



From the Manager's Desk

October 2005

It is with excitement that I write the current contribution to MAP:GAC News. As many of you are already aware, Dr. Catherine Hickson, MAP:GAC Project Manager, has moved on to new challenges within the Earth Sciences Sector of Natural Resources Canada and has changed her role in MAP:GAC to that of Senior Advisor. I have been named the new project manager.



Dr. Hickson has contributed not only to MAP:GAC but to the promotion of public geoscience in Andean countries as well as in the Americas in general. In 1994, while working as a regional geologist in British Columbia, she was asked by authorities within the Geological Survey of Canada to develop a project with Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru as a continuation of work done with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) funded by the Interamerican Development Bank. The proposal was accepted by CIDA in 1996, and work commenced on the Multinational Andean Project (MAP) in September of that year. The Project concluded in 2001 and MAP:GAC commenced in 2002. Little did Hickson know in 1994 that she would eventually lead the creation of a project that would become recognized around the world for its innovative multi-hazard approach to geological hazard studies, as well for its focus on ensuring that geological hazard information reach organizations and communities and be applied to land-use planning and emergency management.

The importance of the work of these two projects from a regional perspective cannot be overemphasized: under the leadership of Hickson and the directors of the national geoscience agencies of seven Andean nations, the MAP:GAC group has been successful in transcending political boundaries by focusing on geological hazards as the common theme that unites all Andean nations.

During nine years of involvement with the Multinational Andean Projects, I have been privileged to witness this remarkable process of integration of scientific agencies and scientists in the region, and have seen clear evidence of how this will bring benefit to communities throughout the region. The greatest motivator for my own involvement in the Project has been the demonstration of using geological knowledge to strengthen ties among nations. This will perhaps be one of the greatest legacies of the Project.

After the great earthquake and tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004, and the recent catastrophic results of Hurricane Katrina in the United States, the world is awakening to the far-reaching significance of disaster risk reduction and the increased importance of not only the production of high quality science but also of the

application of that science. It is up to us to understand not only how to generate good science but also the social, political, and economic context in which it must be applied. We need to make sure that the results of our work reach the people who need it to make decisions. I am confident that MAP:GAC will achieve its goals in contributing to disaster risk reduction by facilitating the application of geoscience to land-use planning and emergency management. In order to attain these goals, we must continue in the spirit of equality, maintaining our belief that we have an obligation to world citizens and communities.

It is an honour to follow in the footsteps of such a renowned professional, and it is comforting that Hickson remains with us as Senior Advisor to MAP:GAC. She has been an inspiration as well as a leader and teacher to all of us involved in the Project.

In addition to Hickson becoming Senior Advisor, there will be few changes to the MAP:GAC team:

Dr. Mark Stasiuk, who brings invaluable international multi-hazard experience to the Project, has been named scientific coordinator. **Mr. Paul Rovers** will be the new Project Administrator, and I am confident that he will bring his signature enthusiasm and strong organizational skills to his new duties. **Ms. Loretta Wong** will manage project finances and overall administration. Wong has been with MAP:GAC for the past three years, and brings exceptional talents and keen attention to detail to her new role. **Mr. Otto Krauth**, who has been a welcome fixture within the MAP projects since 1997, will continue with tireless dedication to promoting integration of digital scientific information, along with the dedicated and talented programmer, **Mr. Joost Van Ulden**. **Ms. Malaika Ulmi**, whom many of you have come to know over the past year, will continue to apply her impressive geological, communications, and administrative talents in general coordination of various activities. **Mr. Oscar Cerritos** will continue as he has for much of the past year working on differential GPS courses and satellite imagery while cheerfully supporting the Geophysical Tools and Techniques Sub-project. **Dr. Reginald Hermanns**, the MAP:GAC landslide expert imported from Germany, will maintain his rigorous travel schedule to help ensure that as many people and areas as possible benefit from his expertise. **Ms. Monica Jaramillo**, whose commitment to regional standards in hazard assessment and methodology for landslide studies has led to the creation of the first MAP:GAC multinational product, the GEMMA landslide hazard assessment handbook, will continue coordinating the Landslides Sub-project. **Dr. Lionel Jackson**, with tireless dedication to scientific excellence, will be counted upon to continue sharing his expertise in various member countries. **Dr. Fernando Muñoz**, whose persistence has begun to bear fruit for the project in Community Communications, will continue to help get our scientific knowledge converted into action. **Dr. Jennifer Getsinger**, now in her seventh year working with both MAP and MAP:GAC coordinating samples for dating and analysis as well as technical editing of MAP products and the English version of the MAP:GAC News, will continue in this role. **Ms. Claudia Goycoolea**, the most recent member to join the Vancouver team, will continue to ensure that you all receive your monthly MAP:GAC News in both English and Spanish.

