

IAG GEO COMMITTEE CAPACITY BUILDING (IGCCB)

Report to: **GGOS Chair:** Prof. Dr. Markus Rothacher
Vice-Chairs: **Ruth Neilan,**
Hans-Peter Plag

rothacher@gfz-potsdam.de
rneilan@jpl.nasa.gov,
hpplag@unr.edu

The IGCCB attended the GEO capacity building meeting in Paris (6-7 March 2006) and the IGCCB activities for the next 6 months will be guided by the outcome of this meeting and a follow-up meeting to be held 29-31 May 2006 in São José dos Campos, Brazil. The IAG was represented by Ludwig Combrinck and Hermann Drewes.

During the March meeting the worksheets of the CB working group (containing activities and descriptions of activities to be performed) were revisited and edited. The IAG was added to the worksheets and GEO Task List Matrix; Tasks DI-06-12, CB-06-01, CB-06-02, and CB-06-03.

The GEO Capacity Building Committee developed a limited scope questionnaire, to be distributed to capacity building committee members, to prepare an inventory of existing capacity building programs and initiatives. The survey will be supplemented by a web study and the results will be used as an input for the May workshop.

This questionnaire was subsequently distributed to the IAG presidents and GGOS SC members in order to probe the IAG at high level concerning current capacity building initiatives. The IGCCB will collate the responses and prepare feedback for the GEO secretariat.

The May workshop in Brazil will be used to develop a more comprehensive survey that will be sent to all GEO members and participating organisations. An essential component of the comprehensive survey is to develop both a provider and user perspective of capacity building activities. Some of the capacity building initiatives in developing countries concerning the IAG may require in the field surveys, as some activities are not always visible using high level surveys, and especially capacity gaps might be overlooked.

The results of the May workshop and subsequent work will be used to develop a strategy for GEO CB. The strategy will be presented at a Capacity Building Symposium in early 2007. The symposium will also be used a platform for discussions with donors and decision-makers.

The results of the May workshop will provide some guidelines for the IGCCB as to how to progress and ensure that GGOS becomes an active partner in the capacity building structure and initiatives of GEO. Gaps in capacity as well as in capacity building will have to be identified to ensure maximal exposure of IAG requirements to the GEO process to facilitate future expansion and funding channelling. It is envisaged that GEO/GEOSS will in the future play a role in guiding science administrators and government science departments in the allocation of funding, especially in developing countries.

Ludwig Combrinck
Hermann Drewes
Chris Rizos