

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Seventeenth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and
Information Exchange (IODE), Paris, France, 3-7 March 2003

**Reports on activities of the IODE Groups of Experts:
IODE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF DATA
EXCHANGE (GETADE)**
(Greg Reed, Chair GETADE)

1. Terms of Reference of the Group

The IODE Group of Experts on the Technical Aspects of Data Exchange (GETADE) has the following terms of reference (IODE-XV, 1996):

- (i) Collaborate with IGOSS-CP, IODE GE-MIM and the data management groups of other international bodies and scientific programmes in the development of technical solutions for the management, exchange and easier integration of oceanographic data and information with data from other disciplines.
- (ii) Collaborate with IODE GE-MIM in the development of a common WWW interface for IODE Centres to deliver data and information in a consistent manner.
- (iii) Develop a set of documents to be used by data originators or data centres which describe guidelines for formatting ocean data and information.
- (iv) Continue the developments of a common data format which conforms to other major data collection programmes, meets the needs to handle more diverse data types and is independent of the exchange medium. This will include as appropriate the specification of software modules that may be required.
- (v) Liaise with other programmes and agencies concerned with oceanographic data exchange to ensure as much as possible a closer alignment of data structure and content.

At the 8th Session of GETADE (TADE-VII, 2000) the Group discussed at length the direction in which it felt GETADE should develop in the next years. The Group identified the following medium-term objectives for GETADE:

Objective 1: Develop End-To-End Data Management framework strategy and appropriate projects, products and services, based on user requirements.

Objective 2: Develop IODE Global metadata management system.

Objective 3: Develop marine XML as a mechanism to facilitate format and platform independent information, metadata and data exchange.

Objective 4: Develop the IODE Resource Kit as a marine data and information management reference tool for scientists and data/information managers.

Objective 5: Organize integrated national and regional level capacity building projects and programmes, linking equipment, training and operational activities.

Objective 6: Develop a high-quality IODE web presence and IODE Data/Information Management Portal, as a mechanism to promote IODE, to reinforce the 'IODE family' principle, and to guide users to marine information, metadata and data sources.

2. Core elements of Last Session of the Group

The 9th Session of the GETADE was held in Helsinki, Finland, from 20–22 April 2002. The Group reviewed the achievements made during the previous intersessional period. Issues discussed at the meeting included the development of a Marine XML and collaboration with the ICES/IOC Study Group on the Development of Marine Data Exchange Systems using XML (SGXML), the development of an end-to-end data management framework and cooperation with other programmes concerned with marine data management, in particular the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM). The Group adopted a comprehensive work plan for the next intersessional period. The Summary Report is available on the IODE home page: <http://ioc.unesco.org/iodo/contents.php?id=118>.

3. Group Action Plan for the Intersessional Period

The Group developed an Action Plan for the intersessional period based on the agreed action items arising from the meeting and assigned tasks to each member of the Group. Details of the Action Plan for the intersessional period are listed in the Annex.

The membership of GETADE should be expanded so as to accomplish the medium-term objectives of the Group. Additional experts with skills in handling real-time data and products and the use of XML are required. Member states are invited to submit nominations of suitably qualified experts to join the Group.

4. Links with other Groups

Many of the activities identified in the medium-term objectives of the Group and in the intersessional Action Plan are also on the agenda of other groups working in the field of marine data management. For example, the ICES-IOC SGXML (develop marine XML to facilitate information, metadata and data exchange), JCOMM ETDMP (develop E2EDM strategy and E2EDM integration technology; metadata management systems), IODE SGMEDI (metadata management systems), OIT-PP (metadata systems). GETADE has agreed to work closely with these other groups to ensure that there is no duplication of effort. To facilitate this cooperation, GETADE members are represented on the JCOMM ETDMP, SGXML and SGMEDI.

5. Budgetary Requirements

While the GETADE members on a voluntary basis carry out most of the action items, some funding is required to provide assistance to participants to attend professional and sessional meetings of GETADE. The next session of the Group is planned for May/June 2003.

Funding required for period 2003-2005 is \$24,000

6. Source of Funding

Funds will come from IODE Regular Programme.

7. Requested Actions from the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

- Adopt the summary report of the 9th Session of the IODE Group of Experts on the Technical Aspects of Data Exchange (GETADE);
- Member states to consider nominating suitably qualified experts to join GETADE; and
- Approve funding for the concerned actions: US\$ 24,000 for the period 2003-2005.

[end]

ANNEX

RECOMMENDATION**Recommendation TADE-IX.1****ACTION PLAN FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD**

The IODE Group of Experts on Technical Aspects of Data Exchange,

Having reviewed its completed and ongoing activities,

Highlighting the need for IODE to provide data services and products to its target audiences,

Taking into account the opportunities provided by new technologies,

Being aware of the resource constraints under which IOC is operating,

Adopts a plan of action for the intersessional period as given in the Annex to this Recommendation.

Annex to Recommendation TADE-IX.1

Action Item	Agenda Item	Task	Who
1	2	IOC Secretariat to send circular letter	IOC Secretariat
2	2	Instruct SG-MEDI to investigate and prepare for increased granularity of the information in MEDI	Greg Reed
3	2	SG-MEDI to maintain awareness of SeaSearch activities	SG-MEDI
4	2	All members to submit description of their institution's metadata structure to describe dataset level, cruise level and observation level with the view of increasing the granularity of MEDI	All
5	2	Document metadata activities within LOICZ	Edward Vanden Berghe
6	4	Prepare a mapping between CSR and DIF	Greg Reed, Don Collins
7	4	Develop a prototype of cruise-station-profile XML structure, with emphasis on metadata for each level of granularity	Don Collins (lead), Nick Mikhailov, Anthony Isenor, Edward Vanden Berghe
8	4	Develop a new community portal web site for SGXML which will provide a central location for document distribution	IOC Secretariat
9	5	Test access to Ocean Portal on Macintosh computers	Edward Vanden Berghe
10	5	Investigate Ocean Portal access problem using Netscape 4.x	Greg Reed
11	5	All group member to investigate their respective entries in ocean portal	All

12	5	Determine if letter was sent from IOC to members urging members to add content to Portal site	Greg Reed
13	6	Compare ODAS metadata format to MEDI/DIF format and ROSCOP, noting that they are conceptually at different levels of granularity	Don Collins (lead), group and Jean Gagnon to review
14	7	GETADE propose a limited pilot project to demonstrate an activity within the E2EDM framework	Nick Mikhailov (lead), Greg Reed, GETADE
15	7	Identify technical documents for each GETADE member to review and annotate for relevance, currentness, and usefulness, include IOC manuals and guides; MEDATLAS documentation, netCDF, ICES MDM guidelines.	Greg Reed (lead), GETADE
16	8	Include the URL for each GE and SG report in the GETADE meeting summary report.	Greg Reed
17	9	GETADE to request that Oceanic create a link from Oceanic research schedule page http://ships.cms.udel.edu/ships_gen.asp to the ices www.ices.dk/ocean/roscop page and vice versa	Greg Reed
18	9	Prepare a cover page about MDM guidelines for distribution among the IODE community	Chair WGMDM
19	9	Provide a link on IODE homepage to point to ICES-MDM guidelines	Greg Reed
20	9	Set up a web-based discussion group for exchanging information about data formats, best practices reviews, and assorted data base structure information	Greg Reed
21	13	Draft copy of summary report to be circulated to members for comment.	Greg Reed