Mr. Mike Ellerbeck

GeoSemantica Version 1.0 is delivered!

From August 29 to September 2, 2005, the GeoSemantica Working Group met in Santiago at Hotel Plaza el Bosque Suites to launch the first installation of GeoSemantica Version 1.0 in SER-NAGEOMIN. Mr. Joost van Ulden and Mr. Otto Krauth conducted a workshop on GeoSemantica Version 1.0, highlighting the latest fixes and features of the application. Each country presented on their advances and challenges with the application. During the meeting, Krauth proposed that each country should provide a new implementation plan including answers to the following requirements:



GeoSemantica working group meeting in Hotel Plaza El Bosque Suites, Santiago, Chile, September 2005. Note MAP's Andean metallogenic map in the background, and the orbicular diorite on the table.

1. A brief diagnostic of the institution towards GeoSemantica.
2. Identify the main objectives for implementing GeoSemantica in the institution.
3. Identify functionalities that will have the highest chance of success:
 - a. Digital Library
 - b. Cooperation environment
 - c. Web site
 - d. Tool for horizontal integration with other government agencies
 - e. Web Mapping Server (WMS)
 - f. Database management tool
 - g. Decision support tool
 - h. Information Management tool
 - i. Other
4. A brief description of implementation strategies.
5. Identify verifiable indicators.
6. Define minimum acceptable scales for verifiable indicators
7. Describe your vision (impact) if the goals are met.
8. Describe the critical factors for a successful implementation.

Ms. Martha Correa, the GeoSemantica coordinator for South America, will compile the implementation plans for discussion and presentation at the next Geoscience Working Group meeting in January 2006 in Quito, Ecuador.

With the first implementation of Version 1.0 of GeoSemantica, members of the group have taken the challenge to migrate all information captured in the prototype to their respective country servers. The prototype will remain available online until November 1, 2005. All "multi" activity projects in the prototype as well as country projects (Argentina, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Venezuela) that will not have received their servers by Nov. 1 will be migrated to can.geosemantica.net (v1.0). Data from all other projects will be migrated to their respective installed country node servers.

Country	Node Server	URL	Installation
Argentina		arg.geosemantica.net	Early 2006
Bolivia		bol.geosemantica.net	December 2005
Chile		chl.geosemantica.net	Installed
Colombia		col.geosemantica.net	Installed (version 0.9)
Ecuador		ecu.geosemantica.net	November 2005
Peru		per.geosemantica.net	October 2005
Venezuela		ven.geosemantica.net	Early 2006

MAP:GAC Progress to be Highlighted in Quito, Ecuador, January 2006

In just over three months, the MAP:GAC group will come together again for what will be one of the most important events of the Project. DINAGE in Quito, Ecuador, will play host to the 2006 MAP:GAC Geoscience Working Group and Executive Council meetings. These meetings will follow a showcase of the successes to date of the Project as part of the Cities on Volcanoes 4 conference. The final two days of the conference will be the MAP:GAC Community Communications convention – an opportunity for the presentation and discussion of the application of MAP:GAC methodologies to case study areas in the participating countries. Each country will have a chance to demonstrate the lessons learned in the application of geoscience to improve the health and safety of their communities. Please note the following dates for your calendar:

January 23–27:
Cities on Volcanoes 4 (www.citiesonvolcanoes4.com)
January 28–29:
MAP:GAC Community Communication Case Study Conference
January 30–February 1:
MAP:GAC Geoscience Working Group Meetings
February 2: MAP:GAC field trip
February 3–4: MAP:GAC Executive Council Meetings
February 5: MAP:GAC Special Session

For more information, or to make a contribution to the development of the MAP:GAC meeting agendas, please contact Malaika Ulmi (mulmi@nrcan.gc.ca).

Mr. Otto Krauth

Word of the Month

The word of the month features geologic 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 'geologic hazard'.

Geologic Hazard

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

Geologic Hazard

Natural earth processes or phenomena that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.

Geological hazards includes internal earth processes of tectonic origin, such as earthquakes, geological fault activity, tsunamis, volcanic activity and emissions as well as external processes such as mass movements: landslides, rockslides, rock falls or avalanches, surfaces collapses, expansive soils and debris or mud flows.

Geological hazards can be single, sequential or combined in their origin and effects.

Ms. Malaika Ulmi

Geologic Hazard

Geologic Hazard

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