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**Breaching the boundaries between Science and Profession – an imperative for geoscience in the service of society**

Allington, R.A.<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Joint Senior Partner, GWP Consultants LLP, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, [rutha@gwp.uk.com](mailto:rutha@gwp.uk.com)

<sup>2</sup>Chair, IUGS Task Group on Global Geoscience Professionalism, <http://tg-ggp.org/>

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Why are we, as a broad and diverse community of geoscientists, not more effective in delivering “Service to Society”? This is clearly not because of a lack of scientific and technical excellence – this Congress is testament to that. There are three propositions which might hold the key to explaining and then breaking down (or at least making more permeable) the boundaries between the three great ‘tribes’ in geoscience- Educators, Applied Practitioners and Researchers:

- Without understanding the skills and expertise needed by ‘industry’ or government, how can educators prepare students for the non-academic workplace?
- Without access to high quality graduates and excellent underpinning fundamental and applied research, how can geoscientists in ‘industry’ or government deliver and develop their expertise effectively?
- Without understanding societal needs, how can researchers design research which is truly relevant to those needs?

