

FOUR YEAR REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES FOR 2004-2008



This report is in two parts:

- i) some basic information about CGI and its operation;
- ii) highlights of the period 2004-2008.

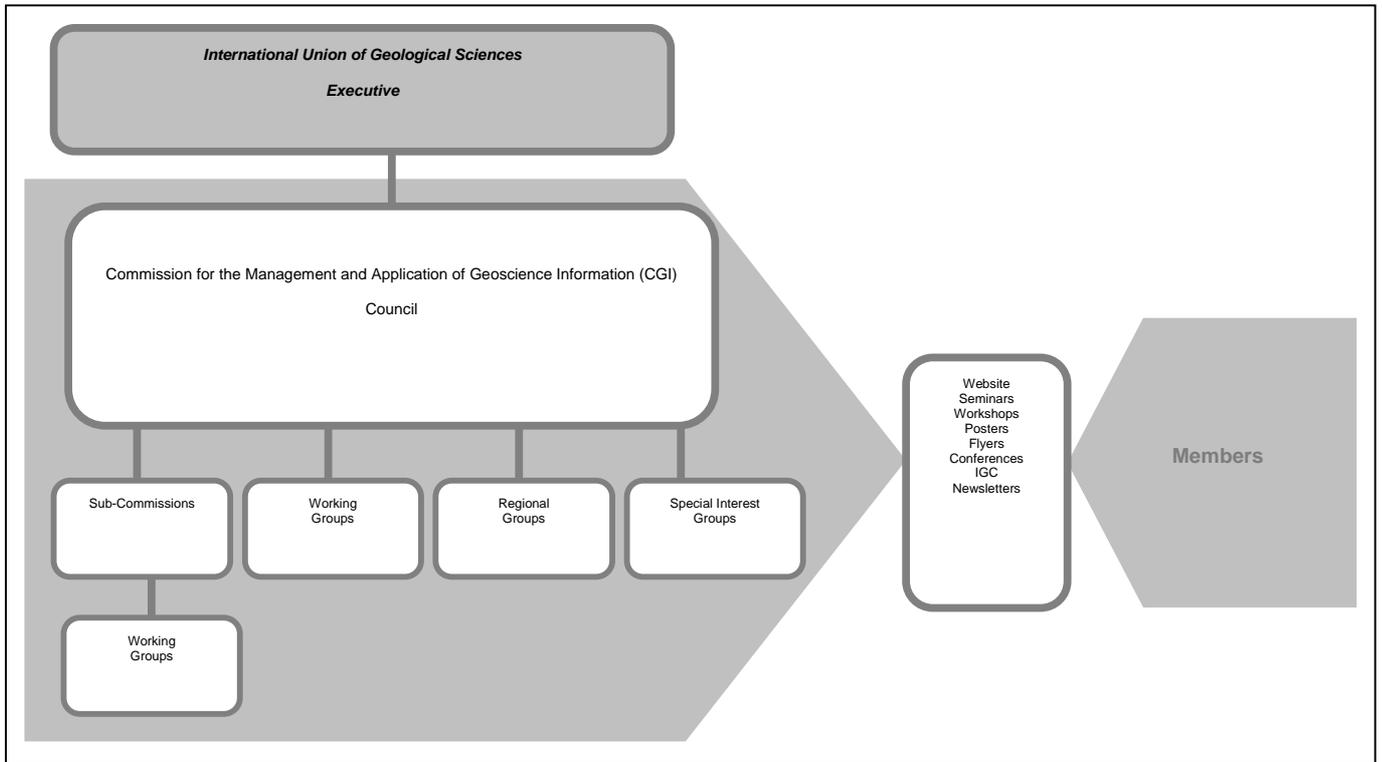
CGI: an introduction

CGI was re-activated in 2002 by the IUGS. Its mission is:-

- Help in exchanging knowledge on geoscience information and systems;
- Support dissemination of best practice in geoscience information;
- Encourage the development of geoscience information standards;
- Play a full part in the international geoscience information community and represent IUGS on geoscience information matters;
- Bring together individuals and organisations with an interest in the management and application of geoscience information.



