

IGWCO SAG Teleconference No. 12 – 07 June 2007 12:00-13:25 UTC
Minutes
Final Version (18 June 2007)

Participants : Rick Lawford, Chu Ishida, Wolfgang Grabs, Toshio Koike, Peter van Oevelen, Steve Greb, Tom Jackson, Jared Entin, Douglas Cripe

1) Update on IGWCO 3rd Annual Planning Meeting 12-17 March 2007

- It was noted that attendance was very good, as was the quality of presentations.
- The next planning meeting might possibly be held in conjunction with the GEO Ministerial Meeting in November 2007, although the IGWCO will have to think carefully and seek guidance as to how to position itself at that time.

2) Update on IGOS-P 14 Meeting in Paris 29-30 March 2007

Theme Leader Meeting held on 29 March 2007 (Chair: Stuart Marsh).

General Session held on 30 March 2007 (Chair: Keith Alverson).

- Main topic of discussion was how to go forward to develop themes, and how to manage the transition into GEO.
- It was decided that, in principal, the merger of IGOS with GEO will happen, so transition planning should start without delay.
- However, there are a few elements missing that need to be resolved:
 - What is the exact mechanism for transition of the themes into GEO?
 - Some Themes, such as water, can transition easily into GEO.
 - Other Themes, such as Ocean, Land, and Geohazard Themes do not necessarily see a close fit.
- Stuart Marsh suggested that each theme initiate its own discussion with GEO to negotiate how transition will happen.
- IGOS 14 decided that the Chair of the Theme leader group, Stuart Marsh will start consultations with GEO. Timeline: End of August 2007.
- IGOS 14 decided further that, in parallel, each Theme leader should start negotiations with GEO immediately and the plan for transition should be ready by end of July 2007.
- IGOS-P 14 bis Meeting at time of the GEO Ministerial Meeting might be the last time IGOS-P meets in its current form.
 - It is unclear whether the IGOS Secretariat will dissolve at that point, while Theme leaders carry on with the transition mechanism.

General Comments from SAG participants:

- Who will be responsible in GEO for handling transition?
 - Perhaps the User Interface Committee (UIC) could house IGOS themes and provide a way to shape GEO Tasks, while the Science and Technology Committee (STC) could handle research and development issues.
 - But GEOSEC has expressed dissatisfaction with the functioning of both these committees – thus reinforcement could come from IGOS Themes?
- Still not exactly clear how this will happen – it is up to individual themes to negotiate their transition.
- Important that IGOS Themes remain in close contact with each other throughout the transition process.
- Will IGWCO be able to introduce a new task or tasks to cover the areas not addressed by GEO?

Regarding the IGWCO specifically, negotiations with GEO should be initiated by the end of July 2007.

- In order to prepare for this, as guidance for consultations, the IGWCO needs to compile its position.

- Formal report/white paper not necessary; list of comments as bullet items should suffice.
- It is important that negotiations with GEO not begin until SAG has a common viewpoint on how to proceed.
- Comments need to reflect principal interests and concerns of this group, and new directions to be pursued; need to articulate IGWCO views on all Water Cycle Variables.
- Key points from 2007 Assessment Report should be included.
- Douglas Cripe will be point contact for sending comments on IGWCO concerns and future direction. Comments should be sent to him with a copy to Rick Lawford (SAG Chair).
- List should be ready by mid June 2007.
- A negotiation strategy should simultaneously be developed. Wolfgang Grabs and Chu Ishida will work on this at the time of Chu's visit to the WMO 20-21 June, and 4-5 July While Chu is in Geneva a IWCO Executive teleconference call will be organized by WMO to discuss the IGWCO negotiating strategy..
- Main contact point for consultations with GEO will be Michael Rast.
- Antti Herlevi will also be joining the Hydrology and Water Resources Division (HWR) at the WMO, and will be particularly useful for his knowledge of GEOSEC.

Action Item: All comments and concerns with respect to the transition of the IGWCO into GEO to be sent from **SAG** to Douglas Cripe by **22 June 2007**.

Action Item: **Douglas Cripe** to compile IGWCO concerns list by **25 June 2007** and circulate to SAG.

