



IHB File N° S3/2620

**CIRCULAR LETTER 85/2010
10 December 2010**

**IOC-IHO/GEBCO XXVIIth GUIDING COMMITTEE MEETING
Lima, Peru, 18 September 2010**

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) met at the Naval Club in Lima, Peru on 18 September 2010. Captain Hugo Gorziglia and Commander Steve Shipman represented the IHB; Dr. Robin Falconer, GGC Chair, opened and conducted the meeting. He began by welcoming Mr. David Clark (USA) who will be the new Permanent Secretary of GEBCO from 01 January 2011, replacing Professor Bob Whitmarsh, who is stepping down after 10 years of hard work.

2 The Committee considered several matters:

- Mr Bob Anderson reported on the progress made to date on the GEBCO Globe Project and the Committee agreed to go ahead in the 2010/2011 period with some financial support to allow a prototype World Globe, measuring one metre in diameter and highlighting Ocean Bathymetry, to be made for display at important scientific related events. Another outreach activity considered was the GEBCO World Map, for which resources were allocated to have it printed and distributed from various hubs in order to reduce transportation costs.
- The IHB Director reported on the main IHO activities, and, in particular, on the outcome of the last two IRCC meetings of which the GGC Chair is a member. Captain Gorziglia encouraged the GGC to work closely with the IRCC and to make use of this forum to provide reports on the progress made by all GEBCO bodies. Also this opportunity should be used to identify GEBCO needs as well as its WP and possible cooperation in joint initiatives with RHCs. The invitation to liaise with RHCs was very well received.
- The Report of the IHO Data Center for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) highlighted issues such as data sharing and initiatives to reinvigorate data provision to the Center. It was explained that there was some concern about sharing data due to security issues, protecting revenue and the resources required. It was decided that a Nippon Foundation (NF)/GEBCO scholar could help with the IHO DCDB web search/submittal website, to allow for easy tracking and reporting, aimed at encouraging data and metadata submissions.
- The GGC Chair reported that, following discussions with IOC, it had been concluded that the Coordinating Group on Ocean Mapping (CGOM) and some of the IBCs were effectively defunct and that CGOM was no longer recognized by IOC. Consequently, it was suggested that GEBCO might become the parent organization of the IBCs which now felt 'orphaned'. Actions were identified to invite Chairs/Vice-Chairs of the IBCs to strengthen the relationship and to feel part of GEBCO.
- The Digital Atlas Manager reported that a new version of the GEBCO-08 grid had been released.
- The Chairs of SCUFN, TSCOM and iSCRUM presented the reports of their sub-committees that had met on the previous days.

- The SCUFN Chair highlighted the large number of proposals received for consideration and the need to consider them on a case by case basis, as well as the requirements for new generic terms.

- The Chair of TSCOM referred to the very good relations that existed with Google Ocean and with other labs preparing grids. The Committee agreed to endorse TSCOM's report and the proposal to run a pilot project to develop a 100 m grid in one or more areas aimed at delivering a prototype in 2011. The Committee took note and endorsed both reports, congratulating all those who had participated in the Fifth TSCOM Science Day, where a good technical discussion had taken place. The IHB takes this opportunity to inform Member States that the GEBCO Science Day event is planned to be an annual event and will be announced as early as possible to ensure a wide participation.

- The Chair of the interim Sub-Committee on Regional Undersea Mapping (iSCRUM) reported on the difficulties encountered in coordinating with the regional bathymetric projects due to their lack of continuity and, in many cases, their defunct status. The Committee was of the opinion that a more formal arrangement should be established and decided to upgrade the iSCRUM to a formal Sub-Committee (SCRUM), the ToR and RoP for which are being drawn up.

- The preparation of a new updated edition of IHO B-7 "GEBCO Guidelines" was discussed. The IHB has made some progress, but there has not been much contribution in the past intersessional period. The Committee decided to continue and to speed up this process and requested the IHB to continue coordinating this effort, an activity that was accepted provided that support was received from the GEBCO personalities.
- The GGC Chair informed the Committee that GEBCO had been granted USD 415,000 by the Nippon Foundation to cover projects, other than the Training Project, for the next two years. The projects to be covered are under discussion and might include: mapping projects; funding a postgraduate student to work on a PhD; upskill former scholars; and research cruises. The management structure for all the NF funded projects (the NF/GEBCO Board) shall comprise at least the GGC Chair, two NF/GEBCO scholars, one independent person and three people appointed by the Guiding Committee.

3 The next GGC Meeting is planned to take place in 2011 in conjunction with the TSCOM and SCRUM (in formation) meetings in the USA, the venue and dates of which are to be decided.

4 The minutes of the meeting, when available, will be posted on the GEBCO website accessible from the GEBCO page of the IHO web site.

5 Finally, on behalf of the Member States of the International Hydrographic Organization, the Directing Committee would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank **Professor Robert (Bob) Whitmarsh** (UK) for his valuable contribution to the IHO/IOC GEBCO joint programme over many years. His active involvement as Permanent Secretary of the GEBCO Guiding Committee has ensured the continuity of the Committee's work. We wish him a happy and healthy retirement. At the same time we would like to extend a very warm welcome to the newly appointed Permanent Secretary of the GGC, **Mr. David Clark** (USA), and wish him every success and personal satisfaction in this new post.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hugo Gorziglia', written in a cursive style.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director