CGI: Structure



CGI
Commission for the Management and Application of Geoscience Information

CGI

Contacts and Membership

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

IUGS

Council

Between 2004 and 2008 CGI operated through a Council of eleven people. Eight were elected at the IGC 2002 and the remaining three through nomination. The CGI is just completing the process of electing a new council for the period 2008-2012.

Max Fernandez

John Broome



Simon Cox



Anna-Karren Nguno



Gabriel Asato



Kristine Asch



Current CGI Council



Sergei Cherkasov



Francois Robida



Ian Jackson



Dave Soller



Koji Wakita



Membership

There are 214 members of the CGI representing 62 countries.



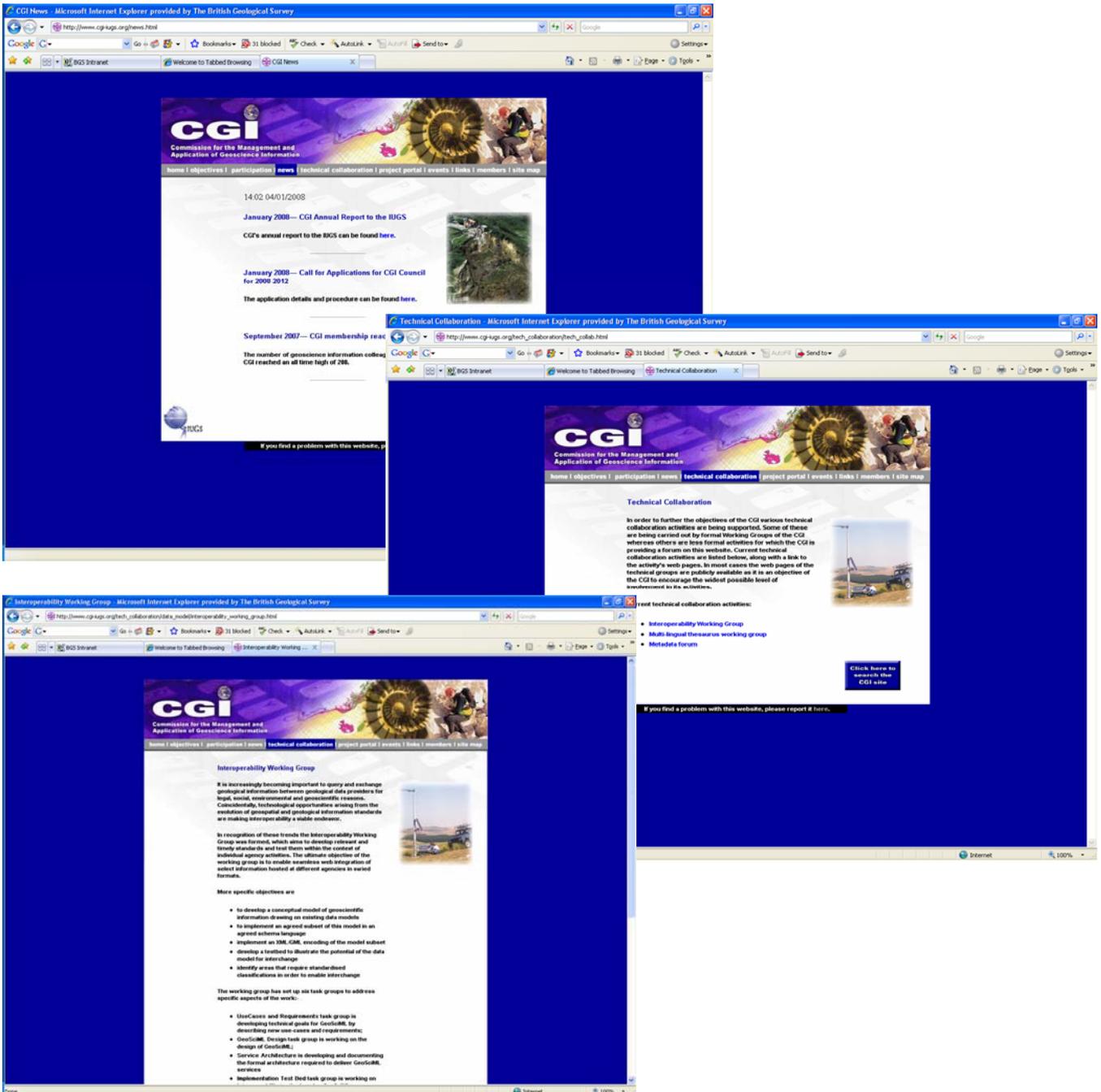
Meetings

The CGI Council meet at least once a year and opportunistically at other events and conferences.

CGI held its first full Open Meeting at the IGC in Florence in August 2004. In preparation for this meeting new Statutes were produced and agreed, elections were held for the Council, a new CGI website was set-up, flyers were designed and distributed, invitation to the meeting issued to over 1500 people worldwide.

Communication and website

