

GISCorps Conference Call – February 15th, 2006, 3:00 PM

Present: Chris Dionne, Shoreh Elhami, Frank Chang, Mark Salling, Juna Papajorgji, Wendy Francis

1. **Trademark Status & Financial Activities:** (Chris) - No news on the trademark yet. Based on the latest financial report, Total donations since the inception (2003) is at: \$45,654.51 and total expenses at: 8,941.24. The balance as of the end of January is at: 36,713.27. In order to update the web site with the most current donation figures, **Chris will send the latest information to Shoreh.**
2. **CC Organizational:**
 - Strategic Plan (SP), Operational Plan (OP), and Standard Operation Procedure Manual (SOPM) - Martha was absent.
 - Sub-committees, their responsibilities/tasks -
 - Action items from each sub-committee leader – **Shoreh asked each sub-committee leader to come up with a list of action items for their own committees and send it to the CC prior to the next call.**
3. **Web site update:**
 - Scope of Work – Frank has developed a Scope of Work document which he sent to the members prior to the call. He then described each section. **CC members will go over the list of enhancements and will prioritize them before the next call.** This list will then be given to the URISA web site consultant after their web site is up and running (some time after March). Also talked about the Groove software and it was suggested that testing the software may be a good idea. **Frank will look into that.**
4. **GISP Credit for GC Volunteers and letter:** Martha was absent.
5. **Deployment related news: (Juna)**
 - Medical Mission Exchange (MMEX) first and second mission - Juna reported Five volunteers were deployed to MMEX's first project which was recently completed. Building upon the success of the first mission, GISCorps is now in the process of setting up a second mission with them. This mission will tie the four geo-libraries for each country with MMEX's existing tabular databases and it will integrate these geo-libraries into the overall operational model of the MMEX. This mission needs a person on site for 3-4 days. Juna has already identified a volunteer in Vermont (Diana Sinton). **She will finalize Mission 2 in February.**
 - GSDI projects - During September – November 2005 Juna worked with a team from the GSDI to review 71 grant proposals from over 50 countries which resulted in 15 grant awards. Following are the results of the grant awardees that relate to the GISCorps: Recipients of up to \$2,500 in voluntary services from the GISCorps:
 - Namibia - Biodiversity database
 - Armenia - Web-mapping volcanoes
 - Kenya - Coastal resources maps/oil spills

Recipients of up to \$2,000 in voluntary services from the GISCorps and \$2,500 in cash from the GSDI:

- Institute for Ecology & Botany (Hungary) - Botany Portal
- World Food Program (Mali) - SDI Application
- Marshall Islands (Marshall Islands) - Metadata/clearinghouse

During December – January Juna has been following up and coordinating with each of the six awardees to ascertain confirmation from them that they accept the award and are willing to work with the GISCorps. Starting in February, she will compile a matrix for these 6 projects where she will convert this amount of money to working hours based on the average earning capacities of each of these countries and the selection of volunteers. As the work will be done off site the CPU will be provided by the volunteer (as it has been the case for all of the other GISCorps off site projects), and it will not be included in the contribution amount. She anticipates an average of 100 hours per project and no more than one volunteer for project. These projects seem to be in need of highly specialized people either in programming (mostly open source) or in SDI policy and other related issues. **She will finalize these 6 missions in February.**

6. **Other:**

- Summit in Washington D.C. (potential participants, timing) – The list of participants seem to be in good shape. For the date a possible date in May (May 25th) was suggested. We will discuss this matter as well as the agenda for the meeting at the March call.
- Partner Agency Feedback Form – Shoreh made a few changes to the version that Mark had created and since no one had any other revisions, it was decided that the form could be placed on the web site.
- New Project Form Review – **the form will be reviewed prior to the next call for possible revisions.**
- Video tape review – Everyone agreed that each clip should be reviewed carefully and changes should be suggested so that the final product is a polished and professional product. **Everyone will review the clips once again and will send their comments to the CC.** The final decision will be made at the next call.
- Volunteer Workshop – Martha was absent.
- GeoTec Conference in Ottawa – Shoreh has asked several volunteers to go to this conference and Talbot Brooks has agreed to go.
- Possible project in Panama (CATHALAC) – There is a possibility for deployment of four volunteers to Panama. Shoreh and Juna will be on a Skype call with Cathalac representatives and will report the result back to CC.
- The World Urban Forum conference will be held in Vancouver in June. This is the conference that Juna went to a couple of years ago. She talked about the significance of this conference and the fact that many UN agencies and other

important non-profits gather at this conference and that it would be great if we could attend. She will send further information about the conference.

Next meeting: March 21st 2006, 3:00 PM EST