

3 NIPPON FOUNDATION

3.1 Nippon Foundation - 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 \$120k 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; \$1.6M for Year 2 in August 2018, and \$2.346M for Year 3 in August 2019. The Year 3 funding included a special \$131k for the Vision to Action workshop held in London on Oct 22 2019. In addition NF provided \$6.3M for a NF-GEBCO Alumni team to participate in the Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE competition in 2017 and 2018. The team won the \$4M first prize. The prize money is held by the Nippon Foundation with the intent to fund alumni and Seabed 2030 activities.

The longstanding partnership with The Nippon Foundation is fundamental to much of GEBCO's work.

3.2 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.

3.3 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. The team won the competition, with its \$4M first prize. The prize money is held by the Nippon Foundation with the intent to fund alumni and Seabed 2030 activities. The XPRIZE activity is fully reported in separate reports.

3.4 UNH training programme

The programme is in its 16th year. In addition to the six students currently at UNH, 90 scholars, from 40 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 programmes. 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 programme 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 Seabed 2030 and XPRIZE the review was deferred. The review parameters and timing will require coordination with Seabed 2030.

3.5 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. The current balance is \$85k. It was decided not to push it in 2019 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.

3.6 Nippon Foundation Funds

Details are given below of the finances of Nippon Foundation funded projects. The Nippon Foundation has recently advised that owing to changes in policy it may be necessary for unspent money in any grant year and/or project to be returned to NF. This is a change from the previous arrangement where unspent funds could be held over. As at October 2019 the details of the change are still being worked through. Funding in Seabed 2030, XPRIZE operations (not the prize money), the UNH training programme, the Ambassador programme and the special projects may all be affected.

3.6.1 Seabed 2030

The Nippon Foundation 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, \$1.6M for Year 2 in August 2018, and \$2.346M for Year 3 in August 2019. The Year 3 funding included \$131k for the Vision to Action workshop held in London on Oct 22 2019. The funding is disbursed through IHB under the management of the Seabed 2030 project team. Additional funding was provided for the recruitment costs for the new Seabed 2030 director.

3.6.2 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 \$6.3M since March 2017. This has been disbursed through UNH under the team management. The majority of the funds were expended by the end of Dec 2018 at the completion of the team's participation in Round 2 in Greece. On May 31 2019 the team was announced as winners of the \$4M first prize. The prize money is held by the Nippon Foundation with the intent to fund alumni and Seabed 2030 activities. Discussions are underway with the NF on a proposal and selection process.

3.6.3 Training programme 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 programme 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.

3.6.4 Ambassador programme

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

3.6.5 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 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. At present there is still about \$20k on hand.

3.7 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; 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 should be restructured. A decision will be taken in 2020. .

3.8 Recognition

The GGC, on behalf of the IOC-IHO GEBCO Project, recognizes with great gratitude The Nippon Foundation for its range of partnerships with the GEBCO Project over the past 16 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.

3.9 Action

The GGC is requested to:

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