

OneGeology Steering Group

Minutes of the 5th Meeting - Teleconference

7th April 2011

Members present:

Africa: Dr G Schneider (GS) – Director, Namibian Geological Survey and representing the Organisation of African Geological Surveys

Asia: Dr H Kato (HK); (& Dr K Wakita) – Director General of the Japanese Geological Survey and representative of CCOP

Europe: Dr M Komac (MK) – Director, Geological Survey of Slovenia and representing EuroGeoSurveys

North America: Dr S Kimball (SK) – Associate Director for Geology, United States Geological Survey and representing Canada, USA and Mexico

Oceania: Prof A Malahoff (AM) – Chief Executive, Geological and Nuclear Sciences, New Zealand, and representing Oceania

Ex-Officio: CGMW: Dr Philippe Rossi (PR); UNESCO: Dr R Missotten (RM) & Dr Sarah Gaines (SG);

OneGeology Secretariat: Ian Jackson (IJ) (BGS), Francois Robida (FR) (BRGM) and Katy Booth (KB) (BGS)

Observer: John Broome (JB) (NRC Canada)

Apologies:

South & Central America: Dr A Dantas – Director CPRM and representing South & Central America

IUGS: Prof Alberto Riccardi (AR)

1. Introduction, Agenda, timing

1.1 All agreed the agenda and timing. Apologies were noted from Dr Dantas and Prof Riccardi.

1.2 All agreed that the status of outstanding actions will be followed up by email by KB asap. **ACTION: KB/ALL.**

2 Brief progress report

2.1 IJ and FR provided a brief summary of progress referring to the paper (OneG SG 4/6) of the meeting papers. Two significant tasks this reporting period were taking forward the proposal to incorporate OneGeology and the successful completion of the OneGeology-Europe project. This serves as an example of what major progress external funding can achieve and provides a challenge for EGS to progress and keep the momentum in Europe.

2.2 We have had official confirmation that data for the Russian Federation will be served during 2011 and IJ thanked CGMW for all their work in encouraging this participation.

2.3 Technical workshops have been held in Ghana and Colombia. These have attracted much interest and support and the overall message is that participants are very eager for this type of training. Unfortunately, limited resources mean that we are currently unable to do more.

2.4 The high profile that OneGeology has within GEO/GEOSS was noted. OneGeology featured prominently in their Ministerial Summit in Beijing last November.

2.5 OneGeology continues to work on CGI standards and interoperability and has a high profile within the OGC community.

2.6 OneGeology continues to increase the profile of the geosciences. A large number of presentations and articles have been achieved and the profile of OneGeology

remains buoyant even though this past year has been a relatively quiet one with no major events. The number of web and portal hits also remains healthy.

3 Regional Progress reports

- 3.1 MK noted that the European Environment Agency have agreed an MOU with EuroGeoSurveys to use OneGeology (European) data in their work programmes.
- 3.2 It was noted that the new OneGeologyKids web pages have just been released and SG members are encouraged to have a look.
- 3.3 MK noted that following on from the 1G-E success, the EGS is now thinking about how to sustain this and where to go next. The EGU have established a task force of directors to look into the sustainability and potential incorporation of OneGeology at a European level. Questions regarding the incorporation have been resolved and explained. A number of members are expected to sign up to the incorporated OneGeology Company, with others to follow later. Additional new map data for Bosnia is being prepared and will be served by GeoZS imminently.
- 3.4 SK noted that remarkable progress is being made and that the OneGeology outreach activities are very exciting. The USGS intend to use the OneGeology kids web pages to support a US president initiative to encourage kids outdoors. SK had also recently met with directors of the European Commission, the Directorate of Economic trade and other departments, all of which were aware of OneGeology and highlighted OneGeology as a model for cooperation. As a result of an action at the previous OneGeology teleconference, Canada has progressed and published the circumpolar geological map. This was released last month and a web service was made available last week. The map data for the USA was moved to a USGS server in Denver and the opportunity to improve the quality of some aspects, especially in northern latitudes, was taken. Lots of cooperation from the 1G technical team helped with this transition. SK is working closely with Mexico to overcome problems. A recent meeting with the Director of the survey confirmed that he is supportive of OneGeology and the goal is to be able to serve data to the portal in 2012.
- 3.5 GS reported on recent progress within Africa. A document detailing why a geological survey should participate in OneGeology has been published and circulated. A positive response, from four countries so far, has been received – Mozambique, Ethiopia, Uganda and Egypt. The Namibian Survey will host Egypt and Mozambique data services. The next Geoscience Information Consortium (GIC) will be hosted by the Geological Survey of Namibia in Windhoek and OneGeology will feature in several presentations. Current working partnerships include projects in Rwanda and south Sudan. GS also noted that the issues discussed at the previous teleconference had now been resolved after speaking with colleagues in France.
- 3.6 HK provided a progress report for Asia. The maps of Mongolia have been digitized and final approval is now awaited before serving to the portal. Participation continues to be encouraged in other countries such as Laos, Pakistan and India.
- 3.7 PR provided an overview of CGMW progress. The world ocean floor map is in preparation and scheduled for release for the IGC in Brisbane in 2012. A number of onshore maps are also progressing including Africa and Latin America. These will also be released for the IGC.
- 3.8 RM provided an update on UNESCO activities. A new initiative, Earth Sciences in Africa, will link up with OneGeology. Improving geological education is important and the kids initiative is a wonderful tool which will be used by UNESCO. RM offered to

work with GS regarding contacts and initiatives in Africa. GS accepted this offer. The governing body of UNESCO would like a talk on OneGeology and factsheets will be distributed (Oct/Nov). The 40th Anniversary event of IGCP will be held on 15th February 2012 at UNESCO, Paris. The outreach activities of OneGeology will be a contribution. GEOSS is also picking up on OneGeology and we will highlight the OneGeologykids initiative here also. UNESCO would like to produce a video for the IGC and would like to link in to the OneGeology project.

