



## **Minutes of the Organisation of African Geological Surveys unofficial Meeting**

**Date: Thursday 7 February 2013**

The unofficial meeting was requested by a number of African countries who are members of OAGS attending Mining Indaba in Cape Town. The meeting was held in room 144 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 08h00 -09h00.

The Vice President Mr John A Duodu welcomed delegates and tendered an apology for the miscommunication regarding the meeting which failed to take place on the 6 February 2013 at the Southern Sun Hotels. He requested Mr Fhatuwani Ramagwede to give a brief feedback about the meeting held in Niger in December 2012. Mr Ramagwede pointed delegates to the minutes which were circulated to all in attendance.

Mr Duodu then gave a comment from Eurosurveys who are concerned about the OAGS and would like the annual meeting to be held at Mining Indaba. He then gave feedback of the World Bank meeting he attended on his own, supported by his geological survey. He mentioned that the World Bank would like to assist African countries to develop the one in a million map project, whilst Eurogeosurveys is committed as well.

The Secretariat then invited suggestions and other comments from the Members in attendance.

The Vice President mentioned that the organisation is very young and meetings should be held where the Secretariat is based until OAGS has grown (meaning at mining Indaba). He hinted that the organisation needs funding and suggested dues be paid in the form of subscriptions in order

to get the organisation to grow and self-sustainable. The Secretariat was tasked to coordinate meetings in Cape Town during the Mining Indaba period.

Find a way to meet during 2013 and discuss the next elections for the Presidency.

Mr Kota, advised the OAGS to consider the following ideas;

1. To document some of the issues that hamper OAGS
2. African Geosurveys have very weak infrastructures – encouraged to pull resources and expertise
3. Strengthen the organisation
4. Be clear about the attendance in Niamey and look at what needs to be done in order to address the lack of attendance.

In response the delegates in agreed on the following way forward;

1. The OAGS meetings should be held at Mining Indaba.
2. As the Presidency changes, the Secretary is tasked with arranging the OAGS Annual General Meeting at Mining Indaba. This meeting can be scheduled a day before or after Mining Indaba or a convenient day to be determined by the members. The rationale for this is that this will reduce costs and minimise stress on African surveys that have budgetary constraints. Prof Mulomo of Nigeria mentioned also that holding the event in Cape Town gives back up to their motivations to attend Mining Indaba as well.
3. Whilst Mr Kota suggested that OAGS meetings can also be held in Ethiopia.
4. South Africa, being the Secretariat will take care of the venue, and invite key stakeholders such as the World Bank and Eurogeosurveys.
5. Other Members could render assistance to the Secretariat as required.
6. Decide on an amount for annual contributions towards membership of OAGS. This must be thought carefully. Look at the legality of opening an account for this purpose. Also find a sustainable fund to support this initiative since a financial obligation will strengthen the bond and level of accountability and proper mandate.
7. OAGS is viewed as weak institution, needs to be strengthened whilst looking for funding
8. OAGS is the voice for Ministers to endorse projects.

9. Agree if the meeting scheduled to take place in Ghana by the President whilst in Niger should go ahead. The Geological Survey Department of Ghana celebrates a hundred in September 2013 and can line up a program for an OAGS meeting during the celebrations.

35<sup>th</sup> International geological Congress

Mr Mxolisi Kota encouraged members to participate at this event and to send proposals for excursions.

The Vice President then thanked everyone for their enthusiasm and attendance of the informal meeting called at such short notices. He promised to organise a few meetings with the President and other heads in order to thrash out strategic issues and also to look at the constitution. He also thanked the Secretariat and the Chief Executive Officer of the Council for Geoscience for organising the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 08h45

Attendance Register – OAGS Informal Meeting held at the Cape Town Convention Centre on Thursday 7 February 2013

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