

# **CHARTER OF THE GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION CONSORTIUM**

## **1. AIMS**

- 1.1. The aims of the Geoscience Information Consortium (GIC) are:
  - 1.1.1. to exchange information among Geological Surveys Organisations (GSOs) related to the use and management of geoscience information systems in support of the earth sciences internationally;
  - 1.1.2. to provide a forum where individual geological survey solutions to problems commonly experienced by each organisation, including data capture, database design, data analysis, and output, can be presented and discussed;
  - 1.1.3. to provide the opportunity for discussion and promulgation of data standards, data exchange formats for the sharing of geoscience data and solutions to operational problems;
  - 1.1.4. to provide opportunities to initiate cooperative ventures that demonstrate and implement data sharing and problem solving techniques among the member surveys;
  - 1.1.5. to use the Internet to allow member surveys to exchange data and ideas, in particular to develop and maintain a GIC web site as a platform for communication;
  - 1.1.6. to act as a leverage group to influence the design and cost of software, hardware and networks.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

- 2.1. Membership is open to all national Geological Survey Organisations, who wish to contribute to the improved understanding of geoscience information systems.
- 2.2. National Geological Surveys wishing to participate should apply to the Executive Secretary.
- 2.3. Membership is being withdrawn, if the member country is not submitting a national report for three consecutive years.

## **3. MEETINGS**

- 3.1. GIC will hold meetings annually.
- 3.2. The meetings are normally hosted by a different member each year and are open to all members.
- 3.3. Each country may send a maximum of two delegates to the meeting. The delegates will be senior staff of the geological survey who are responsible for information systems. The host country may participate as needed.
- 3.4. Each country should contribute a national report before the annual meeting.
- 3.5. The programme of the meetings will normally last for 3 to 5 days.

## **4. ADMINISTRATION**

- 4.1. The Executive Secretary is elected by a greater than 50 percent majority vote by the members present at the annual meeting to serve for a period of 3 years. The serving period is limited to two consecutive terms. This person is responsible for long term administration, for managing the GIC web site and for assisting the host country in the organisation of the annual meeting. The Executive Secretary is the focal point for all GIC matters.
- 4.2. The Executive Secretary is assisted by a Steering Group who will provide support in achieving GIC aims.
- 4.3. The Steering Group will be made up of 6 members from GSOs; preferably representatives with a worldwide distribution, plus the Executive Secretary.
- 4.4. The Steering Group members will be nominated (and, if necessary, elected by vote) by the members of GIC at the annual meeting and will serve for 3 years. The serving period is limited to two consecutive terms. Election of two Steering Group members will take place at each annual meeting.
- 4.5. The host country is responsible for the organisation of the annual meeting.
  - 4.5.1. A business meeting of members will be held as part of the programme
  - 4.5.2. The host country for the next meeting will be chosen by consensus of the members present at the annual meeting.
  - 4.5.3. The host country is responsible for:
    - preparing and distributing to members, in advance, a programme for the meeting;
    - facilitating the annual meeting in terms of making logistical arrangements for members and provision of meeting rooms;
    - preparing and distributing to members a volume of Proceedings of the programme as soon as practical after its conclusion.

## **5. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 5.1. Participants at annual meetings are responsible for their expenses, which may include, at the request of the host country and provided it is declared at the time of the bid to host a meeting, all or part of their share of the costs of incidental expenses of the annual meeting.
- 5.2. Changes to the GIC Charter require approval by a majority of two thirds of members attending the annual meeting.
- 5.3. Proposals to GIC are to be directed to the Executive Secretary by email. The Executive Secretary will acknowledge receipt and forward the proposal to the Steering Group for consideration. A response, based on Steering Group comments, will be prepared by the Executive Secretary and delivered, where possible, within one month. Proposals and responses will be communicated to members by email, or at the Annual Meeting, as deemed appropriate by the Executive Secretary.

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