IGCP 624 – OneGeology Project Report

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Background

OneGeology is an initiative of Geological Survey Organisations (GSO) around the globe that dates back to Brighton, UK in 2007. Since then OneGeology has been a leader in developing geological online map data using a new international standard – a geological exchange language known as the ‘GeoSciML’. Currently version 3.2 exists, which enables instant interoperability of the data. Increased use of this new language allows geological data to be shared and integrated across the planet with other organisations. In autumn 2013 OneGeology was transformed into a Consortium with a clearly defined governance structure, making its structure more official, its operability more flexible and its membership more open where in addition to GSO all types of organisations that manage geoscience data can join and contribute. The next stage of the OneGeology initiative will hence be focused into increasing the openness and richness of that data from individual countries to create a multi-thematic global geological data resource on the rocks beneath our feet. Authoritative information on hazards and minerals will help to prevent natural disasters, explore for resources (water, minerals and energy) and identify risks to human health on a planetary scale. With this new stage also renewed OneGeology objectives were defined and these are 1) to be the provider of geosciences data globally, 2) to ensure exchange of know-how and skills so all can participate, and 3) to use the global profile of 1G to increase awareness

of the geosciences and their relevance among professional and general public. Very important goal of OneGeology is a transfer of valuable know-how to the developing world, hence shortening the digital learning curve. We live in a digital world that enables prompt access to vast amounts of open access data. Understanding our world, the geology beneath our feet and environmental challenges related to geology calls for accessibility of geoscience data and OneGeology Portal (portal.onegeology.org) is the place to find them.

Activities within IGCP 624 in 2014

In 2014 OneGeology Consortium has put enormous efforts in

Participants at the South America OneGeology Meeting (Rio de Janeiro, 24th October 2014)

engaging developing countries in the initiative and this process is still ongoing. Currently 119 countries from all continents participate in OneGeology, yet only half of them are actively participating in the initiative, meaning that they are serving the geological data for their countries. The focus in 2014 was to re-invite 58 inactive participants and to again get in contact with 75 countries not yet involved in OneGeology. Despite the fact that we live in a digital world this is an extensive, slow and still ongoing process. A special focus was put on two regions – Africa and Oceania. While accessing the list of geological survey organisations in countries not participating and contacting them was rather an easy task, the establishment of actual contacts is more cumbersome due to various reasons and the process is still ongoing. At the beginning of 2015 OneGeology has established a contact with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in Suva (Fiji) that is willing to help with stronger involvement of countries from the region of Oceania. As the next IGC will be held in Cape Town (South Africa), OneGeology will use the opportunity to organise special meeting with the focus on African participants.

Thanks to a substantial support of Brazil's CPRM, good results in addressing the issue of active participation in OneGeology were

achieved in South America, where a dedicated regional meeting was organised in Rio de Janeiro in October 2014. Out of 12 South American countries 10 attended the meeting: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. In addition French Guiana as a non-sovereign territory attended, while Colombia and Suriname acknowledged the meeting but could not attend due to objective reasons. ASGMI, the association of the geological surveys of the Latin America participated as an overarching organisation in the region. During the meeting important concrete actions have been adopted and a significant step forward has been made in facilitating service of geological data from South America, either for a specific country or for a continent as a whole.

Despite the fact that major focus was put into involvement of the geological survey organisations OneGeology invites all institutions that collect, process and store geological data (universities, agencies and industry) to actively participate in the initiative.

Financial support to IGCP 624 is very important as the funds are used to cover travel expenses for the representatives of institutions from developing countries with the purpose of their stronger engagement in OneGeology developments.

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