

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)**

**Twentieth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data
and Information Exchange (IODE-XIX)
Beijing, China, 4-8 May 2009**

Marine Environmental Data Inventory (MEDI)

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Summary of the document

This document provides information on the MEDI Programme and its Steering Group (SG MEDI). The committee is invited to note the information on the activities of SG-MEDI and note the proposal that the Steering Group be terminated and future development and administration of MEDI should be managed by the IODE/JCOMM ETDMP.

DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE SUMMARY REPORT

The Marine Environmental Data Inventory (MEDI) is a catalogue system for marine datasets within the framework of the IODE programme. MEDI provides a reference point for locating marine and coastal datasets and is populated with metadata descriptions of marine datasets from IOC member states. The MEDI on-line catalogue is currently based on the GCMD Directory Interchange Format (DIF), a de-facto standard used to create metadata directories.

To comply with other metadata development within IODE and JCOMM, such as Ocean Data Portal and Ocean Data Standards, the MEDI metadata format will change to conform to the ISO 19115 (Geographic information -- Metadata) standard. This will require a new on-line catalogue which should be fully integrated with other IODE initiatives.

The following metadata activities were accomplished during the intersessional period:

- (i) Provision of input to the Ocean Data Portal Project. Metadata is an integral component of the IODE Ocean Data Portal and all data must have a metadata record. Participating data centres will generate discovery metadata about their datasets for distributed data search and retrieval. The ISO 19115 metadata standard (or a profile) will be used by ODP to describe data and services.

- (ii) Participation in the IODE/JCOMM Standards Process. The Marine Community Profile (MCP) of ISO 19115, developed by the Australian marine community, was one of two profiles of ISO 19115 considered at the Standards Forum. The Canadian NODC is developing a metadata entry tool which uses the MCP and this will be made available to the IODE community when released. The SG-MEDI chair has prepared a document comparing the Marine Community Profile (MCP), the WMO Core Metadata Profile, and the SeaDataNET Common Data Index (CDI).
- (iii) Cooperation with the IPET-MI and META-T. The SG-MEDI chair attended the Third Meeting of the WMO CBS Inter-Programme Expert Team on Metadata Implementation (IPET-MI). Version 1.0 of the WMO core metadata profile was finalized. This profile is now the full ISO standard and the previously proposed extensions have been removed. The SG-MEDI chair attended the meeting of the Water Temperature Instrument/platform Metadata Pilot Project (META-T) Steering Team. META-T will contribute instrument metadata and related discovery metadata to the Ocean Data Portal and WIGOS. Standards proposed by META-T will be submitted through the IODE/JCOMM Standards process for review by the wider community and to ensure metadata interoperability across the marine domain.

The Steering Group for MEDI did not meet during the intersessional period.

When the SG MEDI was established in 2000 (Recommendation IODEXVI.1) it was the only IODE project associated with development of standards and tools for discovery metadata. Metadata has now become an important component of a number of IODE projects (ODP, WIGOS, ODS) and it is important that MEDI implementation becomes part of the overall IODE strategy for data discovery. It is proposed that the Steering Group for MEDI be terminated and future development and administration of MEDI should be managed by the IODE/JCOMM ETDMP.

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