Action Item: **Wolfgang Grabs** to distribute all WA06 and WA07 Tasks to SAG members. Also other tasks with relevance to the water cycle will be reviewed and circulated.

Action Item: **Wolfgang Grabs** and **Chu Ishida** to meet in June and July at the WMO to develop negotiation strategy with GEO. This strategy will be discussed and approved on the IGWCO Executive teleconference.

Action Item: Relevant **GEO Task leads** need to update water task accomplishments to GEOSEC by **9 July 2007** from IGWCO 3rd Annual Planning Meeting Report and other sources.

3) Update on Communities of Practice (CoP) Document

- General impression is that the March 2007 Meeting at the WMO was inconclusive.
 - Participants had not had sufficient time to prepare adequately, and there was minimal feedback.
- As a result, the status of project unclear, but moving as though it has been accepted in terms of defining user needs.
- The CoP needs to have a clear Water Cycle stamp on it, since it may be used as part of the IGWCO transition negotiation with GEO.
- At the March 2007 meeting, the concern arose that each participant tends to represent its own community in terms of supply and demand.
 - External, unbiased views as to what user needs really are is necessary.
 - Who represents the emergency community?
 - What are user requirements and demands in the area of climate and water?
 - Challenge is how to reach out to real water resource managers.
- CoP should be designed to address the needs for information in both IGWCO and GEO.

Action Item: **Rick Lawford** will circulate the latest version of the CoP document. **SAG** members are requested to provide comments on the CoP document and to provide names and email addresses of users who could become effective members of the CoP.

Action Item: **Rick Lawford** will be soliciting inputs on user needs for the water sector from SAG members if the NASA proposal for the GEO US-07-01 task is approved.

4) Update on IGWCO Water Cycle Variables

Precipitation: (Phil Arkin, reported via email)

- Preparations for the PEHRPP workshop in Geneva in December 2007 are progressing nicely; contact him for details if interested.
 - Don Hinsman (WMO) has agreed to handle formalities and make necessary arrangements for the workshop.
- The NASA PMM Science Team met in Atlanta in May, and plans for GPM are advancing. Interactions between PEHRPP and GPM are under discussion.
- Phil Arkin will attend the meeting next week on the Precipitation Constellation in Washington DC.

Action Item: **Chu Ishida** and **Rick Lawford** will attend the precipitation workshop in Washington DC the week of 11 June 2007, and will try to have side meeting on IGWCO Precipitation with **Phil Arkin**.

Action Item: **Phil Arkin** will continue preparations with Don Hinsman regarding the December 2007 workshop, hosted by the WMO.

Soil moisture: (Peter van Oevelen and Tom Jackson)

- In process of organizing Beijing workshop, having good response thus far.
- Should have proposal from Portugal met service soon regarding soil moisture data hosting facility with emphasis on SMOS Cal-Val activities.
- Asia chosen as initial focus area for November 2007 workshop.
 - Need to identify people who would like to participate but are lacking travel funds
 - Toshio Koike will attend workshop.
 - China and Mongolia have strong soil moisture networks. Tibet, also in process of putting up network. China and Mongolia in good position to help out. Would be nice to bring together full community at that time.

Action Item: **Asian members of the SAG** are requested to provide Peter van Oevelen and/or Tom Jackson with the names and email addresses of contacts for this meeting.

Water quality: (Steve Greb)

- Geneva March 2007 Remote Sensing workshop quite successful.
 - 55 participants from 26 countries, diverse group geographically and in expertise, representing a very dedicated group of people.
 - Needs and gaps identified: issues range from high-tech (sensors) to needs of developing countries. Almost all reports have been received, meeting report will be forthcoming.
- Report on capacity building should figure as a separate section, perhaps even as an independent document in its entirety.
 - Would be beneficial to have material to feed into surveys and use as input into other areas.

Action Item: **Steve Greb** will contact Richard Robarts regarding future collaboration between IGWCO and GEMS (also addresses AWC discussion).

Groundwater (Report from Jay Famiglietti):

- Workshop at IGRAC 18-19 October 2007 being prepared; inputs requested as to whom to invite.

