

MINUTES OF THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS HELD AT THE PALAIS de CONGRES IN NIAMEY NIGER FROM THE 11TH TO THE 15TH DECEMBER 2012

STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting of the OAGS, under the theme ‘**Problematic of Geological Research and Mineral Inventory Financing in Africa**’, was held according to the programme outlined below:

Tuesday 11 December 2012:

Day 1 Workshop :Introduction

- Welcome – Amadou Hassan (Niger- EMIG)
- Official Opening – Mr. Mamadou Dikouma, Secretary General (representing the Minister of State: Minister of Mines and Industries Development)
- Opening Remarks - Mr. L Bitam (representing the Presidency of the OAGS: ANGCM, Algeria)
- Introduction of Participants - Mr. L Bitam (representing the Presidency of the OAGS: ANGCM, Algeria)
- OAGS Overview, Action Plans & Expectations from workshop - Mr. L Bitam (representing the Presidency of the OAGS: ANGCM, Algeria)
- Eurogeosurveys - : Role , organization and activities, and background to workshop (Luca Demicheli)
- Geoscientific knowledge and skills at African Geological Surveys- General Presentation of the project proposal (Marek Graniczny)
- OAGS – Preliminary remarks on the draft text prepared by EGS (Mr. L Bitam)
- Subdivision into groups and identification of Rapporteurs – a group discussion on the following proposed topics as defined in the draft text developed by EGS for future action (Amadou Hassan, Marek Granczny)
 - Priority actions to strengthen OAGS
 - Gap analysis of geoscience base information and geoscientific mapping
 - Gap analysis of mineral resources assessments
 - Groundwater, geohazards and geoheritage
 - Methods/tools (infrastructure, laboratories, equipment, facilities.

Day One adjourned at 18h00

Wednesday, 12 December 2012

Day Two Workshop

- Reporting on the outcomes from the participants (Rapporteurs)
- Synthesis of the outcomes from the groups, discussion on possible conflicts and definition of the Road Map (Lhacene Bitam and Luca Demicheli)
- Recommendations and preparation of the final document to be signed by at the OAGS General Meeting (Lhacene Bitam, Luca Demicheli, Amadou Hassane and Marek Graniczny)

Day two adjourned at 18h00

Thursday, 13 December 2012

Day Three - Presentations by various stakeholders

- Mineral potential of Niger – Abdou Ousseinin Geological Engineer, Ministry of Mines and Industrial Development, Niger
- Contribution of geological and mining research to poverty reduction in Niger – Bacir Moussa Dan DiBi, Geological Engineer at EMIG, Niamey
- Assessment of geological and mining research in Niger over the 1900 – 2012 period – Dr El Hamet Mai Ousmane, Director CRGM, Niger
- A presentation from Ghana was presented by L Bitam.
Delegates deliberated and discussed each presentation at length.

Day Three adjourned at 16h30

Friday, 14 December 2012

Day Four – Excursions

- Delegates together with Army Soldiers met at Gaweye Hotel at 06h30 and proceeded on a geological excursion and visited the following sites.
 - Stop One – Pillow lava of Larba Koira Zeno
 - Stop Two – Granites of Toure
 - Stop Three – Andesitics Breccia
 - Stop Four – Panning Site of Bouloun Djounga
 - Stop Five – Samira Mining Site - Lunch
 - Visit of Samira Mining treatment dump site
 - Visit of Samira Mining Open Pit Gold Mine
 - Visit of Samira Mining Processing Plant
- Returned to Niamey at 18h15

Saturday, 15 December 2012

Day Five – Annual General Meeting of the Organization of Geological Surveys

- Annual General Meeting of the Organization of African Geological Surveys
- Niamey City Tour
- Cocktail Party

The minutes below detail the OAGS AGM of the 15th of December 2012

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OAGS

1. WELCOME AND CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Chairman, Mr. Bitam, welcomed all delegates present and outlined the agenda and how it will progress throughout the meeting. The agenda was accepted by official OAGS Members namely Niger, Algeria, Senegal and South Africa whilst observers acknowledged the agenda.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. L Bitam delivered a presentation detailing the meeting of the OAGS which was held in Windhoek, Namibia in 2012. Additionally, the participation of him at the EGS meeting in Brussels in March 2012, the participation of Mr. A Hassan at the EGS meeting in Brussels in January 2012 and the participation of Mr. Duodu at the AU meeting in Addis Abeba in November 2012. In his report Mr. A Hassan stated that the conference was high level and the theme was on “EU partnerships on raw materials” and was on launching commodities in future between EU and Africa. The conference had three categories;

1. Good Governance
2. Infrastructure Development
3. Transparency

He stated also that the EU is willing to cooperate with that AU and that there’s a possibility of enforcing exploration in Africa and participation. Whilst Mr. L Bitam highlighted that at the meeting he attended the EU Commission listed six priorities.

