

GLOBE North America Regional Update

Canada and the United States

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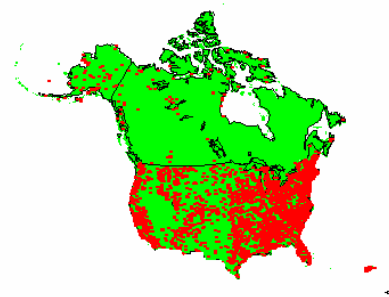
Greetings from your GIAC Representatives!

As you all know, Allan Ludman and I have been selected to represent the North American Region on the newly established GLOBE International Advisory Committee (GIAC) for the GLOBE Program Office (GPO).

We look forward to working with you all and hope that you find the first newsletter informative.

Sincerely,

Michael Odell, GIAC North America Representative



GLOBE International Advisory Committee Update

The purpose of this advisory body is to provide GLOBE Regional Consortia a formal mechanism for community input in the overall implementation, enhancement, and sustainability of the GLOBE Program including programmatic activities, opportunities and priorities; the enhancement and sustainability of the GLOBE Program; report on and share information on GLOBE Program activities, opportunities and priorities of regional relevance; and disseminate information in the regions that they represent.

The first GIAC meeting took place the day before the 10th GLOBE Annual Conference in Phuket, Thailand, on 29 July 2006. It was my privilege to participate at the GIAC as the representative of our region that includes the United States and Canada. The agenda included an orientation for committee members, discussion of the draft GIAC charter, the introduction of NSF's Earth System Science Projects (now referred to as ESSPs), and the GLOBE Program Office increased emphasis on student research and sustainability of the program around the world. The Committee appointed Ms. Zakeya Ahmed Ali, GLOBE Country Coordinator from Bahrain, as the Chair of the GIAC, and I was appointed the Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee. The GIAC will be meeting again on 8-9 January 2007. Items submitted by GLOBE Partners will be discussed at the January meeting. Please send any items that you would like me to discuss with the committee to <modell@uttyler.edu>.

10th Annual GLOBE Conference

The 10th Annual GLOBE conference took place from 30 July to 4 August 2006, and brought together over 250 participants from 29 countries in Phuket, Thailand. The conference was a great success. Prior to the annual conference was a Marine Symposium sponsored by the Thai delegation and the GLOBE program Office. Highlights from the annual conference can be seen on the GLOBE Web site at <<http://www.globe.gov/fsl/html/templ.cgi?thailand2006&lang=en&nav=1>>.

Representative from each of the ESSPs attended the Annual Conference to introduce Partners to GLOBE's new projects. The four new projects include the Carbon Program, From Local to Extreme Environments (FLEXE), Watersheds, and Seasons and Biomes. The GPO has added a link to the top of the home page that will list all activities related to these projects. See <<http://www.globe.gov/fsl/html/templ.cgi?essp-announce&lang=en&nav=1>>.

The GPO also asked conference participants for feedback on a proposed redesign for the GLOBE Web site. To view the Web site and provide comments go to <<http://preview.globe.gov/ngg/>>.

Report from the North American Regional Breakout Sessions

Partners from the North American Region met at the annual conference to discuss issues related to North American Partners. Partners in attendance were from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa, Montana, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. Partners provided updates on current activities and discussed many great projects being implemented across North America. There was also a discussion of how the North American Region could be structured. There was general consensus that the North American Region should establish

a charter as well as appoint regional representatives to increase communication and collaboration throughout the region. Dr. Teresa Kennedy, U.S. Country Coordinator from the GPO, looks forward to working with us on these activities. Over the past years, U.S. Partner activities have included Partner Implementation Workshops (PIWs) and more recently GLOBE Learning Community (GLC) meetings, all facilitated by the GLOBE Program Office (GPO). In the future, these meetings will be referred to as North America Regional Meetings (including representatives from Canada and the U.S.) and organized with more input from the region.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! The next North America Regional Meeting will be held in conjunction with NSTA's 2007 Conference on Science Education on Wednesday, 28 March 2007 in St. Louis, Missouri, as we will meet the day prior to the start of the convention just as we did during the 2006 NSTA GLOBE Partner Meeting. To view a summary of last year's event see <http://www.globe.gov/fsl/html/templ.cgi?nsta_2006&lang=en&nav=1>. I look forward to working with you all to plan the agenda for the 2007 GLOBE North America Regional Meeting.

It was also proposed that a North American Planning Meeting be held prior to our scheduled meeting in March at NSTA, and we tentatively scheduled a meeting for January 2007. This meeting will be discussed at an upcoming region-wide teleconference tentatively scheduled for October. More information, including call-in instructions, will be sent out in the next two weeks. The teleconference will focus on identifying North American Regional Representatives, the Canadian and U.S. perspectives on GLOBE implementation, the agenda for the GLOBE North America Regional Conference at NSTA, as well as the 2007 Annual GLOBE Conference that will be held in San Antonio, Texas. A new Web page located on the GLOBE Homepage will be posted later this week announcing the 2007 Annual Conference. This event will be a great time for the region to be highlighted!

Upcoming Events

Regional Newsletter on the GLOBE Web site: October 2006

The GLOBE Program Office posts regional newsletters twice each year in September/October and March/April. Allan and I will be working with the GPO to include regional information in each of the upcoming newsletters. Please keep abreast of GPO activities as well as regional developments by reviewing these newsletters. I will send announcements to you all to inform you when it has been posted.

North American Regional Teleconference: October 2006

North American Regional Planning Meeting: January 2007 (tentative date)

North American Regional Meeting: 28 March 2007

The North American Regional Meeting will be held in conjunction with the National Science Teachers Association Convention in St. Louis. We will meet on Wednesday, 28 March 2007, the day prior to the NSTA conference. For more information about NSTA 2007 see http://www.nsta.org/conferencedetail&Meeting_Code=2007STL.

11th Annual GLOBE Conference: 29 July – 3 August 2007

The 11th annual GLOBE Conference will be held in San Antonio, TX. Mark these dates on your calendar now. The final day of the conference will include many workshops and protocol refresher trainings including trainings for any new Earth System Science Project (ESSP) activities that have been developed. Please provide feedback to <modell@uttlyer.edu> on what types of training would be of interest to your constituents.

4th GLOBE Learning Expedition: February 2008

It has been three years since the last GLE in Croatia. The next GLE will be in South Africa. A new Web page located on the GLOBE Homepage will be posted announcing this event later this week! So, keep your eye on the GLOBE Web site for information about this upcoming event.