The CGI website is its key means of communication. In addition to containing all the documentation about CGI, it provides news about related projects, events and web resources. eMailshots update the membership periodically and in addition throughout each year every opportunity is taken to raise awareness of CGI and its work through presentations and posters at conferences and meetings.

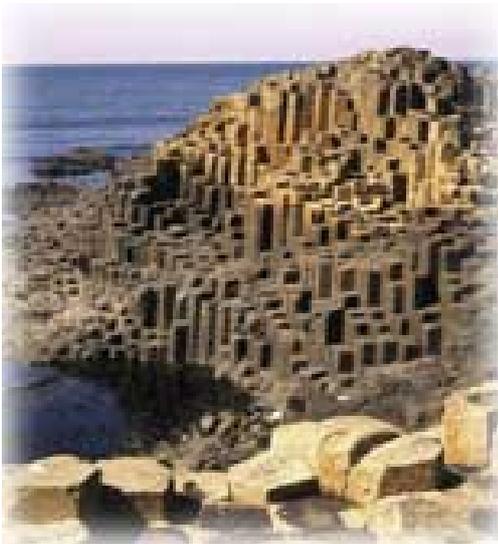


Action plan 2004-08

During the early part of 2004, the Council considered what practical and achievable objectives could be set for CGI and created an action plan.

CGI Action Plan for 2004-2008

- *Understand and map the mandates and activities of international geoscience bodies;*
- *Catalyze productive alliances between geoscience information bodies;*
- *Refine the multi-lingual geoscience thesaurus;*
- *Develop a framework for CGI ratification of geoscience information standards;*
- *Promote international use of data exchange standards;*
- *Facilitate organisation of relevant outreach workshops.*



Finance and budget

CGI receives funding from the IUGS but no direct financial support from other bodies. However, it does receive indirect support in terms of staff-time and meeting and other infrastructure facilities from the parent organisation of its Council members and organisations.

