



# GEBCO

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100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1903-2003

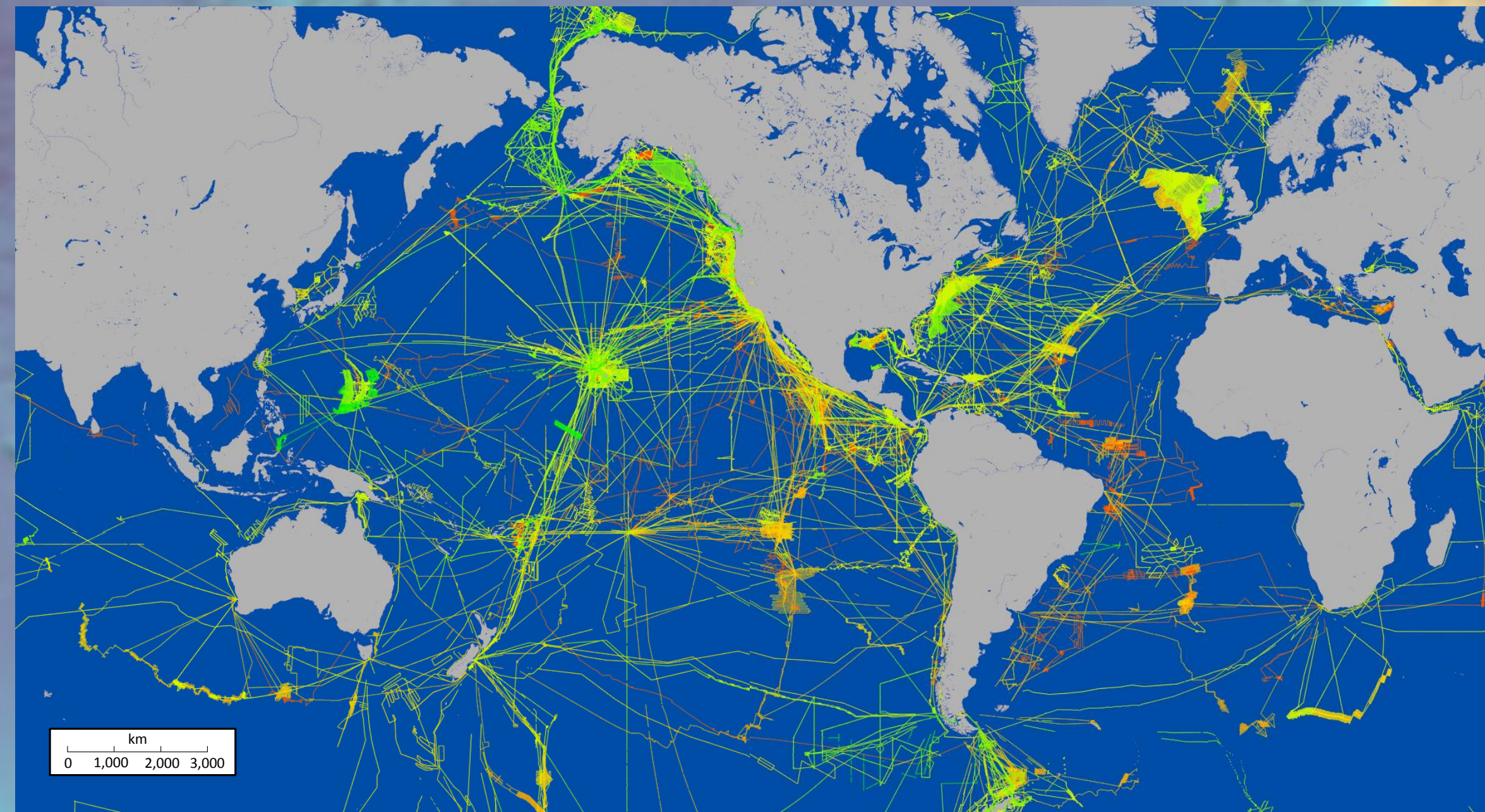
## - What ? Why ? How ? -

**What is GEBCO** – GEBCO (General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans) is a non-profit making organization which relies largely on the voluntary contributions of an enthusiastic international team of geoscientists and hydrographers.

### Objectives

The purpose of GEBCO is to provide the most authoritative publicly-available bathymetry of the world's oceans.

GEBCO produces charts and digital grids of world oceans with data contributed from many reliable sources.



### Challenges

Today most of the oceans have no multibeam echo sounding data coverage as shown in the left figure. Due to this reason, interpolations and interpretations are used to create a world bathymetry map, which means the resolution and the reliability of the map are limited.

Therefore, it is important to obtain more data to make a world bathymetry map.

It is estimated that about 800 years would be required to survey the areas deeper than 500 m even if multibeam sonar systems are used. Mapping of the whole ocean on the earth is a big challenge for us.



### Organizational structure

GEBCO operates under the joint auspices of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) (of UNESCO) and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). GEBCO's work is directed by a Guiding Committee and supported by sub-committees on ocean mapping and undersea feature names plus ad hoc working groups. GEBCO has its origins at the beginning of the 20th century.

Track lines of multibeam surveys from 1980 to 2010.  
Source: <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/maps/bathymetry>  
"The world ocean floor, almost equal in area to two moons plus two Mars-sized planets, is one of the most poorly and inhomogeneously mapped solid exterior surface in our solar system" (Vogt 2000)

### Learn more about GEBCO



Read the code above using your Smart phone's camera.

(Download free QR code reader app)  
(Internet connection required)

### GEBCO Products

GEBCO produces and makes available a range of bathymetric data sets and products.

- GEBCO\_08 Grid (30 arc-second intervals)
- GEBCO One Minute Grid
- Gazetteer of Undersea Feature names
- GEBCO Digital Atlas
- GEBCO world map

([www.gebco.net](http://www.gebco.net))

By GEBCO NIPPON FOUNDATION Project Trainees of 2010-2011

- Hadar Sade (Israel )
- Hiroaki Saito (Japan)
- Jonathan Pason (Philippines)
- Kittisak Nilrat (Thailand)
- Mohammad Muslem Uddin (Bangladesh)
- Roshan Ranaweera (Sri Lanka)

Acknowledgements

- Prof. Dave Monahan (CCOM, UNH)
- Colleen Mitchell (CCOM, UNH)

### GEBCO NIPPON Foundation Training Project



GEBCO faces lack of young scientists and hydrographers to engage on bathymetric projects after the retirement of experienced, dedicated and very productive members.

In response to this challenge, GEBCO started an annual academic program at the Centre for Coastal and Ocean Mapping (CCOM)/Joint Hydrographic Center(JHC) in the University of New Hampshire (UNH), USA with financial support from the NIPPON foundation of Japan in 2004. The program awards a Category "A" certificate, which is the highest level among international certificates in the hydrographic field and recognized by the FIG/IHO/ICA Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors. Members from more than 20 countries participated in this program during 2004-2010.



### Social Networking Group (SNG)

GEBCO SNG in Facebook has been established with objectives to enable ocean mapping people to connect, collaborate with, and learn from each other.

### Contact us

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