



74th Steering Committee (SC) Virtual Meeting
13:00 – 16:30, Wed, 24 June 2020, Bangkok Time

Agenda 4. Report of the Working Group for the CCOP Strategic Plan 2021-2025

CCOP 2021 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

(DRAFT)



Geoscience partnerships for sustainable development and better lives on future earth



CCOP 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

Geoscience partnerships for sustainable development and better lives on Future Earth

INTRODUCTION

The East and Southeast Asia Region is one of the fastest growing economic regions in the world. The region is situated in a tectonically active area over the western part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, a favourable geological setting for a broad range of earth resources but subject to severe weather conditions over the tropical zone and geological hazards including earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, flash flooding and storm surges. These geohazards are increasing in frequency and intensity due to the impacts of global climate change. To address these challenges, the region requires a wide range of knowledge and skills including IR 4.0, information and data covering a wide range of subjects towards ensuring SDGs goal to be achieved by 2030. Geoscience is a key discipline that can be applied to help countries in the region to promote sustainable development through the management of geological resources, environments and geohazards. To address and coordinate across the broad range of related topics, the regional and country geoscience communities need an international organization that can link all national geological offices and help create partnerships to share geoscience knowledge and experience and cope with geology-related problems. A key organization established for these purposes is the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP).

The Organization:

Founded in 1966, CCOP is an independent intergovernmental geoscience organization based in Bangkok, Thailand. CCOP currently has a total of 16 Member Countries (MCs), which include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. CCOP also works closely with the Cooperating Countries, which include Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America and is linked to a number of other Cooperating Organizations throughout the world.

For almost 55 years CCOP has provided a strong foundation of bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation for its Member Countries, the Cooperating Countries and Cooperating Organizations including, venues and facilitating activities to share knowledge and information, conduct observations and research, build databases, and perform other relevant activities for the mutual benefit. The organization recognizes the differences in social, economic, cultural, geographical and geological settings between Member Countries which reflect on their different needs and seeks to engender a unique geoscience culture and friendly atmosphere to facilitate the development of the East and Southeast Asia region.

Current Situation and Future Outlook

For many years, CCOP has worked to develop its strategies in response to the major global agendas, e.g., the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals: SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Agreement on climate change. It is important that CCOP evaluate its past activities and performance and prepares a new strategic plan aimed at tackling the present and foreseeable challenges of our time.

The current Strategic Plan (2016-2020) has four strategic goals: Outreach, Cooperation and Partnership, Knowledge Enhancement and Sharing, and Data and Information. Its aims are to contribute to the economic development and sustainable management of the environment and to the improvement of the quality of life of its Member Countries by applying the earth science knowledge. CCOP has performed well on these strategic goals although it is important to note that of the large number of action plans created for the four strategic goals, not all, have been successfully completed and helped to make CCOP visible in the international geoscience community. CCOP have provided venues and activities as strong platforms for national capacity building and bilateral and multilateral international cooperation for many years. Member Countries, Cooperating Countries and Cooperating Organizations have enjoyed their participation in CCOP's activities under a friendly atmosphere. Member Countries have been benefited from programmes and activities provided by CCOP and the momentum of successful achievements has led to the recent increasing number of new Member Countries.

However, the global social and economic development in recent years has made significant impacts to the region over the past decade. Coupled with the low oil and metal prices, the financial support for projects from western countries has been greatly reduced or halted and many countries in our region have to be self-supporting on the implementation of cooperation projects. Hence many of the recent projects incorporated are on a year-to-year basis only, while CCOP has been seeking to develop long-term projects in recent years.

New unexpected challenges such as the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic undeniably have a great impact on CCOP and all international offices and organizations around the world. It was unfortunate that almost all international meetings in the first half of the year have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation. However, CCOP and its members have been quick to adapt their operations in response to this change and to overcome the problem using online communication and meeting.

