CGI Council Meeting 4

Notes and Actions

Date: 6 September 2006
Time: 9.00 – 16:30
Location: Room R53, Amphitheatres de l'Europe, IAMG Annual Conference, Liege

Attendees:

Kristine Asch	BGR (KA) Chair
Ian Jackson	BGS (IJ) Secretary General
Koji Wakita	JGS (KW)
John Broome	ESS/GSC (JB)
Gabriel Asato	SEGEMAR (GA)
François Robida	BRGM (FR)
Simon Cox	CSIRO (SCx)
Sergei Chersakov	SGM RAS (SC)
Max Fernandez	KMMA (MF)
Anna-Karren Nguno	GSN (AN)

Apologies: Dave Soller   USGS

1.   Welcome and confirmation of agenda and timetable

The Council welcomed Gabriel Asato and Sergei Chersakov to their first meeting.   .
Apologies were received from Dave Soller. We congratulated Simon Cox on winning the
prestigious OGC Gardels Award. The agenda was accepted.

2.   Minutes and Actions of last meeting (Toronto 2005)

The notes of the last meeting were accepted as accurate. Action numbers below relate to these
notes.

3/1   done: web statistics distributed regularly
3/2   done: data model material linked to CGI site
3/3   done: notifications of postings sent regularly (Agenda item 4 will cover)
3/4   done: Council have been requested to provide regular information

3/5	Write paper for Episodes on data model WG activities	SCx	Not done – see item 6

3/6   done (in a different way): we produced a flyer and also submitted a draft article on CGI
           for Episodes.
3/7   done: email explanation on Council membership sent to Chinese enquirer
3/8   done: letter on Chinese representation sent to Jean-Paul Cadet

4/1	Copy the 3/8 email to JB	IJ	30-09-06

3/9   done: action plan refined (Agenda item 5 will cover)
3/10   done: CGI DMIC/GeoSciML work has been registered with INSPIRE
3/11   being done this year: proposal related to GeoSciML for eContent funding
3/12   done: eContent link sent to John Laxton
3/13   done: but see Agenda item 7
3/14   done: several agency thesauri requirements submitted
3/15   done: several Council members provided input on Outreach Workshop proposal
3/16   done: proposal submitted to UNESCO, but overtaken by events (flyer and Maputo)
3/17   done: see 3/16
3/18   done: Regional Working Group policy is on web site
3/19   done: CGI position on GIS in geology conference communicated to SC
3/20   done: MTG group requested to investigate Russian Thesaurus but no response
           received
3/21   done: client-server databases specifics out of scope of CGI Council

3/22	Establish Standards Subcommittee to review standards process	**SCx**, MF, DS, etc?	**Open**: SCx had circulated an activity diagram, but there has been no further progress. GeoSciML documentation could go through but better something smaller first.

3/23   part done: standards page is there but there is no content as yet

4/2	Provide IJ with relevant standard details (with a one line explanation) for loading to the pages created as a result of action 3/23	**SCx**	30-09-06

3/24   done: letter of Agreement between IAMG and CGI has resulted
3/25   done: relationship with IGEOINFO is now clearer
3/26   done: end result was a joint CGI/IAMG/GIC proposal for an IGC33 information super-session

3.   Treasurer's Report

The CGI balance sheet was presented. CGI have a current balance of $24600 plus €387. The IUGS Secretary General has suggested that because of the successful progress of CGI the Commission should consider submitting a bid for increased funding next year. Council discussed how current funds should be best deployed and noted that future funding of the Outreach Workshop is a significant commitment.

4/3	Send ideas for future spend (supporting CGI goals) to KA	**ALL**	31-10-06

4.   Web site – status and plans

The web site is maintained by Kathryn Bull of BGS, who provides monthly statistics and news of new content. Suggestions for improvements to the site were made but it was agreed that to keep the CGI web site up-to-date and dynamic Council members needed to accept their individual responsibility for it and be proactive in providing content. (Two further actions [**4/23, 4/24**] relating to the CGI Web site resulted from discussion under item 11.)

4/4	**All Council members** to prepare material (text and images) on one chosen theme for inclusion on the web site	**ALL**	31-10-06
4/5	Send note of thanks to Kathryn Bull	**KA**	30-9-06

5.   Progress on the CGI Action Plan

JB revised version mailed out to all was accepted, and agreed as still relevant; subject to substitution of "sharing" for "exchange"

6.   DMIC Working Group Report and issues

This was a substantive agenda item. SCx presented the WG report. DMIC had been active and very successful. The live demonstration at IAMG06 had worked very well and further progress would be made in Brussels later in the week. The German and Norwegian geological surveys were now likely to join the test bed process. Two issues to be addressed were communicating the progress of DMIC to a wider audience and resources (manpower – in particular the role of project manager) and other expenditure. There was now a need to separate the operational aspects from continued R&D. It was agreed that the Holy Grail was seamless delivery but based on dynamic national datasets. It was suggested that as a "blank canvas" the "GlobalGeoMap" initiative could adopt GeoSciML schema as a standard. The meeting hosted by EuroGeoSurveys on 11 September may result in a proposal for eContent funding for GeoSciML and may also produce more GSOs prepared to join.

