

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

**Eighteenth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and
Information Exchange (IODE-XVIII)**
Oostende, Belgium, 26-30 April 2005

IOC Project Office for IODE

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1. Introduction

The IODE Programme must now meet the new challenges related to ocean data and information management. The IODE community has to lead the way in coordinating access to marine data and information to support the broad needs of the scientists, policy makers, marine resources managers, commercial sector and the general public. Whereas in the past IODE data centres focused mainly on delayed-mode, physical oceanography data, the IODE Programme now gives attention to all ocean related data including physical, chemical, and biological oceanographic data, and to operational data streams in addition to delayed mode data. IODE now closely collaborates with, and services the needs of the other IOC and related programmes such as Ocean Sciences, Global Ocean Observing System, Joint Commission on Oceanography and Marine Meteorology, and others.

In order to respond to these challenges, an IODE Project Office has been established now in Oostende, Belgium, with the following objectives:

- (i) to provide a creative environment facilitating the further development and maintenance of IODE Projects, services and products with emphasis on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the data and product/service stream between the stage of sampling and the user; and
- (ii) to assist in strengthening the capacity of Member States to manage oceanographic data and information (with special attention to the developing countries) and to provide ocean data and information products and services required by users.

To achieve these objectives the IODE Project Office will:

- further develop, strengthen and maintain IOC/IODE ocean data and information management training programmes and training tools;
- provide an environment ('think tank') where ocean data and information experts and students can work, meet and discuss;
- develop, host and maintain IOC/IODE's ocean information systems and related public awareness tools;

- promote collaboration between all expert levels active in ocean data (and data product) and information management, including scientists, data managers and users.
- host specialized short-term training courses in ocean data and information management; and
- provide a laboratory environment for the development and beta testing of ocean data and information management technology.

The 17th Session of the IODE Committee, in March 2003, received a formal offer from the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium) to host the IODE Project Office in Oostende, Belgium. In this offer, the Government of Flanders will cover the cost of rental office space with an approximate floor space of 1100 m² including basic infrastructure (value €40,000/year), the cost of all utilities (value approx. €10,000/year) and the cost of provision of the Internet connection (value approx. €10,000/year). The Government of Flanders will host the IODE Project Office for a period of 3 years (renewable) and will provide through the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) the equivalent of one full time support staff for the Project Office.

Following the decision of the IOC Assembly to establish the Office and the acceptance of the offer extended by the Government of Flanders and City of Oostende, the Executive Secretary IOC will establish a Memorandum of Understanding with the relevant Flemish and Federal Belgian authorities as well as other administrative arrangements.

The Project Office is housed in the former 'Oostende Vismijn' located 5 minutes north of the city of Oostende, Belgium. VLIZ is housed in the same block of buildings back-to-back with the Project Office. VLIZ hosts the NODC for Flanders, and participates in IODE activities through membership of GEBICH and the ETDMP pilot projects. Proximity will enable close collaboration between the two organizations. VLIZ will provide internet connectivity for the IODE Project Office and will also provide secretarial and technical support. The oceanographic research vessel, *Zeeleeuw*, operated by VLIZ can serve as a test-bed for on-board technologies developed by the Project Office.

It is expected that renovation works of the building will be finished in April 2005 and official inauguration of the Project Office will be held on 25 April 2005. The first ODINAFRICA training course on the oceanographic data management began in the Office on April 11 2005.

