

NIPPON FOUNDATION RELATED PROGRAMMES

Submitted by Chair NFPMC

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details of the Nippon Foundation related programmed during the period since GGC32.

Action to be taken: See paragraph

Related documents: None

1. NF-GEBCO Overview

GEBCO has had a relationship with the Nippon Foundation (NF) since 2004 when the GEBCO-NF Ocean Mapping training programme began at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). The relationship has deepened to be more than just the UNH training project, which typically is funded at around USD\$620/yr. They provided \$400k for special projects in 2011 and since 2015 have provided \$40k/yr for an ambassador programme. They fully funded (\$772k) the Monaco Forum on the Future of Seafloor Mapping held in June. At the forum they announced they intend to support an Alumni Association and the Seabed 2030 programme. Seabed 2030 will be a turning point for GEBCO and global ocean mapping.

2. UNH training programme

Rochelle Wigley will provide additional details on the Training Programme at UNH, Annex A. The programme was funded at \$540K USD for the 2015/16 year which ended in July 2016. The 2016/17 year, funded at \$625,869 started late August 2016. Current students at UNH are from Russia, Egypt, Mauritius, Madagascar, Thailand and Japan. They take a full course load for one academic year. In addition to academic work, they develop a human network, and visit various laboratories, which are selected to help them in their future work. Factors which apply to the selection for the programme is that they have a passion for the oceans and have strong support of their home institutions. The Nippon Foundation's ultimate goal is promoting human capacity development. NF is very committed to the programme and this is demonstrated by the fact they initially talked of running the programme for five years, but the programme is in its 13th year. In addition to the six students currently at UNH, 72 scholars, from 33 countries have been through the course.

The human resource needs of Seabed 2030 and the evolution of methods of ocean mapping mean that it is timely to review the training program at UNH to ensure that it will meet future needs. A review will be put in place in 2107 so that future directions are clear for renegotiation with NF at the end of 2017. The review parameters and timing would require agreement and coordination with UNH, external expertise and alumni representatives.

3. Nippon Foundation Ambassador programme

The intent of the ambassador programme is to have GEBCO participants visit organizations who have had NF scholars to encourage them to develop the scholars' careers with positions related to bathymetric mapping. There is currently \$80k available for travel expenses. It was decided not to push it this year as there were too many things going on with the Forum. The ambassador programme may now evolve to reflect some of the Seabed 2030 goals. Any GEBCO participants who would have the opportunity to extend travel to include ambassador interaction with host countries should contact Robin Falconer or Roxy Wigley.

4. NF funds

The request for NF funding is usually submitted each year by submitting a comprehensive proposal in December or January. Funds are normally allocated in March. Bidding this year involved the UNH course, the ambassador programme and the second tranche of funding for the Monaco Forum. This year very extensive interaction was required with NF on preparation of the bid. A total of \$1,771,056 was requested and granted.

4.1 Training programme at UNH

Each UNH year starts late August and extends to July the following year. This year NF granted funds for two years of the training programme to allow us to focus on implementing Seabed 2030 without having to engage in 2017/18 training course bidding. The grant was \$625,869 for 2016/17 and \$620,871 for 2017/18.

4.2 Ambassador programme

Funding of \$40,500 was granted for 2016 and \$44,500 for 2017.

4.3 Special Projects funds

NF granted, at our request, USD \$400k in 2011 for special projects. Projects have to have a significant component of GEBCO-NF alumni involvement. To date \$320k has been used for Arctic, Antarctic and Indian Ocean mapping projects. Some funds will be used for XPRIZE team travel and expenses in October – December.

5. NF Project Management Committee membership

The NF project management committee has oversight, on behalf of the GGC, of the training programme at UNH and other NF funded projects. Current members are Robin Falconer (chair), Shin Tani, Martin Jakobsson, Hugo Montoro, Taisei Morishita, Dave Monahan, Bob Anderson and Rochelle Wigley. The advent of Seabed 2030 potentially changes the financial and organizational interactions between GEBCO and NF. This will mean that the Management Committee probably should be restructured. A decision on this should await development of the Seabed 2030 plan.

6. Recognition

It should be recognised with great gratitude to The Nippon Foundation for its support of GEBCO over the past 12 years and the GEBCO Project looks forward to a continuing relationship, especially on the GEBCO-Nippon Foundation Seabed 2030 project.

7. Action

The GGC is requested to:

- a. **Note** the contents of this report;
- b. **Express** the gratitude of the GGC for the continued support of the Nippon Foundation for the GEBCO Project, in particular the Ocean Mapping Course, and its future support to the Seabed 2030 project; and
- c. **Take** any other action deemed appropriate.

Annex:

- A. NF/UNH Training Programme additional information