PRESENTATIONS

3. ANNUAL REPORT ON OAGS PROJECTS

Copies of presentations made were presented to participants as a bound document, and will be made available on the website.

3.1. Role of Geological Surveys in Supporting Small-Scale Mining (SSM) – Ghana and Nigeria

A detailed report from Ghana and Niger was presented at the meeting and Mr. Duodu’s presentation viewed by all. The participants noted that OAGs was never invited officially to the meeting that Mr. Duodu attended and presented issues on OAGS. The report was acknowledged.

Resolution: In future it will be better if any invitations to any event should get authority of the Secretariat and or President.

3.2. Atlas of African Geosites

The Geological Survey of Namibia in Windhoek accepted the models; the President will have a communications with Mr. Tafer regarding the participation of Algeria. South Africa stated that is working on its contribution on Geosites.

Resolution: Algeria will publish the first volume supported by South Africa

3.3. Seismotectonic Map of Africa – M Al Gabry Egypt

An agreement on the frame of these projects proposed for the first draft was adopted. Participants also discussed funding opportunities for these projects.

Resolution: 1. OAGS to write a letter to Prof Meghraoui

2. Algeria to print the map

3. Ask Ghana to support the geoteam's stay in Accra and write an invitation letter for them.

4. Request a meeting in Ghana in 2013

Senegal, Niger, South Africa and Algeria supported the proposal

3.4. Seismotectonic Map of Maghreb Region - A Ayadi, Algeria

Part of the African Map will not be adopted as the presentation is only to inform members about how the work is going. The map is ready.

3.5. Seismotectonic map of Algeria – S Guellai Algeria

Resolution: Acknowledge the progress of the map and congratulate the authors

3.6. Seismotectonic map of other African regions

No discussion took place on this subject

Resolution: deferred

3.7. OAGS Bulletin – Algeria

Mr. L Bitam noted that the issue of poor communication has been noted in previous meetings, explaining that this has now impacted the production of the second bulletin of the activities of the OAGS. He was supported by Mr. L Demichelli of the EuroGeosurveys in underscoring the importance of this bulletin for the OAGS. The bulletin was unfortunately not printed unfortunately as the members are not submitting contributions

Resolution:

1. Proposed an electronic version to be coordinated by the Secretariat and Presidency and should focus on the meeting that took place in Niamey and to include all presentations.
2. Secretariat to circulate to all members
3. Algeria to print hard copies as well and distribute

Action: Algeria, South Africa, Nigeria

4. FINAL DOCUMENT ON COOPERATION OAGS –EGS (Bitam and Demichelli)

The joint signing of the memorandum of cooperation was done at Palais de Congres, on 12 Decme3ber 2012 witnessed by participants and acknowledged.

Resolution: circulate to other countries for comments to be received by end of February 2013

5. NEW PROJECTS AND ACTIONS PROGRAM FOR 2013

Participants agreed to consider and concentrate only on three of the five projects currently run by OAGS member countries.

6. 35TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS PRESENTATION – Mr. F Ramagwede South Africa

A presentation outlining the bid South Africa submitted on behalf of Africa to host the 35th IGC in 2016, the subsequent handover ceremony which took place in Brisbane this year and the role Africa geological surveys are encouraged to play was outlined.

Resolution: - 1. Consider adding the OAGS logo on all marketing material

2. An African Pavilion to be proposed to the 35th IGC LOC.

3. OAGs members to propose sites to be visited in their countries for excursions

7. DISCUSSION ABOUT OAGS PROBLEMS

7.1 SECRETARIAT

Since the departure of Chantelle Ashley there's no replacement. Mr. Ramagwede told members that Ms N Mdluli Jacha is Acting Secretary in the meantime until he finds a replacement.

Resolution; - Ms N Mdluli Jacha will act until a replacement is identified.

7.1 Participation

The President is concerned about the lack of participation from member countries. Members discussed how the communication can be improved in order to promote the OAGS to member countries.

Resolution; - Contact all surveys by email, fax and post.

OAGS Annual Meeting

Ghana tendered its candidacy for the hosting of the next annual meeting of the OAGS.

Resolution:

- The next annual meeting of the OAGS will provisionally be hosted by Ghana in 2013.

8. CLOSURE

The Chairperson, Mr. L Bitam, thanked all members for their participation and support of the meeting, issuing a special thanks to Mr. Amadou Hassan as the host, and to the translators for their assistance in the success of the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 14h14

9. Niamey tour of the city

10. Cocktail Function