The Making of CCOP 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

Now is the time to look further ahead to consider the role CCOP can play in advancing geoscience for sustainable development of the East and Southeast Asia region. This CCOP 2021-2025 Strategic Plan has been prepared to meet the expectation and needs of all stakeholders with the input from all Member Countries through the CCOP Strategic Plan Working Group (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam). Dr. Martin Smith (BGS UK) facilitated the discussion during the working group meeting as well as providing valuable comments on the draft plan. Germany also provided thoughtful and constructive comments. Staff of CCOP Technical Secretariat has facilitated the preparation process of the Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan Working Group completed several tasks in the preparation of this strategy:

- to study and consider the strategic directions of leading national and international geoscience offices;
- to recognize the differences in needs and levels of development among the Member Countries and stakeholders;
- to address and put in a series of keywords reflecting the most important issues in geoscience over the next five to ten years for the region towards the achievement of the SDGs, Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement;
- to carry out the SWOT analysis;
- and to draft and share the vision, mission and strategic goals of the 2021- 2025 Strategic Plan.

Important Geoscience Issues of the Next Decade

All the Member Countries agree the following key priority areas,

1. Digital transformation involving geoinformation and big data will be one of the most important issues in their needs and a key area for the new strategy.
2. Environmental and climate change;
3. Geohazards;
4. Water resources -groundwater and hydrogeology;
5. Energy resources (conventional and unconventional oil & gas).

International cooperation and networking remains an important mechanism in all operations. When assessing the interests of specific countries, we note that developed MCs (China, Japan, Korea) are focused on large regional-scale issues including coastal zone management and marine resources, whereas many other MCs expect exploration of renewable energy and mineral resources, and to continue working on geological mapping.

All Member Countries are happy with the following strategic approaches: staff exchange, cooperation and partnership; knowledge enhancement and sharing; provision of geoscience advice/reliable scientific information; big data, geoinformatics and geo-archive; and sustainable management and development.

All Member Countries continue to require CCOP to provide the following activities: workshops for capacity building; seminars for networking and collaboration; survey, exploration and monitoring programmes; sustainable resources management programmes; and big data and information.

SWOT Analysis on CCOP

STRENGTHS	OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization with 50 years of proven records • Well-structured organization with SC setting policy and direction and implementation by CCOP TS • Strong and well-established network of regional geoscience government offices (national geological surveys) in the region • Strong platform for international cooperation among MCs, CCs and COs • Globally recognized geoscience organization • Provision of activities, services and experiences among MCs, CCs & COs • Impressive list of contribution to capacity building and resource development for the betterment of people in the region • Strong multi-cultural perspectives and diplomacy • High level of trust among MCs and CCs • Strong geoscience knowledge-base and wide range of expertise • Promotion & nurturing of young earth scientists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of MCs and CCs and their participations • Implementation of programmes in-line with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ○ Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction ○ Paris Agreement on climate change • E&SE Asia is among the fastest growing regions in the world • Possibility of increasing demand of natural resources and renewable energy • Emerging and increasing numbers of UNESCO's Global Geoparks • Possibility of equal opportunities of all MCs through the advancement of AI and Internet technologies • Possibilities to apply geoscience knowledge to multi-disciplinary programmes • Possibilities to involve private sector in its activities
WEAKNESSES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited financial support and lack of big projects • Programmes not in-line with COs' needs affects funding and constraint participation • Less involvement of CCs and COs • Economic and technology gaps among MCs • Development level uneven among MCs • Lacks of multi-disciplinary programmes • Limited to geoscience community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 pandemic; countries' lock-down and state of emergency • Extreme climate related disasters and impacts on food security, migration, etc. • Less fund for MCs' international cooperation • Low oil and metal prices and carbon tax for oil and gas lead to less funding • Global economic recession • Shifting donor interests

Focus SDGs of the 2030 Agenda in the CCOP Strategy



STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION:

“The Leading Intergovernmental Geoscience Organization
for Sustainable Development in East and Southeast Asia”

MISSION:

To work together on advancing geoscience for better lives on future earth, in line with the goals of international conventions such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework, and the Paris Agreement, through: the application of geoscience knowledge and provision of technical solutions, advice and geoinformation for economic development and sustainable management of the national resources and environment; adapting to digital transformation in geoscience for future earth; and the promotion of education, capability building and outreach.

