



From the Manager's Desk

January 2006

Happy New Year!!! From the MAP:GAC management team in Vancouver, we wish you the best for 2006. The exercise of celebrating the change from one year to another also serves as a reminder of the temporal limitations of our project. Having started in June 2002, this six year project (end date March 31, 2008) is soon coming to the close of its fourth year of existence. We have overcome some significant challenges and have had some impressive successes as well as the odd setback and for this we have much to be proud of. It is at this point that we must focus heavily on the sustainability of what we have created as a project. One of the benefits of MAP:GAC as a project comes from its multinational character; as a project we are able to develop and agree upon standards for the science we do, and ways in which we communicate that science. By the 2008 conclusion date of the project we need have to developed regional and institutional mechanisms for ensuring that the standards we have developed in methodologies, terminology, cartography, classification, as well as digital data interchange do not disappear. As a project we have developed strong relations with other regional projects and associations and will continue our efforts to strengthen these relations so we can benefit from their work and they from ours.

Currently most efforts in the project are directed at preparations for the events in Quito, Ecuador (January 28 through February 6). On February 03 we will be hosting a special session at which senior management of the geological surveys of the seven MAP:GAC countries will be present as well as from Spain, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic, international financial institutions, other regional disaster reduction projects, the European Union and the Canadian government. The purpose of the one day meeting will be to discuss the future of regional collaboration in government geoscience in Latin America, as well as how to leverage monies already at work in the region on initiatives to reduce disaster risk. It is obvious that the desire to continue and to advance the work done through MAP:GAC exists and I am certain that the next two and a half years will see valuable regional collaboration that will help strengthen government geoscience in South America and that the legacy of MAP:GAC will be one which will bring benefit to communities well into the future.

Mr. Mike Ellerbeck

Geohazard Student Art Competition in Matucana, Peru

In a ceremony on November 18, 2006, in the Matucana Municipal Hall, awards were granted to the best student art from a contest called "We Prevent Hazards to Protect Life". The contest and event was organized by the Disaster Prevention Centre (PREDES), and the Peruvian national geoscience agency, INGEMMET. The pictures were painted by first and second year secondary students from the Julio C. Tello and San Juan Bautista schools, all depicting geological hazards faced by these students in Matucana and the Payhua Valley. Sixteen pictures were chosen from all the participants and from those the judge chose the top three drawings from each school.

Two first prizes of a complete collection of Peruvian Mining Encyclopedias by Mario Samame Boggio went to Luis Rosales from the San Juan Bautista School and Leonardo Campo from the Julio C. Tello School. Second prize was an encyclopedia set donated by PREDES, and awarded to Grisly Acero of San Juan Bautista School and José Carlos of Julio C. Tello School. Third prize was won by Jhonatan Guerrero from San Juan Bautista School and Davis Cardenas of Julio C. Tello School, and their prize was a



Mr. Victor Lay Biancardi, President of the Directive Council of INGEMMET, and Ms. Rosa Vasquez Cuadrado, mayor of Matucana, with the winning students.

ball collection including a tennis ball, soccer ball, and volleyball, all donated by the Multinational Andean Project: Geosciences for Andean Communities (MAP:GAC), which is supporting the pilot project along with INGEMMET and PREDES. The award ceremony was presided over by the mayor of Matucana, Ms. Rosa Vasquez Cuadrado, and the president of INGEMMET's Directive Council, Mr. Victor Lay Biancardi.

Ms. Roxana Ramirez Durá

Why Earth Science? / ¿Por Qué Ciencias de la Tierra?

The American Geological Institute's publication *Why Earth Science?*, promoting the importance of earth science in K-12 education, has been disseminated to more than 100,000 people through geoscience agencies, organizations, and schools. In an effort to address the growing concerns about the health of earth science within the Spanish-speaking community, *Why Earth Science?* has been translated into Spanish.

It was decided to translate the publication into Spanish "to reach a wider, more diverse audience with the message that earth science knowledge is important to all citizens", says Ms. Ann Benbow, Director of Education and Outreach at AGI. The geoscience community recognizes that there is a greater demand for minority participation in the sciences, and in the United States, Hispanics are now the largest ethnic minority with a population of more than 40 million.

The publication is designed to help teachers, parents, industry leaders, and geoscience advocates explain the importance of earth sciences in today's educational environment. *Why Earth Science?* provides descriptions of the reasons we, as citizens, look to earth scientists to understand and manage our planet, and the importance of earth science education for success in school, careers, informed decision-making, and civic engagement.

Copies of the newly translated version, entitled *¿Por Qué Ciencias de la Tierra?* can be obtained by contacting Geoff Camphire (gac@agiweb.org) at AGI. Both the English and Spanish versions are available online at http://www.agiweb.org/education/teachers/online_resources.html.

"Nearly everything we do each day is connected in some way to Earth: to its land, oceans, atmosphere, plants, and animals."
— from *Why Earth Science?*

"Casi todo lo que hacemos diariamente está vinculado de algún modo a nuestro planeta Tierra, a su suelo, a sus océanos, a su atmósfera, a sus plantas y animales."
— de *¿Por Qué Ciencias de la Tierra?*

Ms. Laura Stafford
American Geological Institute

Changes to MAP:GAC Events

The MAP:GAC meetings in Quito, Ecuador, have changed venue, and will now take place at the Grand Hotel Mercure Alameda. Events include the Community Communications workshop, Geoscience Working Group meetings, Executive Council meetings, Special Session, and ASGMI meeting. Hotel information follows:

Grand Hotel Mercure Alameda
Av. Roca 653 & Av. Amazona
Quito, Ecuador
Tel: (593) 2994050 2562345
Fax: (593) 2234466

The final few days of meetings have also changed in format, and will now include ASGMI and its representatives in several programmed events. The Special Session will focus on future projects, and in attendance will be representatives from the International Development Bank, the UNISDR, the government of Canada, and projects funded by the European Union. The events are now planned as follows:

February 2
Field trip to Imbabura Volcano to MAP:GAC study area

February 3
Special Session on future projects in South America

February 4
ASGMI meeting

February 5
MAP:GAC Executive Council meeting, closing dinner, and signing of ASGMI and Executive Council meeting minutes.

Word of the Month

The word of the month features definitions that are part of a standardized glossary compiled by MAP:GAC's GEMMA group and, in most cases, adapted from the book *Living with Risk*. In this issue, we feature the definition of 'emergency management'.

Emergency Management

(From Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives (UN/ISDR))

The organization and management of resources and responsibilities for dealing with all aspects of emergencies, in particularly preparedness, response and rehabilitation.

Emergency management involves plans, structures and arrangements established to engage the normal endeavours of government, voluntary and private agencies in a comprehensive and coordinated way to respond to the whole spectrum of emergency needs. This is also known as disaster management.

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