



Information

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## Nippon Foundation – GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project

In the opening address of the Forum for Future Ocean Floor Mapping in Monaco in June 2016, Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, Japan's largest private philanthropic foundation, set forth an initiative to partner with GEBCO to cooperatively work towards mapping 100% of the topography of the World Ocean by 2030. This initiative has led to the establishment of **Seabed 2030**, a global project within the IHO-IOC GEBCO framework with the focused goal of producing the definitive, **high resolution bathymetric data base of the entire World Ocean by 2030**. Seabed 2030 is driven by the desire to empower the world to make policy decisions, use the ocean sustainably and undertake scientific research based on detailed bathymetric information of the Earth's seabed.

The Seabed 2030 Roadmap document sets out the current status of global bathymetric mapping and the rationale of the Seabed 2030 project.

[https://seabed2030.gebco.net/documents/seabed\\_2030\\_roadmap\\_v10\\_low.pdf](https://seabed2030.gebco.net/documents/seabed_2030_roadmap_v10_low.pdf)

Seabed 2030 will establish a network of four regional centers. Each center will be the focus for gathering and assembling all available bathymetric data from the region and producing a regional map. Between them the four centers will cover all the world. A global center will merge the regional maps, producing the centralized GEBCO products. The Global Centre will be based at the National Oceanographic Centre, Southampton, UK.

The four Regional centers will be

- a) Arctic and North Pacific. Based at Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden
- b) Southern Ocean to 50 S. Based at Alfred Wegener Institute, Bremerhaven, Germany

- c) South Pacific and Western Pacific. Based at the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research, Wellington, New Zealand
- d) Atlantic and Indian. Based at Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, New York, USA

The project will commence with a six months establishment phase managed by an Establishment Team of GEBCO Guiding Committee members and external experts, focused on setting up the organization structures and initiating key early work activities.

The Establishment Team consists of Graham Allen, Robin Falconer, Martin Jakobsson, and Marzia Rovere from the Guiding Committee and David Heydon, Larry Mayer, David Millar, and Lisa Taylor.

Once established, Seabed 2030 will move into the operational mode, managed through a Project Team reporting to the GEBCO Guiding Committee and The Nippon Foundation. The Project Team will comprise the heads of the four regional centers and the global center plus an overall Project Director. The Establishment Team is leading the Director recruitment process. Advertising will start soon. The interim heads of the centers are Martin Jakobsson, Boris Dorschel, Geoffroy Lamarche, Vicki Ferrini and Graham Allen.

The Nippon Foundation are planning to provide funding of \$18.5 million over ten years. The funding will cover funding of the Director and some personnel at the five centers, with some travel and meeting costs. It would not cover any actual survey costs.

Complementing the regional centers, the Seabed 2030 Project Team will engage extensively with international marine industry, research, national and intergovernmental organizations involved in ocean mapping to coordinate a global approach. Having the definitive view of the state of seabed mapping, Seabed 2030 will identify gaps in data coverage, prioritize and champion future survey operations to map the gaps.

Continued development of human capacity will be a key contributor to achieving the project goals. Seabed 2030 will build on the successes of The Nippon Foundation – GEBCO training project that has been running at the University of New Hampshire since 2004. The Establishment Team will initiate a capacity development needs analysis for bathymetric mapping, including identifying how the University of New Hampshire training program and the extensive Nippon Foundation Alumni Association will contribute to Seabed 2030. From this we shall further propose a capacity development project to continue to build the skills and expertise to drive Seabed 2030 forward.

As the focus of bathymetric mapping, Seabed 2030, has a unique role in identifying how technical innovation can accelerate our ability to cost-effectively and quickly map the World Oceans. While not developing new technologies itself, Seabed 2030 will act as a forum for mappers and technology providers to communicate and collaborate on innovation of mapping technologies. Working closely with other organizations driving marine technology innovation forwards, such as XPRIZE, Seabed 2030, will champion and advocate for technology innovation.

For further information contact:

Dr Robin K H Falconer  
GEBCO Guiding Committee  
[robinfalconerassociates@paradise.net.nz](mailto:robinfalconerassociates@paradise.net.nz)  
mobile +64 27 274 7741 office +64 4 904 3579  
skype robin.falconer2

