to achieve its goals. A Secretariat will be established to ensure the sustainability and continuity of the initiative; this will be based in the British Geological Survey until December 2008.
8. The priority of OneGeology is to make available interoperable, Internet-accessible, scientifically-attributed data and to make progress at levels appropriate to participants' capability.
9. Geological Surveys and Organisations are encouraged to work together to develop and implement the required interchange standard to make their data interoperable.
10. The progress of OneGeology will be presented at the International Geological Congress in Oslo in 2008, to demonstrate the resulting increase in Internet access to the map data.

This accord was produced and unanimously endorsed by participants at the OneGeology Workshop in Brighton, UK, 16 March 2007.