

**SCAR WG-GGI Position Paper  
to the  
SCAR Transition Group**

At the Working Group on Geodesy and Geographic Information Coordinators meeting, held in Siena, Italy on 14 July 2001 the subject of the SCAR review was raised for discussion.

- The WG was concerned at the lack of information and progress in implementation of the review findings tabled at XXVI SCAR in July 2000, particularly the future structure of WGs, and their interface with specialist or theme groupings of science activities.
- The consensus view around the table was that GGI works very effectively in its current format and needs to stay as a permanent group, with liaison to other research blocks in the new structure. Possibly a new name would better reflect the nature of the work – perhaps a change to “Spatial Information Network” might be considered (eg SPIN).
- Currently geodesy work is active in two separate areas – research geodesy activities in earth science in monitoring plate tectonics and building permanent geodetic infrastructure activities in support of orderly spatial data integration. The former would fit well into supporting earth science specialists, while the latter should remain as a separate working group integrating information from all other groups. It is perceived that there is still a need by the science community, for both geodesy research and consolidation of specific temporal geodesy into a permanent geodetic infrastructure activities to continue.
- It was recognised there is a need for geographic information (including a geodetic infrastructure component) to be at the core of the SCAR new structure, as it ultimately supports all research with a location component, including the ATCM and CEP requirements which it is well placed to service. So it should not be boxed and isolated from science or management activities but need s liaison to service both SCAR activities.
- The issue of how GGI activities and JCADM activities would continue in a new structure also generated some debate. The feeling of the meeting was that an attempt to combine the two groups activities could result in GGI being ‘taken over’ or ‘swamped’ by data managers – particularly if the Chair of a combined group were to come from a data management background. It is considered important that the requirement of ATCM groups and also IAATO groups should be considered.

In summary, the WG-GGI proposes to the SCAR Transition Group that WG-GGI remain as it is in its current form and that Geodesy experts will also be required to participate in earth science research activities.

The WG looks forward to the early announcement of the approach to Working Groups to be employed in the new structure, so we can get on with things without wasting energy worrying about duplication and delaying activities in an uncertain future, as we start to focus on arrangements for the SCAR Shanghai meeting.

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