- 3.9 AM reported progress in the Oceania region. Map data for Fiji is available but authorisation to serve is still to be sought. AM offered any other help where needed.

4. Incorporation

- 4.1 Over the last two years the SG have considered a number of papers on incorporation. The SG are now requested to take a final decision on whether OneGeology should, or should not, incorporate.
- 4.2 MK reported that the proposal was introduced to all EGS members, minor queries were resolved and no objections were raised. He can conclude that EGS supports going to incorporation. Several members will sign up to start with and others will follow.
- 4.3 AM reported that New Zealand had no problem signing up however Australia does have some legal issues. He suggested that incorporation should go ahead and he will work with Australia to solve the problems.
- 4.4 SK reported that Mexico has no problems, the US and Canada both support the concept but each organisation still has work to do internally. Overall, go ahead and the US and Canada will work to resolve the issues as we move forward.
- 4.5 GS was in favour of incorporation. There are still issues and the response from Namibia cannot be given yet as the decision must now be approved by the President. GS has a meeting to brief the President on OneGeology later today. The result will be reported back as soon as possible. **ACTION: GS.**
- 4.6 HK gave a green light to go ahead officially. There are administrative problems regarding GSJ and the regional representation with CCOP is still to be discussed.
- 4.7 IJ noted that the South and Central America representative, Dr Dantas, had written giving his support to go ahead with incorporation.
- 4.8 IJ summarised that in principle an affirmative answer had been received. In practice however, lots of countries could potentially be unable to join. The options are: to form the company now with a few members only and hope to increase gradually; or it is not practically going to work. The question, 'what should we do?' was put to SG members.

AM was positive that the company should be formed and additional members can be encouraged later. If we don't proceed now, we will lose the initiative.

MK agreed with AM.

SK confirmed that the big hurdle is ensuring that an appropriate firewall between the company and the fundraising foundation is in place, and to clarify the Steering Group's responsibilities for guiding the technical developments. However, this can be sorted out as we proceed. So approval to commence proceedings was given. JB reported that the Canadian issue was a process one but can be worked out over time.

GS agreed to go ahead and proceed and not to lose this opportunity.

HK needed more time to examine the issues and to explain the status to colleagues and the new Director of GSJ. However, HK and KW confirmed that OneGeology should go ahead with incorporation.

- 4.9 IJ thanked all for their input, suggestions and support and concluded that he will now go ahead and speak with the lawyers to proceed with incorporation of OneGeology. He reassured the Steering Group that the company will be created but it can easily be dissolved if it doesn't work out as planned. He was aware that the differences between members of the company and the associates will need to be handled carefully. A set of articles will be drafted to reflect the discussions above. **ACTION: IJ.**

5. Future plans

- 5.1 It was agreed that IJ, FR and JB will provide a paper on future plans and options and circulate for comment soon. **ACTION: IJ, FR, JB.**

6. Place and time of postponed meeting

- 6.1 HK offered to hold the meeting in Japan in the autumn. All fully supported this proposal and thanked HK for his offer. KB will be in contact to seek suitable dates. **ACTION: KB**

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 *Status on European archives of African map data:* MK reported that EGS members were asked to provide lists of their data holdings. The deadline was end March and so far c.5 replies have been received. The EGS are also establishing a task force on international cooperation, which will include activities for tighter and better cooperation with African colleagues.
- 7.2 MK noted that the 1G kids pages had been translated into Slovene.
- 7.3 RM said that SG will be the OneGeology representative as of 1st July 2011 due to his retirement later this year.
- 7.4 IJ reported that he had now retired from BGS and will continue to work one day per week on OneGeology, funded by BGS, until the IGC in 2012.

- meeting close -

K A Booth
OneGeology secretariat
7th April 2011.

Summary of Actions from the telephone conference

Action #	Action	Owner
5.1	The status of outstanding actions will be followed up by email by KB asap.	KB/ALL
5.2	GS will brief the President on OneGeology later today. The result will be reported back as soon as possible. GS reported back – <i>the visit to President Pohamba went very, very well, and he is in support. I now have to re-submit to Cabinet.</i>	GS

5.3	IJ will speak with the lawyers to proceed with incorporation of OneGeology. A set of articles will be drafted to reflect the discussions above.	IJ
5.4	IJ, FR and JB will provide a paper on future plans and options and circulate for comment soon.	IJ, FR, JB
5.5	HK offered to hold the meeting in Japan in the autumn. KB will be in contact to seek suitable dates.	KB