

Teleconference began: 15:00 CET

Participants: Rick Lawford, Alice Aureli, Chu Ishida, Toshio Koike, Kazuo Umezawa, Kazuko Misawa, Jared Entin, Steven Greb, Wolfgang Grabs, Douglas Cripe

Prior to commencing the agenda, Lawford suggested that the SAG distribution list be updated, as several persons had not been heard from and others will be joining the SAG shortly. In particular, Michael Hales is no longer with NOAA, and Mike Bonell will be replaced by Sigfried Demuth at UNESCO.

Action: all current SAG members are requested to review distribution list and provide IGWCO secretariat with changes by early November 2006.

The agenda was then discussed as proposed (see annex 1).

Capacity Building – Bangkok Workshop:

Ishida provided an update on the International Workshop Earth Observation in Water Management Services, held successfully 26-28 September 2006, despite the military coup. There were 121 participants from 22 countries. A draft version of the Summary of Proceedings is available on the workshop website (<http://www.a-a-r-s.org/ws-eowm/proceedings.php>). Briefly, a key result was that 3 working groups were established to focus on Ground Water and Water Quality, Flood Management, and Drought Management issues. From these working groups it became evident that data quality and availability is a major concern to stakeholders, as well as the need for streamlining remotely-sensed/satellite data integration with in-situ data. It was suggested that GEO could play a role in addressing these issues. Also, there was good response to a questionnaire circulated that called for concrete actions, identification of inventories, and regional demonstration projects. Bangladesh is keen to advance on water contamination issues, a task to be assigned to the GEO Asian Water Quality Project. With respect to the 2nd Asia Water Quality Project Workshop in January 2007, it would be expedient to develop implementation plans for regional water resource capacity building by the time of the meeting. Ishida concluded his remarks by thanking Koike and Greb for their support.

Action: Lawford requested comments from SAG be submitted for final report.

Action: Grabs requested SAG to send IGWCO report updates to WMO in time for the IGOS-P meeting in Buenos Aires (14-15 November 2006). Cripe will circulate current report via email for members to refer to in drafting updates, and will integrate updates into the report as received.

Action: Lawford may not be present at IGOS-P in Buenos Aires. Ishida thus needs to be prepared to make Water Cycle PowerPoint presentation. SAG requested to prepare 2-3 slides as appropriate and send them to Lawford for compilation with cc to Grabs/Cripe for reference.

Capacity Building – Buenos Aires Capacity Building Development Proposal:

Lawford indicated workshop will include 10-15 people, drawn from Canadian Space Agency, NOAA, NASA, IRI, UNESCO, IAI, UMETSAT, and JAXA, as well as interested parties from water resource management groups in Argentina, Colombia, and Peru. The plan is to put together a proposal similar to TIGER, but more open. Specifically, high-interest projects need to be identified to make use of satellite data, in which results can be tracked and documented. Goal is to provide feedback to experts who can then tailor data to fit needs of regional populations. It is hoped that CONAE will take the lead with this effort. A general caveat with capacity building workshops is that it is difficult to channel the enthusiasm. This proposal aims to take things to 2nd stage, where coordination is followed by action via appropriate structures, as opposed to ad hoc efforts. This relates in particular to Bangladesh, identified as a lead project for water quality amelioration. Koike suggested that GEOSS should include water quality in their presentation at Buenos Aires, taking into account local/regional needs and concerns. Koike further suggested that a GEOSS approach might be used with the case of Bangladesh water quality, in which problems related to observations of water quality are also addressed. Lawford agreed that capacity building activities need to fit into the GEOSS framework.

Action: Koike to comment on Bangkok Workshop at Buenos Aires meeting.

Review of Recent Activities – Precipitation:

Phil Arkin was not present. Lawford mentioned Arkin would like to hold an HRPP conference in Geneva, sometime in late 2007, and wanted to know if WMO/IGWCO secretariat can host.

Action: Grabs to explore modalities of hosting HRPP workshop.

Soil Moisture:

Peter van Oevelen not present. Lawford mentioned that van Oevelen and Tom Jackson (HYDROS) were having a dialogue, and that van Oevelen was looking at in-situ soil moisture measurements.

CEOP:

Koike reported on the CEOP implementation strategy sessions at the Pan-GEWEX meeting (9-12 October 2006, Frascati, Italy). The emphasis was placed on particular areas of cooperation between CEOP and GEWEX, especially the connection and merger with the GEWEX Hydrometeorology Panel (GHP), and the other core projects of WCRP. The assessments dealt with the degree to which the commitments made by agencies and organizations to CEOP, such as the provision of coordinated in-situ, satellite and model data, have been fulfilled, and the degree to which CEOP has been able to apply the resources it has to meet its observational and science goals. In keeping with the intent of the JSC recommendations, each step identified in the CEOP planning process included specific implementation strategies that will ensure close and effective connections to other national/international activities concerned with research of the Earth's water and energy cycle including, especially GEWEX and the core projects of WCRP. Upcoming plans include 2nd Asian Water Cycle Symposium 9-10 January 2007, with GEWEX handling data management issues. Also, a GEO meeting is planned for later 2007, to be held in Tokyo. Topics to be covered include a needs discussion pertaining to a GEOSS demonstration project (14 countries contributing), and a needs outreach involving national representatives from GEO to implement a demonstration project.

Action: Grabs requested this information be sent to WMO for updating report.