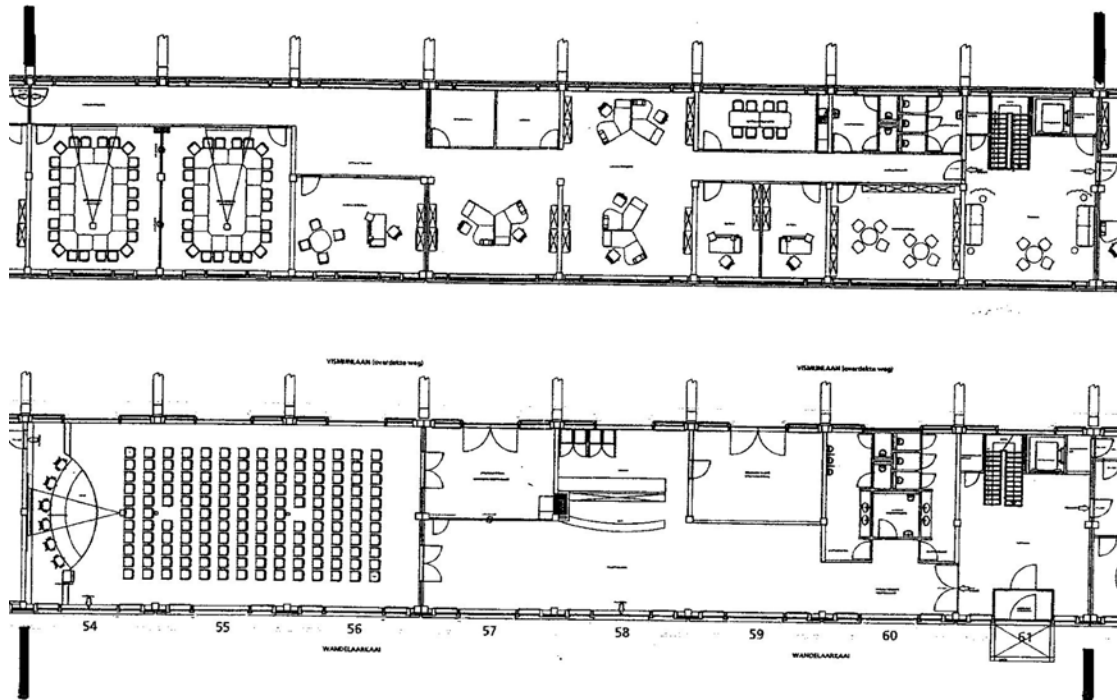
2. Facilities

The total floor space of The Project Office is about 1100 m², distributed over 2 floors (ground floor and first floor). The floor space is composed of 8 blocks sized 6 m x 9 m. The building has two sides: the dockside (which gets full light) and the covered side which faces a parallel building. The passage between the two buildings is roofed. Accordingly this side is darker but less affected by solar heat.

The ground floor contains a big conference/training room and different technical rooms (kitchen, etc.). It is not suitable for normal offices due to the presence of the

large doors and small windows. The conference room is equipped with audio/video equipment including a digital projector.

The first floor houses all offices as well as two small meeting rooms. There are a total of 7 offices that can hold at least 12 persons. There is further a reception area, filing room, stores, lunch room and a passage to VLIZ. The conference rooms are equipped with the digital projectors. All offices and conference rooms have multiple internet



connections.

The Project Office is now equipped with the minimum of necessary furniture that will permit up to three training courses/meetings in parallel and provide the working places for 6 persons. More furniture will be purchased and installed in August-September 2005.

Computer equipment. The project office has at the moment for the training purposes 12 Dell PCs OptiPlex GX280, Small factor – P4 520 (2.8 GHz/800MHz, Int NIC) with 512 MB memory, 40 GB hard drive, CD-RW/DVD Combo drive, 17 inch Flat Screen monitor. There are also two HP1320 laser printers and two HP inkjet printers.

3. Plan of the Project Office Activities for 2005

Activities for 2005 will follow these main directions:

- Establishment of the necessary IT infrastructure
- Training
- Expert visits
- Web related activity
- Participation in the ETDMP E2EDM Pilot Project
- Work within the frameworks of the EC Projects in which the Project Office is a participant

3.1 Establishment of the necessary IT structure

- Procurement of the hardware for the training classes (April – September 2005)
- Procurement and installation of the software for the training classes April – September 2005)
- Relocation of a server with the OdinPubAfrica repository/website from LUC (Belgium) to Ostende (August 2005).
- Procurement and installation of servers (July – September 2005).

