Introduction

Welcome to the 5th edition of the OneGeology newsletter. This issue focuses on the highly successfully OneGeology events at the International Geological Congress (IGC) in Oslo. It provides an overview for those who were unable to be there and an update for those who attended. Our thanks to all of you who helped at the exhibition booth and to everyone who came to speak to us during the conference. The success of OneGeology was highlighted when the directors of geological surveys met at the IGC and unanimously endorsed the continuation of OneGeology and offered their full support. They agreed to set up a Steering Group with representatives from each of the world’s regions.

Latest News

OneGeology now has 94 participating countries. Welcome to the latest geological survey/organisations to join OneGeology:

- Mongolia
- Kosovo
- India
- Nigeria
- Algeria
- Romania
- Bhutan
- Sudan
- Iran
- Uzbekistan
- Kazakhstan
- Vanuatu

40+ countries/regions are currently making their map data available on the portal including regional data for Africa, South East Asia, Europe, the Andes and the world.

Examples of maps from the OneGeology Portal.
Press conferences

A press conference to announce the launch of OneGeology took place at the Science Media Centre in London on the 31 July. A second press conference took place at the IGC on the 6 August. Both conferences were very well attended and highly successful, resulting in massive media publicity around the globe via TV, radio, press and scientific publications. Below are some of those statistics;

OneGeology global media campaign August 2008

Press packs available in 8 languages
Journalists emailed: 10 000+ globally
Media articles online: 737
You Tube OneGeology’s channel: 31 085 views of portal video www.youtube.com/onegeology

Google pages referencing OneGeology increased from 10 000 to a high of 220 000
Potential audience (online only) 107 million*

*Nelson Media Research

OneGeology in the world’s top media

OneGeology articles were published by many of the top media including; Reuters, T-Online, Nachrichten, Daily Telegraph, Guardian Unlimited, Repubblica, El Mundo, Topix, Der Spiegel, Le Figaro, Yahoo! News, MetaFilter, Daily Mirror, Ars Technica, Signon San Diego, MSNBC, Futura-Sciences, La Stampa, Libération, Actualites en temps reel, Red Orbit, Science Daily, The Mail, The Mail On Sunday, De Welt, Nature (online and 1 print),

TV/Radio interviews:
– BBC1 One O’clock News, Sky (Italy and Greece),
– CBC Radio (Canada), Radio New Zealand, French National TV, Slovenian National TV, Vatican Radio

Feature articles and papers:
– MSNBC: Science News, Episodes, Environmental Geology, Geo

OneGeology website: 5.9 million hits
OneGeology Portal: 29.1 million hits (an average of 10 000 visitors per day)
OneGeology @ 33rd IGC, Oslo.

OneGeology at the 33rd IGC, held in Oslo, Norway 6–14 August was a huge success. OneGeology held a series of events, meetings, exhibition, posters and symposia. The exhibition booth provided a main hub of information and a contact point. We had hundreds of visitors come to talk to us and much interest in the Initiative. The OneGeology events began with the big launch at 4 pm on the 6 August, with special guest speaker Simon Winchester. This was followed by a full-day symposium on the 7th.

Throughout the course of the conference, the OneGeology exhibition booth provided information sheets in multiple languages, help and advice on how to be involved, posters, pens, and even beer mats! And people already involved were on hand to answer any questions.

OneGeology Steering Group Meeting

The Steering Group meeting was attended by 42 directors of geological surveys (or their representatives) OneGeology was formally endorsed by all those present. In addition OneGeology received the support and commitment from these Surveys as well as global geoscience organisations such as CGMW, UNESCO, CCOP, IUGS, EuroGeoSurveys.

It was agreed to set-up a Steering Group consisting of one nominated representative from each global region. This group would then be responsible for setting the protocols and policies necessary to allow OneGeology to move forward and continue its success. The minutes of the meeting are available at www.onegeology.org/meetings/steering_meetings.html

It has been agreed that the globe will be divided into six regions as follows; Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Latin America and Oceania. This Steering Group representation, once confirmed, will meet as soon as possible and will discuss topics such as commercial sponsorship and additional provider ‘channels’ for academia and commerce, etc.

Operational Management Group Meeting

The Operational Management Group held its meeting on the 13 August. The main purpose of the meeting was to review the recent events at the IGC and confirm the next steps. Notes and Actions form this meeting can be found on the website at www.onegeology.org/meetings/operational_meetings.html

Technical Working Group Meeting

The technical working group held its meeting on 6 August.

Minutes and actions from this meeting can be found on the website at www.onegeology.org/meetings/technical_meetings.html

The Portal currently has geological map data for 40 countries being served. Many more countries are currently working towards setting up their web map services (WMS).
Recent talks and presentations

In the last few months OneGeology has been presented to an international Geoinformatics meeting at GFZ Potsdam, Germany; the European Commission INSPIRE GI workshop in Maribor, Slovenia; and the Centennial Meeting of the Association of American State Geologists in West Virginia, USA.

Representatives of the UN Spatial Data Infrastructure Framework and the major EC Global Monitoring for Environment and Security initiative have both approached OneGeology about potential provision of global data and services. Geological surveys who wish to serve the geological map data of their nations to the OneGeology portal should contact onegeology@bgs.ac.uk.