	\$ account		€account	
	In	Out	In	Out
October 2002 kick off "new" CGI	2 172.81		1 112.59	
2002 allocation IUGS (3000\$)	3 000.00			
2001/2002 grant ICSU (5000\$)	5 000.00			
Council meetings				-10.00
New website		-2 512.32		
CGI bank account costs		-0.60		
Balance 2002	7 659.89		1 103.59	
2003				
2003 allocation IUGS (5000\$)			4 104.75	
Council meetings				-826.27
MT working group				-426.00
CGI bank account costs				-25.00
Balance 2003	7 659.89		3 931.07	
2004				
2004 allocation IUGS (5000\$)			4 165.28	
Debudgetting unclaimed expenses 2003			426.00	
Council meetings				-138.00
CGI flyer				-696.00
MT working group				-426.00
Firenze prep and participation				-294.60
Website				-2006.05
CGI bank costs				-20.00
Balance 2004	7 659.89		4 941.70	
2005				
Domain name CGI website (28.20£)				-43.00
2005 allocation IUGS (5000\$)	5 000.00			
Council meetings				-286.30
CGI bank costs				-20.00
Balance 2005	12 659.89		4 592.40	
2006				
IUGS grant outreach workshop (10000\$)	10 000.00			
UNESCO grant outreach workshop leaflet (5000\$) contract 4500027900	5 000.00			
2006 IUGS allocation (5000\$)	5 000.00			
Refund datamodel workshop Perth Dec 2004		-367.68		-27.83
Maputo outreach workshop		-2 941.23		-3 510.85
Printing and shipping leaflet		-4 690.00		-2 390.49
Internal transfer \$=>€		-5 000.00	3 857.73	
Balance 2006	19 660.98		2 520.96	
2007				
CGI bank costs 2006				-20.00
2007 IUGS grant allocation	7 500.00			
Cost domain name CGI website (24.99£)				-41.79
CGI bank costs 2007				-30.00
Balance on 20.12.2007	27 160.00		2 429.17	

Relationships

CGI continues to liaise closely with many other international bodies including the Commission for the Geological Map of the World, the International Association of Mathematical Geologists, ICSU-CODATA, CCOP, CIFEG and UNESCO.

Working Groups progress

CGI has two major thematic working groups: The Interoperability Working Group and the Multilingual Thesaurus Working Group. It also has a Regional Working Group in East and Southeast Asia.

The CGI **Interoperability Working Group** is developing an XML based standard for the exchange of geology data.

The task of the **Multilingual Thesaurus Working Group (MTG)** is to review and produce an up to date and coherent version of the multilingual thesaurus for geosciences.

Regional Working Groups

- Regional CGI Working Groups were proposed at the inaugural CGI meeting. The first of these the **Regional Working Group for East and Southeast Asia** was initiated in 2005.

Highlights of 2004-2008

Interoperability



The work on interoperability of geoscience data is one of the most important tasks that CGI supports. Through its Interoperability Working Group CGI is developing the mark-up language GeoSciML. Our work on GeoSciML has been enormously successful, made excellent progress and is having an impact across the geoscience, informatics and spatial data infrastructure domains. Thanks are due to the hardwork and efforts of the CGI Interoperability Working Group.

Outreach Workshops



With the support of UNESCO in July 2006 a very successful initial Outreach Workshop was held at the 21st Colloquium on African Geology in Maputo. A further Outreach Workshop for Africa is planned in Namibia and is being supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (€125000)

OneGeology



CGI and Council members have been very closely involved in the development of OneGeology – the global initiative to make digital geological map data for the Earth accessible. Following a very successful opening Workshop in Brighton UK March 2007, the project has grown dramatically and now geological surveys and organisations from 74 countries are participating. OneGeology will be launched at the IGC Oslo August 2008.

IGC 2008



A major 120 paper CGI 4.5 day Geoscience Information Symposium is going to take place at the IGC33 in Oslo. The symposium which is also supported by the International Association for Mathematical Geology (IMAG) and the Geoscience Information Consortium (GIC) will have sessions on topics ranging from data capture, to information management and delivery, to 3D modelling.

INSPIRE



INSPIRE is a Directive of the European Commission that was came into force on 15 May 2007. INSPIRE will drive standardisation and harmonisation efforts for digital geospatial information. In the next few years it will introduce legally binding specifications for the discovery, viewing and delivery of digital spatial data across the EU. CGI are playing a major role in the formulation of the Directive through their membership of the EC Regulations Drafting Teams, and the creation of GeoSciML.

Geoscience information bodies across the World



CGI undertook a survey was undertaken of geoscience information bodies that exist across the World – their roles, activities and scope. This census is posted on the CGI website and is constantly updated as new information is made known to us. CGI has established very close links with the International Association for Mathematical Geology (IAMG).

Acknowledgements

We would like to record our thanks to all members of CGI and its working groups and secretariat, and to members of the IUGS Executive for their help and encouragement over the last four years.

9 April 2008



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