Action Item: **SAG** members to send suggestions to Jay Famiglietti.

Runoff: (Wolfgang Grabs)

- HARON project proposal has been developed and will now be discussed in GEO and WMO's Hydrology and Water Resources Programme, then circulated.
 - Promotional presentation being prepared.
 - GEO logo will feature prominently on it since it will fund the project, but IGWCO and WMO will also figure since it is a collaborative effort.
 - Project proposal to be circulated to main GEO partners, in hopes of locating more fundraisers (i.e. World Bank).
 - Need to hire 6-month contractor to promote project and raise funding.

GWSP:

- General observation is that, although there are good intentions, tangible output is slow in coming from this project. The question is how to make the connection more real with the IGWCO?
 - GTN-H panel meeting scheduled 17-19 September 2007, to which Charles Vörösmarty and his group are invited. This may be opportunity to define real deliverables.
 - Need to define relationship with WCRP.
 - Need to develop indicators, as stipulated.

CEOP: (Toshio Koike)

The new CEOP (Coordinated Energy and Water Cycle Observation Project) has been established. Challenges include:

- Coordination on direction among large number of programs (98 partners).
- Developing more integrative outlook and coordination of water cycle concerns.
- Initiating regional hydro-climate projects, and various climate forcing projects (monsoon, semi-arid, cold, alpine regions, cross-cutting); also regional modeling and data assimilation, distributed data integration projects.
- CEOP II Implementation Plan being modified, will finalize draft by beginning of August 2007, then circulate.
- CEOP Meeting to be held in Bali 6-8 September 2007 to finalize Implementation Plan.
- When asked how new CEOP can interact with the IGWCO, the response was that CEOP has advanced data integration capabilities, which can be useful to IGWCO and GEO (e.g. WA 0702), so it can play a key role in the framework of both.

Action Item: Working with CEOP is crucial for the IGWCO, and this relationship must be accounted for when negotiating with GEO. **Toshio Koike** is thus to elaborate on the relationship between CEOP and the IGWCO in an email summary to be sent to Rick Lawford.

Capacity Building:

Asian water cycle: (Toshio Koike)

- GEO also developing tasks with respect to Asia.
 - Organized international task team, has visited several countries involved in AWC, and agreed on baseline implementation plan.
 - WA0701 is to develop pilot project based on September 2007 AWC Workshop.
- In cooperation with JAXA, AWC is implementing demonstration project in Vietnam
 - Cloud microphysics being improved for predicting heavy rain and flood in conjunction with met and hydrological services of Vietnam.
- Demonstration project also being prepared with the Philippines, Indonesia, and China.
- 3rd AWC Symposium will be held 3-5 December 2007 in Beppu, on Japanese Island of Kyushu.
 - Ministerial level conference will discuss demonstration projects, also baseline implementation plan.

Other Suggestions/Comments regarding AWC and Water Quality:

- Richard Roberts (GEMS- Water database) a good person to link with for AWC and GEO. They have had pilot projects in years past and have experience with quality control. They also have a strong connection internationally.
- In collaboration with Armin Bilquis in Bangladesh, looking into metadata formats.
- An Asian remote sensing pilot project needs to be initiated since not much is being done there: there appears to be a lack of data on water quality in many Asian regions.

Latin America: (Rick Lawford)

- Consensus is that capacity building ideas are progressing slower than with AWC. A strategy is needed to effectively engage a South American space agency in leadership of the initiative.
 - Will need to rethink leadership if input doesn't start to happen soon.

Africa: (Toshio Koike)

- Tunisian government interested in European Space Agency (ESA) TIGER project.
 - Tunisia willing to host a meeting to establish an initiative.
- Generally, deference has been to TIGER to handle capacity building in Africa.
 - If Japanese initiative to take the lead, the SAG would like to see a draft proposal, to make certain IGWCO concerns are included.

Action item: Toshio Koike to circulate the Japanese proposal for capacity building in Africa to Rick Lawford.

Final Comments:

SAG thanked JAXA for hosting teleconference.

Teleconference adjourned at 13:25 UTC.