



# OneGeology Newsletter

## Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the OneGeology Newsletter. We hope to keep you up to date with the initiative's aims, achievements, activities and news.

OneGeology is a flagship project of the International Year of Planet Earth 2008.

Supported by UNESCO and nine other international umbrella bodies, OneGeology aims to create dynamic digital geological map data across the surface of the Earth.

OneGeology will make more accessible the geological map data held by Geological Surveys across the world. The initiative was kicked off at a workshop in Brighton, UK, in March, where 81 participants from 42 nations prepared and endorsed an Accord. You can find out more about OneGeology, the Workshop and the Accord at [www.onegeology.org](http://www.onegeology.org).





## Support for OneGeology

OneGeology has attracted the support of world famous authors Simon Winchester and Bill Bryson

*"The idea of producing a digital map of our living planet's sinews and muscles - of the Earth's largely invisible structure, the support for all living creatures, humankind included - has a grand nobility and poetic elegance to it"* says Simon Winchester.



*"History will judge this decade well if we manage to create a global cartographic venture of this scale and of such vision". Bill Bryson enthused: "OneGeology is an extremely important and exciting project; it will be a fantastic resource for people all over the world."*

.....and Professor Aubrey Manning, a good will ambassador for the International Year of Planet Earth, was a guest speaker at the Workshop

*"For many people it has been a slow recognition that the earth is not limitless. We have a common home. This is planet earth it's the only place we've got we better use it wisely. OneGeology is an inspirational thing."*



OneGeology Workshop participants near Beach Head, Sussex, UK

## Brighton hosts the OneGeology International workshop

Between 12 and 16 March 2007 in Brighton, England, the British Geological Survey hosted a kick-off event for perhaps the largest, most extensive and ambitious digital geological mapping project ever contemplated - known as OneGeology.

Participants took part in a very successful workshop, which included a geological tour of the English 'South Downs' region.

Participants arrived in Brighton enthusiastic about the initiative but intrigued to find out more. After a very busy week of intensive discussion and presentation sessions, the participants concluded the workshop with unanimous agreement on the OneGeology Brighton Accord and a tangible route forward to ensure the success of the initiative.

The hard work was interspersed with some fun as participants enjoyed a whisky tasting evening, a geo-quiz and an evening of traditional English Morris Dancing!





## The quest

Leading scientists from more than 65 countries around the world are involved, from as far apart as Australia and Brazil, Canada and Russia, Namibia and Japan. Over the next two years, geologists will agree and plan the details of a global project that will ultimately see each nation provide data on the worldwide web about the rocks from their territory – effectively putting in place their piece of the biggest jigsaw puzzle ever.

## The approach

Geological Surveys across the globe will make a tangible contribution to the UN International Year of Planet Earth 2008 by developing the geological map data and where possible converting it to a new international standard – a geological exchange language known as 'GeoSciML'. Increased use of this newly developing language will allow geological data to be shared and integrated across the planet. OneGeology will also transfer valuable know-how to the developing world, hence shortening the digital learning curve.



## The next steps

**Technical Meeting:** Utrecht, Netherlands: 30th – 31st May 2007

The aim of the meeting is to start work on the prototype OneGeology Portal, to discuss the practical issues and to focus specifically on the OneGeology (~1:1 million). At this meeting the plan is to allocate to those geological surveys which are able, parts of the work to develop the first "prototype" OneGeology components. It is also hoped that we will make definitive arrangements for the configuration and the hosting of the portal services.

Following the meeting, the presentations, documents, and results will be made available on the web for all participants to review and comment on.

This meeting, open to all, but is aimed at technical specialists from the OneGeology participating organizations that wish to contribute, staff time, expertise and services.

**Managerial Meeting:** summer 2007: date TBC

This meeting will aim to establish the overarching strategy for the management of OneGeology, methods, IPR and communication.

## Looking ahead

**33rd International Geological Congress,** Oslo, Norway; 5th -14th August 2008.

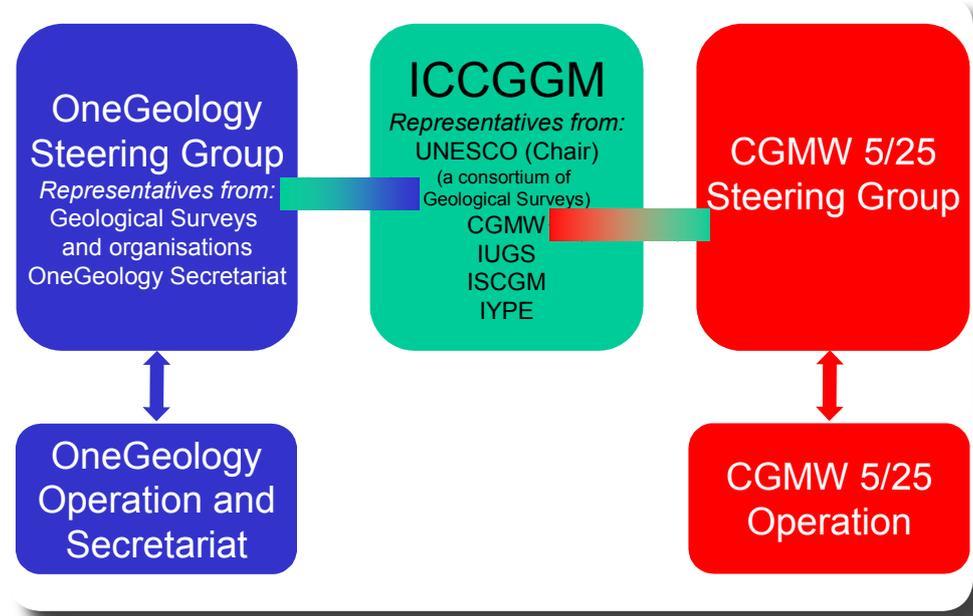
OneGeology is the subject of a symposium at this conference and will aim to have live demonstrations of the initiative alongside presentations and further discussions.





## A Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO, CGMW, IUGS, IYPE, ICOGS AND ISCGM to support a global geoscience mapping initiative and create an international coordinating committee is currently being developed. The proposed international governance structure is included below.



**Come and join us!**

The number of countries and Geological Surveys' signing up to become involved in OneGeology is growing. We enthusiastically welcome all those interested, but not yet registered, to get in touch. Contact us with your questions and also have a look at our website [www.onegeology.org](http://www.onegeology.org) for more information.