3.2 Training

- DM training courses for ODINAFRICA Project, April 2005, 12 participants, initial level.
- Biodiversity DM training courses for ODINAFRICA Project, April 2005, 15 participants, initial level.
- Joint JCOMM/IODE/GOOS training courses on numerical modelling and corresponding data management, September 2005, 25 participants.
- DM training courses for the Indian Ocean Counties, August-December 2005, 15 participants, level TBD.
- IM training courses for the Indian Ocean Counties, August-December 2005, 15 participants, level TBD
- DM training courses for ODINCARSA Counties, August-December 2005, 15 participants, level TBD
- IM training courses for ODINCARSA Counties, August-December 2005, 20 participants, level TBD
- Test training for young scientists on the marine oceanographic data collection and management (including short research cruise), August-November 2005, 10 participants, initial level.
- GIS related trainings (two trainings in August-December 2005 for 15 participants each), initial level.

3.3 Expert visits

- March – April 2005, visit of Linda Pikula (IM specialist from USA – work on the new version of the OceanTeacher)
- April 2005, visit of Sergey Belov (DM specialist from Russia – work on the prototype of the End-to End Data Management System)
- June –September 2005, (DM specialists from Russia – work on the prototype of the End-to End Data Management System)

3.4 Web related activity

- Launching of the IODE Project Office web site – May 2005
- Transferring of some IODE web sites to Oostende (August – December 2005)
- Maintenance and further develop of the MarineXML web portal
- Maintenance and further develop of the selected IODE web sites

Preliminary plans for 2006 and 2007 will be prepared later this year when the project office is fully operational.

4. Budgetary Requirements

The budget requirements for the Project Office (extra-budgetary funding) include operational costs (cleaning, elevator maintenance, computer insurance, etc). The latest estimate is about \$2,150/month. The cost for 2005 is \$17,200 and \$25,800 for 2006 and 2007.

5. Additional sources of funding for the Project Office activity

Efforts were made to attract the additional sources of funding for the Project Office activity. The possibility of this arose after the Indian Ocean Tsunami that increased the public interest to the Ocean related issues.

5.1 Funds pledged by the Government of Flanders for the support of the training activity

In January 2005 the Government of Flanders has pledged 500,000 Euro per year for the support of the training activity of the Project Office related to the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange and for tsunami warning system related activities. These funds can be used for training and related capacity building, primarily for the Indian Ocean and African countries. The funds will be provided to the IODE project office via VLIZ and will be available from July 2005. As such this money can be used for organization of the training courses, related purchases of some hardware and software for the Project Office and for trainees, and for hiring the technical staff for the Project Office.

5.2 Software donation by ESRI BeLux

On January 26, Mr. Henri Van Oosterwyck, General Operations Manager of ESRI BeLux confirmed that ESRI is willing to donate to the IOC office for IODE in Ostende via ESRI BeLux office up to 50 free licenses for ArcView 9 GIS and a free license for ArcIMS for the training activities related to the oceanographic data management and data management within the installation of the Tsunami Early Warning System in Africa and Asia.

ESRI will as well provide up to 60 free ArcView 9 licenses to the IODE Oceanographic Data Centers and other Data Centers related to the Tsunami Early Warning System in Africa and Asia according to the lists to be prepared by IODE during 2005. This will be done via regional official ESRI distributors in the corresponding regions. Each Center will obtain a box version of ArcView 9 along with a free license and free one year maintenance. The estimated value of donation is about 280,000 Euro.

5.3 Participation in the European Community projects

IOC/IODE Project Office participated recently in several projects and project proposals relevant to the Project Office activities within the EU 6-th Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration. They are:

SYMORC - Project to establish a System of Industry Metocean data for the Offshore and Research Communities. Specific Support Action.

Role of the IOC/IODE Project Office: Promotion, Dissemination and Exploitation.

MOTIVE - Marine overlays on Topography for Action II Valuation and Exploitation. Specific Support Action.

Role of the IOC/IODE Project Office: Sub-contractor to provide liaison with the IOC Marine Standards Registry and outreach to global marine community.

SEADATANET - A Pan-European Infrastructure for Ocean and Marine Data Management. Support for Research Infrastructures, Integrating Activities/Communication Network Development. Integrated Infrastructure Initiative.
Role of the IOC/IODE Project Office: Training and Capacity building coordination.

6. Requested Actions from the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

- Comment on the Project Office development and its working plan

Member states are encouraged to promote the IODE Project office and to outpost relevant experts on short to long-term basis to the Project Office.