



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of the **Premier and Cabinet**  
**Office of Science**



**Australian Government**  
**Bureau of Meteorology**

## Highlights from the 2018 International Indian Ocean Science Conference

18-23 March 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia

The Perth Programme Office of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) recently co-hosted the 2018 International Indian Ocean Science Conference (IIOSC 2018) in Jakarta, Indonesia. The conference was held at the Grand Mercure Kemayoran Hotel from 18-23 March 2018 and comprised the following integrated meetings:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) Steering Committee;
- 14<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System Regional Alliance (IOGOOS);
- 14<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Indian Ocean Region Panel (IORP);
- 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Sustained Indian Ocean Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research (SIBER);
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Ocean Observing System (IndOOS) Review Workshop;
- Workshop on Data and Information Management (IIOE-2 Working Group 2); and
- Side Meeting of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO).

Several local co-hosting partners included the Indonesian Government agencies of Institute of Science (LIPI), Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG) and Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs. Support was also provided by the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO. A truly collaborative and international effort, the conference attracted over 90 leading ocean scientists from around the world and featured the research of local and international early career scientists.

A key focus of the conference was the second major gathering of the Steering Committee to the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) ([www.iioe-2.incois.gov.in](http://www.iioe-2.incois.gov.in)). The IIOE-2 is a global scientific program that is engaging the international scientific community in collaborative oceanographic and atmospheric research from the deep sea to coastal regions over the period 2015-2020. There are currently some 30 endorsed IIOE-2 projects from 23 countries, involving major research cruises in the West, North, Central and East Indian Ocean regions, deriving from major agencies from Russia, USA, Kenya, Tanzania, Denmark, South Africa, New Zealand, Germany, Australia, India, France, Republic of Korea, Japan, China and Indonesia. Seven IIOE-2 National Committees have now formed, from Australia, South Africa, Germany, UK, USA, India and Japan, with Indonesia having announced its intent to join this list.

During the conference, the IIOE-2 Steering Committee members presented the preliminary results of this significant global effort and discussed the possibility of extending the IIOE-2 beyond the year 2020. In doing so, the IIOE-2 would also harmonise with and make a tangible contribution to the now proclaimed *UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-30* (<https://en.unesco.org/ocean-decade>). They also agreed to hold a major IIOE-2 Science Symposium in India in early 2020, to synthesise and showcase the scientific achievements and societal benefits of the IIOE-2.

The six-day conference also included special sessions lead by a number of international science alliances focused on Indian Ocean biogeochemistry, ecology, ocean observation and data sharing. A major feature was a workshop to review the Indian Ocean Observing System (IndOOS), as a critical component of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS [www.goosoocean.org](http://www.goosoocean.org)). IndOOS provides sustained high quality oceanographic and marine meteorological measurements to support knowledge-based decision-making. The IndOOS Review is due to be completed in 2019.