

## **NIPPON FOUNDATION RELATED PROGRAMMES**

Submitted by Chair NFPMC

### **SUMMARY**

Executive Summary: This document provides details of the Nippon Foundation related programmes during the period since GGC34.

Action to be taken: See paragraph 9

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 program 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 \$120k for an ambassador program. They fully funded (\$772k) the Monaco Forum on the Future of Seafloor Mapping held in June 2016. At the Forum they announced that they intended to establish the Seabed 2030 program with GEBCO. They announced in June 2017 that they intend to support the program for ten years for a total of around \$18M. Funding of \$979k for the establishment phase and the first six project months was granted in August 2017 and funding of \$1.6M for Year 2 granted in August 2018. In addition NF has provided \$6.3M for a NF-GEBCO Alumni team to participate in the Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE competition. Over the last year NF has provided \$6.2M to GEBCO projects. The support of the Nippon Foundation is fundamental to much of GEBCO's work.

### **2. Seabed 2030**

Establishment of the joint NF-GEBCO Seabed 2030 project has been a major milestone for GEBCO. This is reported in a separate reports and covered elsewhere in the agenda.

### **3. XPRIZE**

The participation of a NF-GEBCO alumni team in the Shell Ocean discovery XPRIZE competition has been a major effort by 15 alumni and other advisers. This is fully reported in separate reports and Karolina Zwolak can talk to them.

### **4. UNH training program**

The program is in its 15<sup>th</sup> year. In addition to the six students currently at UNH, 84 scholars, from 37 countries have been through the course. The Nippon Foundation's ultimate goal is

promoting human capacity development. They consider it to one their most successful training programs. Full details are provided separately

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. It was planned that a review would be put in place in 2018. However given the time and workloads involved in the set-up of Seabed 2030 it has been decided to not start any review until 2019. The review parameters and timing will require coordination with Seabed 2030.

## **5. Nippon Foundation Ambassador program**

The intent of the ambassador program is to have GEBCO participants and NF-GEBCO UNH alumni visit organizations to encourage them to develop people in positions related to bathymetric mapping. Funding is available for travel expenses. The current balance is \$85k. It was decided not to push it in 2018 as there were too many things going on with the Seabed 2030 and XPRIZE. The ambassador program may now evolve to reflect some of the Seabed 2030 goals.

## **6. NF Funds**

Funding from The Nippon Foundation for GEBCO activities in the last year has totaled \$6.2M. This has been for the establishment of Seabed 2030, the XPRIZE alumni team, the continuation of the UNH training course, and alumni support.

### **6.1 Seabed 2030**

The Nippon Foundation announced in June 2017 that they intend to support the program for ten years for a total of around \$18M. Funding of \$979k for the establishment phase and the first six project months was granted in August 2017 and funding of \$1.6 M for Year 2 was granted in August 2018. This funding is being disbursed through IHB under the management of the Seabed 2030 project team. .

### **6.2 XPRIZE**

The participation of a NF-GEBCO alumni team in the Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE competition has been fully funded by the Nippon Foundation with grants through NF and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation totalling \$5.3M since March 2017. This has been disbursed through UNH under the team management. All of the funds will have been expended by the end of November 2018 at the completion of the team's participation in Round 2 in Greece. Discussions are underway with the NF on future initiatives for the technology developed by the team and for alumni activities.

### **6.3 Training program at UNH.**

Each UNH year starts late August and extends to July the following year. Normally funding is for only one year. In 2016 NF granted funds for two years of the training program to allow us to focus on implementing Seabed 2030 without having to engage in 2017/18 training course bidding. In 2018 they have again granted two year funding, partially to ease bidding workloads whilst doing XPRIZE. The grant was \$649,705 for 2018/19 and \$675,705 for 2019/2020. Plus \$22,000 per year for alumni participation in conferences.

#### 6.4 Ambassador program

Funding of \$40,500 was granted in 2016 and \$44,500 in 2017. This has not yet been spent.

#### 6.5 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. \$320k has are been used for Arctic, Antarctic and Indian Ocean mapping projects. The balance has been used to fund parts of the GEBCO-NF alumni participation in XPRIZE.

### **7. NF Project Management Committee membership**

The NF project management committee has oversight, on behalf of the GGC, of the training program at UNH and other NF funded projects; not including Seabed 2030. 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 changes the financial and organizational interactions between GEBCO and NF. This will mean that the Management Committee probably should be restructured. A decision on will be taken once the Seabed 2030 is fully established.

### **8. RECOGNITION**

The GGC, on behalf of the IOC-IHO GEBCO Project, recognises with great gratitude to The Nippon Foundation for its range of partnerships with the GEBCO Project over the past 15 years and the GEBCO Project looks forward to a continuing relationship, especially with the GEBCO-NF UNH alumni and the Nippon Foundation – GEBCO Seabed 2030 project.

### **9. 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 ongoing support to the Nippon Foundation – GEBCO Seabed 2030 project; and
- c. Take any other action deemed appropriate.