STRATEGIC AIMS

CCOP should play a leading role regionally in supporting national geoscience organizations contribute towards the individual country achievements towards the goals of the international conventions, including, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Agreement, as guided by its Member Countries. The strategic aims for this strategy are identified as:

1. Provision of Geoscience Solutions, Advice and Reliable Information through Cooperation and Partnership

Focus:

- Geohazards and resilience: georisk assessment, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation (SDGs 11, 13; Sendai Framework & Paris Agreement);
- Establishing an international center of excellence (ICE) for sustainable resources management (e.g., UNFC ICE); to establish (harmonizing) standards for sustainable development in the region, and to bridge development gaps among MCs (SDGs 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13);
- Energy & mineral resources; marine geology; groundwater; global climate change; urban geology, etc. (SDGs 6, 7, 8, 11, 12);
- Cooperation and partnership: coordinate with other international organizations, e.g., ASOMM, in cooperating with the ASEAN Mineral Cooperation Action Plan 2016-2025 (AMCAP-III), as a strategic partner (SDGs 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13);
- Promotion of geoscience for sustainable agriculture: e.g., groundwater and georesources for food security (SDGs 2, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13).

Tasks

- Facilitating new projects which promote works towards the achievement of the international conventions such as the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework, and the Paris Agreement, and solves the geoscientific-related problems for the benefit of the Member Countries.
- Establishing of an expert group network towards the setting up of an international center of excellence, for example, UNFC International Center of Excellence;
- Strengthening cooperation and partnerships with CC/CO;
- Network enhancement and effective collaboration and partnerships;
- Practicing geoscience knowledge management;
- Launching of geological survey / exploration / monitoring programmes;
- Regular/special geoscience publications, e.g., book project.

2. Adapting to Digital Transformation in Geoscience for Future Earth:

Focus:

- o Developing digital culture and capability ;
- o Digitally transformed geoscience data management;
- o Cloud technology for interoperable geoscience data consolidation;
(SDGs: 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13)

Tasks

- Be an innovative organization that seeks out and uses new working practices, tools, and technologies, especially cross-disciplinary cutting-edge technology (digital platform);
- Facilitating of the provision, sharing and exchange of geoscientific data and information among Member Countries and related stakeholders (standardization, harmonization), e.g., Deep-Time Digital Earth (DDE) – IUGS, Geoscience Data Repository (GDR), Geoinformation Sharing Infrastructure for East and Southeast Asia (GSi), and OneGeology;
- Preparing CCOP geoscientific data into 4th Industrial Innovation with hyper-connectivity and super-intelligence such as Big Data, AI, CPS, VR;
- Reinforcement of capacity of online system among MCs, CCs, COs and strengthening website and mobile applications of CCOP (social media);

3. Promotion of Geoscience Education, Capability Building, and Outreach:

Focus:

- o Workshop, seminar, training, education for capability building and expert exchange that aligned with the Member Countries' needs, e.g., KIGAM IS-Geo, GSJ International Training Course, and China-ASEAN Geoscience College (SDGs: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 17);
- o Strengthening nurturing system of young geoscientist;
 - Establishing a regional center of YES (young earth scientists);
 - Opportunity of further higher education for young generation, e.g., IERI Internship, master/PhD course, Chinese higher education opportunity;(SDGs: 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 17)

- Thematic Session for all, with a focus on young earth scientists and geoscience students (SDGs: 4, 5, 11, 17);
- Promotion and encouragement for female geoscientists to participate in related activities. (SDGs: 4, 5, 11, 17)

Main themes of Activities

- Geohazards: adaptation & resilience;
- Geoinformatics, geoscience big data and information;
- Environment, soil & climate change, and green technology, e.g., carbon capture, storage & utilization;
- Coastal zone & marine geoscience;
- Renewable energy;
- Mineral, petroleum and groundwater resources: their sustainable development and management;
- Urban geology;
- The Deep Earth;
- Geoconservation (geoparks & geotourism);
- Geological mapping.



CCOP 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

Vision: “The leading intergovernmental geoscience organization for sustainable development in East and Southeast Asia”

Mission: To work together on advancing geoscience for better lives on future earth and achieving the goals of international conventions.

