

Limited Distribution

IOC/IODE-XVII/35
Paris, 3 January 2003
Original: English

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

IOC Strategic Plan for Oceanographic Data and Information Management

(Secretariat)

The JCOMM Management Committee, during its First Session (Geneva, Switzerland, 6-9 February 2002) recommended that a draft resolution be prepared for the 35th Session of the IOC Executive Council calling for the development of an IOC integrated data management strategy, encompassing all programmes. (see Annex II)

In order to assist with this task, the Management Committee had further requested IODE to carry out an assessment of data and data product requirements of existing oceanography and marine meteorology programmes/projects, and evaluate whether these were currently met by the various groups of data centers (1). It had been recommended also to use the experience gathered in the preparation of the GOOS Data Management Plan (1998-199) and possibly the GCOS Data Management Plan as examples.

A draft resolution was subsequently prepared and was submitted and adopted by the 35th Session of the IOC Executive Council (Resolution EC-XXXV.2 (IOC Strategic Plan for Oceanographic Data and Information Management)). The Resolution also established a Task Team on the Development of an IOC Strategic Plan for Oceanographic Data and Information Management and defined its Terms of Reference. The Resolution and its Annex are shown in Annex I.

Due to the heavy calendar in 2002 it was not possible to organize a Session of the Task Team. In addition it was felt that progress should be made with the IODE Review (See **Document IOC/IODE-XVII/31 (IODE Evaluation Progress Report: A Proposal for an IODE Review)**) as this document will contribute substantively to the deliberations of the Task Team. The First Session of the Task Team is planned to take place on 23 June 2003, ie one day prior to the IOC Assembly.

The Committee will be informed by the Chair IODE on progress made with regard to (1) above.

ANNEX I

Resolution EC-XXXV.2
IOC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA
AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The Executive Council,

Recalling:

- (i) Resolution XX-4 requesting IODE to work in concert with JCOMM and GOOS to develop a comprehensive ocean data management system,
- (ii) Recommendation IODE-XVI.3 on the establishment, maintenance, and strengthening of co-operation between IODE and research and monitoring programmes,
- (iii) Recommendation IODE-XVI.4 on the establishment of a Group of Experts on Biological and Chemical Data Management and Exchange Practices,
- (iv) Resolution 4 of JCOMM-I that, *inter alia*, invites IODE to participate in the work of the JCOMM Data Management Programme Area,

Considering:

- (i) the existence of several data management plans, such as those of GOOS and IODE, all providing potential elements of a strategy and implementation plan for oceanographic data management,
- (ii) that IODE has developed national, regional and global infrastructures, expertise, experience and programmes for the management of oceanographic data and information, mostly for delayed-mode data,
- (iii) that IODE and JCOMM have each created data management structures to deliver the products and services required by their own programmes and activities which, although linked and coordinated, are not presently implemented and managed according to a common strategy,
- (iv) that the WMO Commission for Basic Systems has developed data management systems that satisfy part of the identified requirements of JCOMM for real-time data management,
- (v) that the data management systems of many Member States are abandoning strict distinctions between real-time and delayed-mode data management in favour of end-to-end data management,
- (vi) that both IODE and JCOMM are considering broader remits into non-physical ocean data management,

Recognizing the need for IOC to develop a Strategic Plan for oceanographic data and information management, embracing the requirements, capabilities and infrastructures of Member States, as well as the needs of their user communities,

Decides to establish a Task Team on the development of an unified, comprehensive IOC Strategic Plan for Oceanographic Data and Information Management with terms of reference

as detailed in the Annex to this Resolution;

Urges Member States of IOC to provide in-kind support and/or financial contributions to the IOC Trust Fund to cover the costs of the meetings of the Task Team.

