



Project manager: Catherine Hickson giving a presentation to Vancouver consular core, GSC staff and local consultants on the current status of MAP:GAC. July 5th, 2002 at GSC Vancouver office.

From the Project Manager:

Since getting the final go ahead for the project June 28, the MAP:GAC management group has been working hard to get all project information and systems organized in order to start delivering the project by early September. Mr. Otto Krauth (Electronic Publishing Technician) has been working hard on the management system, and Mr. Mike Ellerbeck (Project Administrator) and myself Catherine Hickson (Project Manager) have been putting it through its paces as we start adding detailed information on the many sub-projects and activities. Thank you all for your preliminary work plans, which enabled the management team to complete the first report obligations to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). This was a draft of the Implementation Report to be ratified in Lima in September, with the first request for funds. The draft report addresses all the changes requested by CIDA. As many of you are now aware, CIDA requested that the project be focused on hazards (earthquakes, landslides and volcanoes) and exclude work in groundwater, geothermal and mineral resources. This may leave some of the project participants wondering about the groundwater and other work they had hoped to accomplish under the project. A CIDA representative will be attending the Executive Council meeting in Lima (Sept. 23–24, 2002) and these issues can be discussed with him then. In the meantime, we are moving forward on all of the other requests we have received and over the next month, requests for additional information will be sent out to project

participants so that we can better plan for the coming months (September – March).

New Staff

We will be adding a landslide specialist to our group here in Vancouver. As the landslide component of the project is very large, it requires a full-time researcher. We will also be adding a person to help with administrative and scientific support. Through very good fortune, the project will have access to some of the leading information technology (ie. “web based digital library”) as well as software development staff working in the Vancouver office which should enable the project to make significant headway in IT/IM. A major presentation will be given at the Executive Council meeting in Lima to help the project leaders plan the way ahead in this complex and rapidly changing world.

To guide the project in bridging the gap between the Emergency Preparedness world and the geospatial—geological world, Dr. Roberto Gonzalez (currently, Regional Director, British Columbia and Yukon, Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Planning),

will join the Project in September on a six month secondment. Dr. Gonzalez brings with him a wealth of experience gained from his work in emergency management and planning and his former military postings.

Dr. Gonzalez speaks the language of the emergency preparedness officials and has worked closely with the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) to initiate changes to emergency planning in direct response to geological hazard information. In consultation with the emergency preparedness officials in each country, he will help ensure that the information provided to them by the project will be in a useful form. His first task will be to visit each participant National Geoscience Agency (NGA) to discuss how it currently interacts with the emergency preparedness institution(s) in its country and then to visit these institutions with staff of the NGA to discuss the project and how emergency preparedness response and planning is provided in each country. He will then work with the NGA and the Emergency Preparedness institutions to help plan how the Project can move forward in its major goal of incorporating geospatial-geoscience information into emergency response and land use planning. Obviously, this will be relevant to the current working relationships many NGA’s already have with these institutions.

Dr. Gonzalez is tasked with producing a report for the Executive Council describing the status of Emergency Response/Preparedness integration with geospatial / geological information in each country and how the current level of interaction with these institutions can be enhanced. This will provide MAP:GAC with a road map for the next 5 years. This report will be presented at the Toronto Executive Council meeting in March 2003. Dr. Gonzalez will be present at the Executive Council meeting in Lima, so that all participants can meet and chat with him.

Reception

A reception was held in the Vancouver office of the GSC for consuls, contractors and other interested private sector individuals July 5, 2002. About 24 people attended the reception

which was hosted by Natural Resources Canada, GSC Vancouver. Dr. Hickson provided the attendees with an overview of the project. She highlighted the scope and diversity of work to be undertaken in the project. The presentation solicited a number of questions and support from the private sector in the work to be done.

Lima, Perú, Executive Council Meeting

Draft Agenda

Monday, Sept 23, 2002

- AM
Review of work plans for each country (1/2 hour max/country, including questions) plans must be submitted prior to the meeting so that attendees can review and be prepared to ask questions.
Working lunch.

- PM
Presentation by Mr. Krauth.
-What is a Digital Library?
-Interoperability of Digital Systems
-Implementation of Digital Libraries

Tuesday, Sept 24, 2002

- AM
Discussion and review of proposed multi-country activities.
Adjourn at 1:00 pm.
Selection of technical advisors (based on suggestions of technical Coordinator).

- PM
Preparation of minutes by MAP:GAC management team and Technical coordinator.
Signing of minutes as part of Congress opening reception (or just before).

Upcoming events: The 8th Field Workshop on Volcanic Gases Nicaragua & Costa Rica, 26 March – 1 April 2003

The International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI) Commission on the Chemistry of Volcanic Gases (CCVG) invites your participation in the 8th field workshop on volcanic gases, to take place in 2003 in Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

The purpose of the workshop will be to use, assess, and evaluate current and new techniques and technologies that are used to measure, collect, and interpret volcanic gases.

The broader goals are to develop our capabilities to measure and quantify volcanic gas emissions (1) to better understand volcanic eruptions, magma degassing, magma ascent, and volcanic plumbing systems; (2) to better forecast eruptions; and (3) to better characterize volcanic gas inputs into the atmosphere, and the fates of these gases during atmospheric transport.

For further information please consult the Workshop web page:
<http://volcgas.unm.edu/nextworkshop.htm>

The 3rd Canadian Conference on Geotechnique and Natural Hazards



The 3rd Canadian Conference on Geotechnique and Natural Hazards will be held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from June 8 to 10, 2003. It follows the successful conferences in Vancouver in 1992 and Montreal in 2000, and will highlight recent advances in geohazard risk assessment and mitigation in Canada. A collection of keynote speakers, papers, and poster presentations will be incorporated into a two-day, single session conference. The deadline for submitting abstracts is September 30, 2002. Please visit:
<http://www.geohazards2003.eba.ca> for more details

VIII Ecuadorian Earth Sciences Congress 2,3 and 4 of October 2002 Guayaquil Ecuador

The VIII Ecuadorian Earth Sciences Congress will be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador October 2 to 4, 2002. Project Manager Catherine Hickson has been invited to give a presentation on MAP:GAC at the conference.

There will also be a meeting of the Geological Society of Ecuador during the congress.

For further details please email the congress organizers at: congresogeologia@hotmail.com or visit the web page: <http://www.fict.espol.edu.ec>

The New MAP:GAC Computerized Management System

Mr. Krauth (MAP:GAC Electronic Publications Technician) has been working with MAP:GAC management and administrative staff at GSC Vancouver for the past 4 months on the creation of an integrated project management system that meets the information needs of management in Canada, at CIDA, and in the South American participant countries. Due to the complexity and magnitude of the project it became apparent that a centralized management system with up-to-date information on all aspects of the project was necessary in order to ensure efficiency in the use of human and financial resources. This system will help ensure that all decision makers involved in the project have access to information they need to make informed decisions.

The structure of the fully integrated modular system seeks to fulfill the information needs of all managers involved in the project. The current modules included in the system include:

- Financial Module
- Contact Management Module
- Verifiable Indicators Module
- Task Manager Module
- Reports Module
- MAP News Module
- Photos Database Module
- Calendar Module

Several of the modules have been activated and are currently being used by project management in Vancouver. It is anticipated that certain components off the system will be made available through password access over the internet in order to provide current information on the project to project managers in the various participant countries. This will not occur for several months as the system is still in its test stage.

A user's manual will be prepared for users and Mr. Krauth will also be giving introductory tutorials on the system at the Toronto Executive Council Meeting in March 2003.

For further MAP:GAC information please consult the project Web page at:

<http://www.pma-map.com/gac/>

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