4/6	Consider incorporating national and continental datasets (eg IGME5000) in the IGC33 relevant geo-information sub-session	**SCx**	31-12-06
4/7	Specify wider communication/PR needs of GeoSciML so that Council can assist in raising profile and understanding. (SCx to provide initial brief to IJ and KA, who will develop the document))	**SCx, IJ, KA**	30-9-06

4/8	Communicate action 4/7 to DMIC WG	SCx	20-9-06
4/9	Draft a short paper (with Bruce Simons) on vocabulary questions and mail to CGI Council to take forward	SCx	30-9-06
4/10	Draft a paper showing general steps in future development of GeoSciML	SCx	31-10-06
4/11	Investigate John Laxton taking on role of production/coordination of documentation (estimated at 2 months work)	IJ	30-9-06

7.   MTG Working Group Report and issues

DS and Joachim Gersemann's reports were discussed and in particular, the rate of progress with the MLT. DS has resigned from his role as MTG/Council liaison. The MTG had now decided that they would focus on making progress with the thesaurus rather than going for EC funding. It was agreed that the MTG should be set a task and deadline - the delivery of a substantive contribution to IGC33 Sub-Session 2.4.

4/12	Inform J Gersemann that the CGI Council require that the MTG produce a substantive contribution at IGC33	KA	30-9-06

8.   South east Asia Regional Working Group Report and issues

Report by KW considered. This RWG (and others) needs a purpose and it was felt that this could be via a GeoSciML related project.

4/13	Develop a project proposal for the S.E. Asia RWG and report this and subsequent progress to the Council (and on web site)	KW	30-11-06

9.   Russian Regional Working Group Report and issues

SC summarised his report and outlined three Russian needs from CGI: increased exposure and profile; alternative external funding; and CGI as an umbrella for Russian products and publications. The meeting registered these needs but felt that it was equally important that all CGI Council members understood that being a Council member of CGI was not a one-way process and that each must also provide adequate input and support for CGI and its wider goals.

4/14	Each Regional WG must at a minimum produce a document containing: a list of countries within the RWG; a list of contact details (email etc); a list of relevant information standards in each country; and a list of the major issues	SC, KW	31-10-06
4/15	Produce a simple Word template to allow completion of action 4/14 and send to SC and KW	IJ	30-9-06
4/16	Invite SCx to Russia to raise profile of GeoSciML there.	SC	30-9-06
4/17	Raise profile of CGI by all possible means when attending GIS in Geology Conference in Moscow	FR, KW	30-11-06

10.   Outreach Workshop (including report on July 2006 Maputo pre-workshop & planning for Namibia full Workshop)

KA reported on the history of the Maputo Workshop and its outcomes; there was discussion on the most appropriate way to assist developing nations. The full Workshop was being planned for early 2008 in Namibia (the plan is to couple it with IYPE2008) but it will need substantial funds and logistical support. BGR may be prepared to contribute €124 000 but needs a costed proposal. The Namibian GS is prepared to provide local support. A number of actions followed from the discussion.

4/18	Draft costed proposal with science and business case (including logistics and a timeline) for the Namibian Outreach Workshop	KA, assisted by JB, IJ, AN, MF	31-10-06

4/19	All Council members to seek out funding support for the Outreach Workshop from their organisations/governments and report result to KA	All	31-10-06

4/20	Send Flyers to MF and MF to distribute to Council and to UNESCO	AN, MF	30-9-06
4/21	Ask R Missotten about UNESCO's requirements	MF	30-9-06

11.   Strategies for the development of geoinformation systems for Developing countries

GA provided the background. He noted the need for a "cookbook" (and tabled an initial contents page) that would give practical help in providing sustainable support in developing countries. There was a need to raise awareness at a technical and decision-making level.

4/22	Develop the "cookbook" into a full draft and circulate to Council for comment	GA, AN, MF	30-11-06
4/23	Mail GA (and Council) the URL for the BGS website which provides a guide to setting up and maintaining the components of a geoscience information system	IJ	30-9-06
4/24	Translate the more important CGI web pages into their local language. (K Bull will inform all of the most visited pages)	AN, MF, KA, SC, FR, KW, GA	30-9-06
4/25	Look at possibility of providing a highlight/quick link page to important items (eg GeoSciML and the Outreach Workshop pages)	IJ	31-10-06

12.   33rd IGC, Norway – participation/information super-session

IJ reported the latest position – submission of the proposal to the IGC Scientific Committee. He will report the outcome to Council.

13.   CGI relationship with other bodies and sectors

JB lead a discussion on relevant groups – GIC, IAMG, AGU, EGU, EGS, IGEOINFO, MIGC, OGC.

4/26	Email Council on the need for a more formal CGI-OGC link	SCx	30-9-06

14.   IUGS President's request for a Geoscience Union web portal

KA had corresponded with both the IUGS President and the Secretary General. Council agreed that until a more robust and detailed requirement is received we would take no further action.

15.   Global GeoMap proposal

IJ reported latest development (the letter from Director, BGS to all GSO Directors and the offer of funds for the kick-off meeting).

16.   Any Other Business

The Flyer, CODATA and the upcoming CGI Annual Report for IUGS were discussed

4/27	**All Council members** to send text and images (relating their specific responsibilities and CGI in general), for CGI Annual Report to IUGS to IJ	ALL	15-10-06

17.   Date and location of next and future meetings

A number of possible options were discussed and it was agreed that more details will be obtained and a decision taken by email subsequently.

4/28	Produce table containing basic details of meeting venues and dates and circulate to Council to enable decision on next CGI Council meeting to be taken	IJ	30-9-06

18.   Open session – question/answer/discussion session open to all

This item proved unnecessary.

Meeting finished at 16.30

Ian Jackson
25 September 2006