Financial implications: US\$ 30,000 from Extra-budgetary Resources (2002-2003)

Annex to Resolution EC-XXXV.2
Terms of Reference for the Task Team on the Development of an IOC Strategic Plan
for
Oceanographic Data and Information Management

1. Purpose

To develop an IOC Strategic Plan with clearly defined roles for each of its observational and data management elements, for oceanographic data and information management, embracing the requirements, capabilities and infrastructures of its Member States, as well as the needs of their user communities.

2. Tasks

In pursuit of its task the Task Team shall:

- (a) carry out an assessment of data and data product requirements of existing oceanography and marine meteorology programmes/projects, and evaluate whether these are currently met by the various groups of IODE data centres;
- (b) take into consideration existing data management plans such as the GOOS data management plan and relevant WMO data management plans;
- (c) draft an IOC Strategic Plan for oceanographic data and information management, taking into consideration the requirements for such a plan within the framework of JCOMM;
- (d) submit a report on progress to the IOC Assembly in 2003.

3. Composition

The Task Team shall be composed of:

- (a) the chairperson or vice-chairperson of IODE;
- (b) the chairperson of the GOOS Steering Committee;
- (c) the coordinator of the JCOMM Data Management Programme Area;
- (d) a representative of the WMO Commission for Basic Systems;
- (e) one co-president of JCOMM;
- (f) the chairperson of the IOC Working Group on Data Policy;
- (g) two additional experts nominated respectively by IODE and I-GOOS, taking into account the need for multi-disciplinary expertise.

4. Schedule

At least two meetings of the Task Team will need to take place during the period 2002-2003.

ANNEX II
JCOMM Management Committee - First Session
Geneva, Switzerland, 6-9 February 2002
Item 4.3

4.3 Data Management Programme Area

4.3.1 Professor Lin Shoahua introduced this agenda item. A summary of her report is in *Annex VIII*. She explained that she had very recently been asked to take over from Dr Wang Hong as (acting) Coordinator for the JCOMM Data Management Programme Area, following the re-assignment of Dr Wang Hong to another position. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Dr Lin for accepting, at very short notice, the responsibility as (acting) Coordinator for the JCOMM Data Management Programme Area.

4.3.2 The Committee decided that stronger emphasis should be placed in the DMCG Work Programme on the development of a JCOMM Data Management Strategy. Data management activities under different IOC programme areas are not yet fully integrated. The IODE Committee, during its 16th Session, had made important decisions and recommendations towards enhancing the data management activities to better include biological, chemical and coastal oceanography data, and recognized the increasingly vague boundaries between delayed mode and real time data. These decisions and recommendations urgently need to be translated into actions at the national level (eg through an expanded role and additional resources for the NODCs). The Committee recommended that a Draft Resolution be prepared for the next session of the IOC Executive Council (4-14 June 2002) requesting Member States to take urgent action in this regard. **(Action: Neville Smith and Peter Pissierssens)**

4.3.3 In the same spirit meteorological data centres and oceanography centres would need to improve cooperation and share responsibilities.

4.3.4 The Committee recommended that a Draft Resolution be prepared for the next Session of the IOC Executive Council calling for the development of an IOC integrated data management strategy, encompassing all IOC programmes. In order to assist with this task, the Committee requested IODE to carry out an assessment of data and data product requirements of existing oceanography and marine meteorology programmes/projects, and evaluate whether these were currently met by the various groups of data centres. It was recommended to use the experience gathered in the preparation of the GOOS Data Management Plan (1998-1999) and possibly the GCOS Data Management Plan as examples. **(Action: IODE and Secretariat)**

4.3.5 The Committee noted that the DMCG still has a vacancy for a data flow monitoring expert and requested Committee members to propose possible names to the Secretariat by the end of February 2002. **(Action: Committee members and Secretariat)**

4.3.6 The Committee emphasized that the DMCG will equally cover data management related to oceanography and marine meteorology. Although a work plan for the Expert Team on Marine Climatology was currently not available yet, it would be distributed shortly. It was noted that interaction between the two Data Management Expert Teams would be assisted, *inter alia*, through Volker Wagner, who was a member of both Expert Teams.