

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Sixteenth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and
Information Exchange (IODE), Lisbon, Portugal, 30 October – 9 November 2000

Report of the Regional Co-ordinator for the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific

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2. IODE Regional Co-ordinator Designation Date: 11 June 1997

3. IODE Regional Co-ordinator Description:

At the 15th session of the IOC committee on IODE, establishment of Regional Co-ordinator was resolved in order to effectively and more lively utilize the IODE system of IOC regional programmes.

Based on the resolution of the session, the IODE Regional Co-ordinator was established mainly for the objectives of accelerating infiltration of the IODE activities and policies in WESTPAC Region.

4. Brief History:

Director of JODC accepted the request for assumption of Regional Co-ordinator, based on the IODE-XV.4, the resolution of the 15th session of the IOC committee on IODE in 1997.

Although it is not long since the Regional Co-ordinator was accepted, great efforts are being paid for strengthening the IODE activities, including holding of conferences related to the IODE in the WESTPAC Region as the IODE/WESTPAC Regional Co-ordinator.

5. Roles and Responsibilities of the IODE Regional Co-ordinator

The following terms of reference are included in the responsibilities of the IODE/WESTPAC Regional Co-ordinator.

- (i) Keep IOC regional bodies and programmes informed on the IODE data policy and rules of procedure.
- (ii) Be a link between the IOC regional bodies and the IODE committee.
- (iii) Publicize IODE activities.
- (iv) Help the IODE Committee implement regional activities in data and information management by providing advice and establishing necessary contacts.

6. IODE Regional Co-ordinator Projects and Activities during the Intersessional Period:

The International Conference on the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange in the Western Pacific (ICIWP'99) was held in Langkawi, Malaysia from 1st to 4th November 1999. The Conference was attended by more than 130 participants from 14 countries.

The conference was organized by IOC, in collaboration with JODC and the Oceanographic Research Coordination Committee of Malaysia, with support from the Science and Technology Agency, Japan, JICA, MIRC, Ministry of Science Technology and the Environment, Malaysia, and Ministry of Education, Malaysia.

The purpose of the conference will be to bring together scientists and data managers to discuss new challenges facing the IODE system in the region and identify measures for increasing effectiveness of the system.

Through the conference, we will expect;

- to understand the needs for marine data and information arising from planned and operational science and research programmes in the region;
- to share new knowledge and techniques on oceanography and marine science among the participants;
- to make re-realizing the objectives and roles of the IODE system;
- to review the state of the IODE system in the region and readiness of the system to meet the needs;
- to formulate recommendations on the ways for strengthening the WESTPAC region component of the IODE system.;
- to encourage the cooperation among the participants and the countries and regions in the WESTPAC area.

The first two days of the Conference were dedicated to presentations on oceanography and marine science activities in the region with a specific focus on data requirements, needs and products. The last two days consisted of a forum for an exchange of views and ideas on how the IODE centres can better respond to the needs of research programmes and other users of marine data.

At this conference, several recommendations were finalized and it was decided that such recommendations would be reflected on the IODE activities in the future (see the Annex 1 for the details of the recommendations).

7. IODE Regional Co-ordinator Products and Services Developed and/or Made Available during the Intersessional Period:

The Proceedings covering presentations at ICIWP'99 was published in August 2000. In addition, a mailing list system was established to improve communication

mechanism for the discussion on data management and exchange in the WESTPAC Region, based on the recommendation and requests of ICIWP'99.

8. Comments:

Continuous efforts will be paid by the IODE/WESTPAC Regional Co-ordinator for achievement of the recommendations of ICIWP'99.

ANNEX I

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

The following are the recommendations from the conference:

- In order to start the GODAR type project in the WESTPAC, the conference recommends to establish a working group shared by the representative from Malaysia to start development of the action plan including the development of human resources and looking for resources to implement the project in the region, and to invite the GODAR project leader or US-NODC experts who was involved the implementation of the GODAR to assist in the development of the action plan.
It should be taking into account the recommendations of GODAR III regional workshop which took place in Tianjin China in 1994 and the recommendations of the world GODAR Conference which was held at Washington D.C. USA, in 1999.
- The countries which dose not have the IODE Coordinator, should nominate a person and create the IODE coordinator, and should establish coordination group at the national level to look at creating the Designate National Agency or the National Oceanographic Data Centre. The conference appreciates the information from Thailand on their decision to establish DNA and nominate soon the IODE national coordinator
- In spite of the new millennium effort of the IOC community to press the member states and regions to provide the National Oceanographic Programme and Cruise Summary Report to the international community, which are so important for monitoring oceanographic data flow, was very small input. Therefore, the conference urges each member states to encourage providing NOP and CSR. It is preferable that provision of these information will be done through network.
- The conference recommends IODE committee investigate and work on the creation of distributed meta database system from the view of the global issue. It is preferable that provision of these meta database will be done through network.
- The conference recommended IODE to play a stronger role and take the lead in the development of marine data related standards and protocols. This view covered the development of framework and application of the Internet technologies such as the development of a marine version of the eXtensible Markup Language (XML).
- The conference recognized to improve communication mechanism for the discussion on the cooperation and collaboration for data management and exchange activities in the WESTPAC region. The conference requested JODC to investigate to establish and help the communication in the region using the Internet technology including mailing list for the discussion group on the data management related activities. The discussion group should be able to be participated from not only data managers but also scientists, because data manager need a comment and evaluation from scientist to improve the services and products.
- The conference recognized the importance of the existed training courses, and expressed appreciation for JODC's efforts in providing human resource training in the WESTPAC region. The conference recommended to develop training courses to support other activities, such as usage of the resource kits, usage of the GODAR related activities and issues, and usage of the metadata and MEDI, etc.

- The conference appreciated the progress already made in the global IODE system with regard to naval declassification of data. A pilot project be developed and put into operation in the WESTPAC Region to build worldwide support to the oceanographic data declassification process.

IODE National Coordinator should spare every effort in bringing the idea of the importance of naval data declassification to respective national authorities, in increasing public awareness of what is desophistication IOC/IODE and GODAR, what will be the benefits in participating in a pilot project and contributing to its success. The conference also recommended IODE to make propaganda materials for this activity in order to promote and support the declassification process by the IODE national coordinators.

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