

## **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 GGC33.

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 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\$620k per year. They provided \$400k for special projects in 2011 and since 2015 have provided \$40k per year for an ambassador programme. 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 programme with GEBCO. They announced in June 2017 that they intend to support the programme 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. In addition NF has provided \$3.2M for a NF-GEBCO alumni team to participate in the Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE competition. Over the last year NF has provided \$4.9M 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 report.

#### **3. XPRIZE**

The participation of a NF-GEBCO alumni team in the Shell Ocean discovery XPRIZE competition has been a major effort by 12 alumni and other advisers. This is fully reported in a separate report

#### **4. UNH training programme**

Dr Rochelle Wigley will provide additional details on the Training Programme at UNH. The programme was funded at \$626K for the 2016/17 year which ended in July 2017. The

2017/18 year, funded at \$621K started late August 2017. Current students at UNH are from Latvia, Mexico, Ireland, Peru, Madagascar and Japan. The Nippon Foundation's ultimate goal is promoting human capacity development. The programme is in its 14<sup>th</sup> year. In addition to the six students currently at UNH, 78 scholars from 35 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 programme at UNH to ensure that it will meet future needs. It was planned that a review would be put in place in 2017. However given the time and workloads involved in the set-up of Seabed 2030 it has been decided to not start any review until 2018. The review parameters and timing would require agreement and coordination with Seabed 2030, UNH, external expertise and alumni representatives.

## **5. Nippon Foundation Ambassador programme**

The intent of the ambassador programme 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. It was decided not to push it in 2017 as there were too many things going on with the Seabed 2030 and XPRIZE. The ambassador programme 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 in effect totalled \$4.9M. This has been for the establishment of Seabed 2030, the XPRIZE alumni team and the continuation of the UNH training course.

### **6.1 Seabed 2030**

Seabed 2030 funding of \$979k for the establishment phase and the first six months of the programme was granted in August 2017. It has not yet been allocated. This funding is being administered through IHO Secretariat. Approximately \$50k from the balance of the 2016 Forum funding has been used for the establishment phase of Seabed 2030.

### **6.2 XPRIZE**

The participation of a NF-GEBCO alumni team in the Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE competition was fully funded by the Nippon Foundation with grants through NF and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation totalling \$3.2M. This has been managed through UNH. All of the funds will have been expended by the end of November 2017 at the completion of the Round 1 judging in Norway.

### **6.3 Training programme at UNH**

Each UNH year starts late August and extends to July the following year. In 2016 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. It is anticipated that we will re-bid in December 2017 for a 2018/19 class.

#### **6.4 Ambassador programme**

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

#### **6.5 Special Projects funds**

NF granted, at our request, \$400k in 2011 for special projects. Projects have to have a significant component of GEBCO-NF alumni involvement. \$320k has been used for Arctic, Antarctic and Indian Ocean mapping projects. The balance has been used to fund the initial stages of the NF-GEBCO alumni participation in XPRIZE in 2016/17.

### **7. 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 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**

It should be recognised with great gratitude to The Nippon Foundation for its support of GEBCO over the past 14 years and the GEBCO Project looks forward to a continuing relationship, especially on 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.