

GISCorps Conference Call –January 18th, 2005, 3:00 PM

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

1. GC legal matters
 - Pro bono lawyer cancelled the meeting with Juna due to an emergency. Juna will meet with him in the near future and will report back to the committee.
2. Tsunami related matters (Shoreh, Juna):
 - Short listed volunteers
 - i. Starting in late December, Shoreh and Juna carefully evaluated 145 applications and resumes and short-listed 40 volunteers primarily for three organizations. They sent those volunteers an email and asked for their confirmation as well as additional questions. Out of the 40 short listed volunteers, 30 of them responded and depending on their qualifications, they were assigned to the appropriate partner agency and/or for remote work and grant writing. They were thus classified into 4 groups.
 - Global MapAid/Map Action, Frank Chang:
 - i. Rupert Bate with GMA contacted Juna and Shoreh on December 31st and asked if we could enter into a partnership with him and send one of our volunteers with his team to the affected region. We agreed and after reviewing the applications chose Frank Chang as the most qualified volunteer. Rupert then raised enough funds for himself, another GMA volunteer and Frank Chang to go to the region in mid February for two weeks. They are now working on obtaining visa, getting required shots, and other necessary matters. The trip will be a field assessment in Indonesia.
 - VVA:
 - i. Out of 30 confirmed volunteers, 11 were marked as qualified for VVA projects. An email including a summery of these volunteers' qualifications was sent to VVA and we are now waiting to hear back from the VVA.
 - SeedsIndia
 - i. Anshu Sharma of SeedsIndia sent an email and listed their projects of interest and where they would be able to use our volunteers. We discussed the possibility of a collaborative project between SeedsIndia, MapAction, and GC. Everyone agreed that was a good idea especially since MA is stationed in Colombo. The three parties will discuss the details at a conference call tentatively set up at the end of January.
 - MapRelief (Tim Foresman):
 - i. Provided Tim Foresman with a summery list of 10 short listed volunteers who had expertise that fit MapRelief's needs. MapRelief is in the process of obtaining funding and will notify us as soon as they can deploy our volunteers.
 - Responses to-date: As of January 22nd (date of writing the minutes), we had 178 volunteers. This figure has increased by 91 volunteers since December's call.

3. Communications & Outreach (Shoreh, Juna):
 - Several emails about the tsunami related matters were sent to the entire GC list serve as well as URISA list serve and chapters.
 - We are now listed on ESRI, EOGEO, and UN's Economic Commission for Europe's web pages as a GIS Volunteer source.
 - It was suggested that as our volunteers are deployed to the region, we should inform the local media. Chris said that Wendy has done this in the past and can still take care of it. We will generate press releases for this purpose.
4. Partnership (Juna):
 - Partner/Sister Agencies Database. Juna sent the database to the members after the December call.
5. Financial related activities (Chris)
 - Expenses and donations to-date. Chris said that there have been several donations (most of which under \$100) since the last call. The majority of those are coming along with the membership fees. The balance is just over \$10,000 now. Chris will send a report later this month.
 - Juna placed the donor categories that we had agreed upon on the web site.
 - Discussed the possibility of utilizing some of the short listed volunteers who have indicated a high level of expertise for grant writing. Shoreh and Juna have identified about 8 people who we can start working on searching for and obtaining grants. It was discussed that the grant money could be spent on not only administrative and overhead costs, but also on defraying a part of our volunteers' expenses and/or even a new employee that would take care of part of GC's work.
7. Web Updates (Juna)
 - Juna has updated almost every page of the web site with new material regarding our tsunami efforts and activities. She has added several links to other web sites that are using us as a volunteer resource.
8. Potential projects
 - Afghanistan
 - i. Shoreh is still planning to go to Kabul in early to mid May on a fact finding mission and is in communication with AIMS.
 - ii. K-12 CD and Internet based applications: Shoreh sent a TIN dataset to Wansoo in late December. Other than that, there has been no other news/progress on this project due to tsunami activities.
9. Old items:
 - GC's By-law. Martha and Ed have not started the by-laws yet. Ed said that they will report on their progress at the February call.
 - Presenting at GSDI conference in Cairo: Juna stated that she can go to Cairo and all members present agreed that the conference is a worthy one and that GC's presence and presentation will be very fruitful. Juna will provide the committee with a cost estimate for the trip. The committee will consider defraying the expenses at its February call.

The meeting ended at 4:15 PM.

Next meeting Tuesday February 15th at 3:00 PM EST.