

GISCorps Conference Call –February 22nd, 2005, 3:00 PM

Present: Shoreh Elhami, Juna Papajorgji, Ed Wells, Chris Dionne, Sanjiv Gandhi

1. GC legal matters:

- Pro bono legal work (Release form, code of conduct, General policies, FAQ page, and etc.): Juna met Phil Cobler, the pro bono lawyer who said that he would be willing to serve as GC's ongoing advisor. Juna provided him with a complete package of GC material. He is going to review all the material in the order of priority determined by us. However, he asked that we sign off on a form that would release him from past and future claims including claims for negligence. Juna mailed the form to Chris and she will sign and notarize the form and send it back to Juna. Phil's first task would be the review of the volunteer's release form.

2. Tsunami related matters:

- **Global MapAid, Frank Chang:** Frank received his Indonesia visa and will go there on February 27th. Rupert Bate of GMA will join him on March 1st. He may also travel to India after his Indonesia trip (time permitting). Shoreh and Juna are communicating with Frank on a daily basis, providing him with contacts, directions and help with letters for his visas.
- **VVAF:** They have selected 5 volunteers and their Washington DC staff is in the process of figuring out all the insurance related matters. They will send us an email as soon as all details are clarified. The mission's date is tentatively set for sometime in early March and for a month.
- **SeedsIndia & MapAction:** We identified 8 volunteers for this project and 7 of them emailed us back and confirmed their interest. These volunteers all live in the US and are performing their tasks remotely. One of these volunteers, Beni Patel, was designated as the team leader. MapAction has set up an ftp site where all the available data and newly created data are stored. The GC team has also setup a Wiki site for exchanging comments and ideas. Shoreh and Juna are closely monitoring their work and help whenever necessary.
- **MapRelief:** They are still looking for necessary funding to defray the travel costs of volunteers.

3. Financial related activities:

- **Expenses and donations to-date:** Chris reported that they have received several donations for GC (+/- \$1,800) but that the financial report wasn't available. She said that she will email us the report as soon as it becomes available.
- **Grant writing/Donor lists:** Juna has come up with a list of potential donors (6 of them). We need to draft a professional and effective letter for this purpose. She also mentioned that a list of grant writers are identified (5 of them) and that we will contact them in the next couple of weeks to see if they can get started with 6 grants also identified by Juna. The total amount of these 6 grants is +/- \$100,000. She also said that with what GC has become and what we are doing, we do qualify for these grants. She will send the list to CC (already sent). The committee agreed that there is no commitment to the grants at this point and no decisions need to be made until and if the grants are granted. Therefore, it was decided to go

ahead and work with the grant writers on an individual basis to guide them through the process. Shoreh and Juna will split up the list of qualified volunteers for this project and will get started.

4. Web Updates:

- Juna has been constantly updating the web site with new material. There has been an inappropriate message posted on our forum and she asked if she should just post a sentence that says this forum is moderated. Everyone agreed with that. She has since added that verbiage to the site.

5. Other Potential projects:

- **Afghanistan:** Shoreh has set the date for her trip to Kabul and will be there from May 6th to May 13th. AIMS (a UNDP agency) is interested in using our volunteers for creating a GIS curriculum and developing training material. Shoreh will be investigating how GC volunteers can best serve AIMS' needs and who would the best candidates be. While there, she may also teach an ArcGIS course and/or give short workshops on ArcGIS extensions and cadastral mapping. While AIMS will provide housing for Shoreh, the entire cost of this trip will be paid by her.

6. Old items:

- **GC's By-laws:** Ed stated that he and Martha are very busy with other commitments and that they won't be able to work on the by-laws until June.
- **GSDI presentation in Cairo:** Juna said that she is not sure if she would be able to go to Cairo. She will have a better idea about her schedule by next month's call and will inform us of her plans at that time.

7. New Items:

- **Registering GC as a UN recognized NGO:** Juna explained the issue and why it would be beneficial to become a UN registered NGO. She also said that this would be an involved process and that we should find someone else to do this. Frank would be a good candidate but we have to ask him after he returns. Sanjiv suggested that this matter would be moved up on the agenda for further discussion.
- **GC presentations:** Several members and volunteers will be presenting at various conferences on behalf of GC: FLURISA (Juna), N. Carolina (Martha), California (Bruce), and Alaska (Ed). Shoreh and Juna will work on a new and updated power point file (it's already completed and available on the web site) and that it will be provided to all the presenters.

The meeting ended at 4:15 PM.

The next call will be held on Tuesday March 15th at 3:00 PM EST.