

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

Present: Shoreh Elhami, Juna Papajorgji, Tom Conry, Chris Dionne, Sanjiv Gandhi, and Frank Chang (guest)

1. GC legal matters:

- Juna met with Phil Kabler, the pro bono lawyer again and he reported that he has reviewed the SP, OP, and everything else on the web, including the automatic letter sent to the volunteers. He also reviewed URISA's constitution and its bylaws. He said that everything is in great shape. He had done some minor editing and marks, which Juna will implement. He has also reviewed the Volunteer Release Form and has expanded the insurance section of the document. He also said that the volunteer must sign and notarize the form and that there will be a check list section at the end of the form. He suggested that the URISA lawyer would review the revised copy of the Release form, and sign it. Chris will work with Juna on this matter.

As for the Lawyers Without Border (LWB), there was a discussion about the need for two pro-bono entities to work with us and if providing organizational information to both entities would be a good idea. Juna said that she will investigate the necessary details and will bring it back to the group at the next meeting.

2. Projects:

- **Tsunami related projects:**
 - **Global MapAid (GMA):** Frank Chang was our guest. He returned from Indonesia on March 14th (after almost one month). He updated us on regions that he and Rupert Bate of GMA had visited and entities that they had met with. He has already sent a summery email of his mission to the CC and the summery will be placed on the web site.
 - **VVAF:** At the time of the meeting five GC volunteers were either on their way to Indonesia or already there. They will be starting the work in a few days and we will be reporting their progress on the web site. VVAF has informed us of another volunteer opportunity. This one will likely be a remote volunteer project.
 - **SeedsIndia & MapAction:** The 7 member team is busy with creating spatial and non-spatial data for the Andaman islands/Hutaby in India. They are now communicating via two FTP sites (one with the MapAction and one among US users). More details regarding the datasets that they are creating will be placed on the web site as well.
 - **MapRelief:** Same situation. They are still looking for necessary funding to defray the travel costs of volunteers.
- **Afghanistan:** Shoreh will arrive in Kabul on May 6th and will be meeting with several representatives from UNDP, various ministries, as well as the University of Kabul. She may also teach a few workshops. The detailed schedule has not been sent to her and she will forward it to the CC after it's determined

- **Equator:** Juna sent the proposal to the city of Guayaquil (Augusto Jouvin) and has not heard back from him yet.
- 3. Financial related activities:**
- **Expenses and donations to-date:** Chris said that she will send us a report as soon as their financial person prepares the report.
 - **Grant Assignment:** Juna has contacted 3 volunteers who will be working on 4 grants. She has been communicating with them, but grant cycles do not seem to have opened yet. When Frank is released from his GMA obligations, we will have a meeting with him to have one of the volunteers to follow up on his mission with a grant.
 - **Letter to Donors:** Tom will be drafting a letter to the potential donors. He briefly discussed the details and it was mentioned that the letter should focus on what GC has done so far without almost any financial backing. It was agreed that the main argument of the letter would be to ask for a specific number of dollars that will allow for the long term sustainability of GC, which so far has done splendidly without any steady financial contribution, but it can not continue this way. Tom will then send the letter to CC member and then a few other former and current Board members for their review
- 4. Web Updates:**
- **Nationality and place of Residence Survey:** Juna said that she has received 140 responses and that she is planning to create an IMS application (using open source software) to demonstrate the whereabouts of volunteers and our projects. She is working on the database for now and dreaming about the best design for the global map. Some research that she has done, has landed her on the UN's WFP, which she intends to use as a template.
- 5. Old items:**
- **GC's By-laws:** Ed and Martha will work on the document in June 05.
 - **GSDI presentation in Cairo:** Juna said that she has talked to Al Stevens about the conference and he has said that she can attend a meeting of the committee for sponsored project, where she can give them a 10-minute presentation. She still has not arranged for her trip which is held in mid April, she is waiting on a confirmation from her hotel, and then will ask the CC as to what we want to achieve at that meeting.
 - **Report on GC presentations:** Martha and Ed, were not present to report on their presentations in NC and Alaska. However, Bruce presented GC at the California GIS conference where 30 people listened to him talk. Juna will give a presentation in Sarasota on May 26th. She is lobbying for Frank to join in.
- 6. New Items:**
- **Online Partner Agency Form:** Shoreh sent CC members a draft of the partner agency form and since there were no comments, Juna will place the form on the web site.
 - **GC presentation at GIS at Rockies:** Cindy Domenico will present GC at the GIS at Rockies conference which is held in September 2005.

The meeting ended 4:45 PM.

The next call will be held on Tuesday April 19th at 3:00 PM EST.