Water Quality:

Greb reported that:

- 1) Groundbreaking work via assessment of expert technical advice with respect to water quality has been accomplished in preparation for the upcoming GEO workshop 27 February – 1 March 2007 (WMO, Geneva). Antti Herlevi (GEO) has been helping with preparations, and it is anticipated 30-40 persons from the fields of remote sensing, data provision, and expert use will be brought together.
- 2) Self-supporting, citizen-based monitoring from 14 countries worldwide are playing an increasing role in weather observations, and this may be a future trend as well for the Global Water Watch and water quality issues.
- 3) A large-lake water quality workshop will be held at the beginning of November 2006, with participants from the Universities of Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. Goal is to produce a guidance manual, perhaps useful for IGWCO and capacity-building considerations.

Action: Lawford suggested Greb contact Richard Robarts (Environment Canada) about the UNEP GEMS/Water project for possible inclusion in these activities.

Runoff:

Grabs reported on 2 developments:

- 1) Discussions were held with ESA during the recent GEWEX workshop in Frascati (Italy) on the possibility of providing more real-time altimetry observational data to WHYCOS over basin areas in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The aim would be to calibrate the data via algorithm development and then make the data available through a website. ESA appears interested and wants to identify user groups.
Action: Grabs to draft a Memorandum of Understanding with ESA by end of 2006.
- 2) ESA and GEO are interested in a Global runoff project. GEO has a main interest in promoting this project as an essential new observing system and would like to facilitate the implementation of this project. José Achache (GEO) is to work on find funding for 300 stations globally, to measure fresh-water fluxes into the world oceans.

Ground Water:

Lawford discussed upcoming GEO Water Quality Workshop, which will be divided along Water Quality, Ground Water, and Surface Water lines. Matt Rodell and Jay Peretti are developing a rough outline for the Ground Water session. In particular, a balance needs to be struck between in-situ (UNESCO) and satellite (Rodell and Peretti) data concerns. Aureli will look into modalities of hosting the workshop in Paris (from September 2007 onwards), and drew attention to the challenge this undertaking represents as people of different backgrounds and communities attempt to work together. She further stressed the need for building a common language through sharing of technical knowledge and making products accessible to all interested parties. Grabs pointed out that IGRAC is an important partner of the GTN-H that can provide support to IGWCO on the issue of ground water. In the case of IGRAC, funding has been secured until 2009 and, although water quality per se is not a priority, one of its foci is to develop a concept paper by the end of November 2006 on the establishment of global ground water monitoring networks (including large aquifers). This is important since ground water is the primary source for drinkable water globally.

Action: Lawford will make certain that IGRAC receives a proposal to become involved as a partner.

Action: Jay Perettia and IGRAC need to get in contact.

GWSP:

Charles Vorosmarty not present.

CEOP/IGWCO Meeting:

Meeting slated for 12-16 March 2007, with NASA/NOAA offering to host at the National Academy for Arts and Sciences, Washington DC. Plan is to allot first 2 days to CEOP, conduct a joint CEOP/IGWCO session the 3rd day, and dedicate the final 2 days to IGWCO. Two focus issues to be precipitation and capacity building. Other open issues:

- 1) Grabs: need a few hours for IGWCO Executive side meeting to discuss strategy of the actual integration amongst the various activities within IGWCO itself. Goal is to foster integration within the water cycle theme itself and avoid working in isolation.
- 2) Lawford: beneficial to bring in people from other IGOS-P themes as well, perhaps during CEOP presentations early in the week so as not to cut into water cycle agenda.
- 3) Lawford: introduction on first day of IGWCO session should include reports from precipitation, soil moisture, water quality, runoff, and groundwater activities. Presentations should be for entire group, not as breakout sessions.
- 4) Grabs: suggested that water cycle sessions be limited to few, short key presentations on state-of-the-art, with ample room for discussion, rather than a bombardment of talks. Two 30-minute talks per session would be a good goal, followed by guided discussion.
- 5) Grabs and Lawford: propose that GEO be tapped to announce meeting and provide participants from developing countries. Other sources of funding for these participants need to be identified (such as GTN-H and Asian Water Cycle Community).

Action: Lawford needs invitation list from SAG and committee members ASAP.

Action: Lawford to provide straw agenda ASAP for refinement by partners.

Action: Grabs to develop proposal for Executive IGWCO side meeting (8-10 people max).

Action: Grabs to jot down ideas on paired presentations, followed by guided discussion.

Action: Ishida to explore ways JAXA can help with funding for participants from developing nations.

GEO Interactions:

Grabs reported on the efforts of José Achache's discussions with the World Bank on the development of the Runoff Networks project. It does not appear that the World Bank is really interested, as this is a 2nd tier priority for them. Other sources of support need to be looked into, such as bilateral assistance through GEO members. A concept paper needs to be drafted with respect to this issue. Lawford indicated that a rough draft of the Common Practice Outline was available for comments – UNESCO, NASA, JAXA, and WMO expressed interest. The manual needs to be finalized in time for the User Interface Meeting in November 2007. Entin reported that NASA is currently developing perspectives on satellite and soil missions, decadal surveys, and vegetation-canopy mapping. NASA is also studying baseline soil moisture data in the context of incorporating additional instruments and sensors on current platforms, as an added-value measure.

Finally, a meeting is being held next week on the next generation of altimetry missions, and how to measure ocean and river discharge.

Other issues – IGWCO website:

Cripe is to develop a website specific to the IGWCO theme. Currently, a cursory discussion of the IGWCO theme is presented on the CCSP and GEWEX websites. Within the over-arching context of IGOS-P, the IGWCO website will provide a main focal point from which reports, minutes, and other documents may be downloaded, powerpoint presentations viewed, and relevant meetings announced. The site will be structured such that content flows sequentially from general to specific by means of pop-up menus. It will also be rich in links to partner websites and will contain a private sector for communication within the SAG.

Action: Cripe to provide SAG with website prototype by early December 2006.

Teleconference adjourned: 16:45 CET

