



**Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
(of UNESCO)**

Annual Report 1999

Addendum

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY
THE XXTH IOC ASSEMBLY
(29 June – 9 July 1999)**

Resolution XX-1: Statutes of the Commission

The 30th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in November 1999 approved the revised statutes of the IOC, retaining the original text as contained in the Annex to the Resolution of the Assembly.

Resolution XX-2: Measurement and Management of Submarine Groundwater – Discharge (SDG) in the Coastal Zone as a Contribution to the IOC/ICAM Programme

In response to this resolution, an expert group was convened in Paris (2-4 February 2000) under chairmanship of W. Burnett (USA) and E. Kontar (Russia). CSI, GOOS, IHP, and LOICZ representatives also attended. The objective of the meeting was to draft a basic plan for a SGD project in the context of ICAM, and to prepare an intercalibration programme to resolve existing measurement problems and develop new techniques as appropriate. The report of the meeting will be presented to the 33rd session of the Executive Council.

Resolution XX-3: The Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Programme

Negotiations with the Bureau of External Relations of UNESCO and DANIDA (Denmark) have been fulfilled and the IOC HAB Centre in Copenhagen and the HAB Programme may be considered as secured in the coming years. The Environment Workplan 2000-2003 for the 15% of the US\$1 million/year provided by DANIDA to UNESCO has taken into account the wishes of the Assembly expressed in the Resolution. DANIDA made it clear that the priorities within UNESCO are set by the Organization itself. As UNESCO has not established a clear mechanism for setting such priorities internally, IOC success depends highly on the ability to provide proper follow-up and good in-house coordination. Negotiations with DANIDA are of a principal interest to IOC and UNESCO as the Framework Agreement between UNESCO and DANIDA is planned as a model for a set of similar agreements with donors.

With regards to Spain, negotiations for the HAB Centre in Vigo beyond 2001 will be conducted during the year 2000.

Resolution XX-4: International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange System (IODE)

IODE-XVI is scheduled to take place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 30 October – 9 November 2000. At this meeting, all issues relevant to the IODE system development will be discussed. Some specific actions were taken to improve coordination and integration of data and information components of different IOC programmes with IODE, *e.g.* with ICAM (IOC-SIDA-Flanders Workshop on Ocean Data and Information for Integrated Coastal Area Management, 13-15 December 1999, Cape Town, South Africa), with GOOS (IODE-GOOS cooperation meeting, 20-21 March 2000, Greenbelt, USA), with such regional programmes as WESTPAC (IODE-WESTPAC International Conference, 1-4 November 1999, Hangkawi, Malaysia) and Mediterranean Sea (International Conference on Oceanography of the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea, 23-26 February 1999, Athens, Greece). IODE is working on the implementation of the GOOS-Africa recommendation to PACSICOM regarding the need to develop NODCs, data archaeology and data communication in support of ICAM in Africa.

Cooperation between IODE and GOOS in data management issues has considerably improved. IODE was involved in the preparation of the GOOS Data and Information Management Plan. IODE is a partner in JCOMM together with GOOS.

A consultant was hired from 1st August 1999 for one year to work jointly on IODE and GOOS data issues and to help to ensure good coordination.

Resolution XX-5: Ocean Mapping

IOC came to an agreement with the Government of Monaco regarding the celebration of 100 years of GEBCO. Monaco agreed to provide all necessary facilities and contribute to the celebration.

Training courses on marine bathymetry have been included in the agenda of the IOC Editorial Board sessions for the Western Indian Ocean and Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

A meeting of the partner organizations was held in London in August 1999 to discuss policy issues to be included in the UN Atlas of the Oceans. The first meeting of the technical staff from the six UN core agencies was held in Rome in December 1999 to discuss the information and policy contributions of each agency. At both meetings, the IOC staff were represented and contributed to discussions. IOC will be contributing to Atlas articles and information on Large Marine Ecosystems; Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources; Pollution; Ocean CO₂ sinks and sources; Harmful Algal Blooms; Storm Surges and Tsunamis; Coastal Area Management.

Resolution XX-6: The Argo Project

IOC and WMO jointly sent a letter to IOC Member States and WMO Members describing the Argo project, the governing resolution adopted by both organizations and its importance to operations and research. Arrangements are being made to hire a part time person to work as Argo Technical Coordinator under the supervision of the Technical Coordinator for DBCP and SOOP at Service Argos in Toulouse. This person will be responsible for informing Member States about float positions in relation to EEZs. A selection of Member States has been asked to share the costs of the Argo Technical Coordinator. Individual Member States are being contacted to promote their interest to join the Argo Project in a variety of capacities (*e.g.* for float deployment).

Resolution XX-7: The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)

No direct approach has yet been made to Member States collectively to contribute to GOOS implementation, nor to WMO, UNEP, ICSU or FAO, other than in the context of continuance of current support for discrete elements of the system (*e.g.* DBCP, GLOSS, SOOP, TAO, and GOOS coordination meetings, etc.), or for collective support of the Argo Project.

Resolution XX-8: Revised Terms of Reference for I-GOOS

Member States and international organizations will be informed of the revised Terms of Reference for I-GOOS *via* publication and distribution in April 2000 of the report of the meeting of I-GOOS-IV.

Resolution XX-9: The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

ICES and IOC have jointly agreed to re-form the ICES Steering Group on GOOS as the ICES-IOC Steering Group on GOOS, which will be jointly chaired by Representatives of ICES and GOOS. Representatives of EuroGOOS and IOC will be members of the new Working Group, which will meet in Southampton, 23-25 October 2000.

Resolution XX-10: The Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)

An additional clause regarding GOOS will be added to the initial agreement between IOC and CPPS following consultation with the GOOS Steering Committee, which meets in May 2000.

Resolution XX-11: Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy

In accordance with this Resolution, an *ad hoc* Working Group on Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy was created, including the two co-chairpersons of JCOMM, the Chairperson of IODE and other experts to review existing agreements and practices, both within and outside IOC, with regard to the exchange of oceanographic and related environmental data and products.

The *ad hoc* Working Group will meet at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris 15-17 May 2000. The group will restate the general IOC principles and policy with regard to oceanographic data exchange, and formulate a draft statement of recommended practices for the exchange of oceanographic data in view of recent technological developments and the significant increase of quasi real-time data needs. This draft statement will be given to the 33rd Session of the Executive Council for comments and with a view to proposing it to the 21st Session of the IOC Assembly for adoption.

Resolution XX-12: The Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM)

In November 1999, WMO and IOC advised their Member States and Members about the formation of JCOMM and asked them to formally nominate technical experts to serve as members of it. Procedures and a timetable for transition to JCOMM were established at the first JCOMM-TRANS meeting in St. Petersburg (July 1999). Financial matters, the structure for JCOMM and the capacity building programme for JCOMM will be considered at JCOMM-TRANS-II (14-16 June 2000). An expert group met in Geneva (6-8 December 1999) to consider the development of a JCOMM Polar strategy as a first step in restructuring pre-existing CMM and IGOS subgroups. JCOMM-1 will take place in July 2001 in Iceland.

Resolution XX-13: Fourth Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC/WESTPAC)

A preparatory negotiation with SEASTART and SEAPOL for establishing a formal agreement with these organizations is underway.

The International Conference IODE-WESTPAC 1999 (ICIWP-99) was successfully implemented in November 1999 in Langkawi, Malaysia, with the participation of almost 200 experts from the region. To assist Member States of the South-eastern Asia in developing marine research and data management infrastructure, a mission to Malaysia will be implemented in May/June 2000.

An effort is underway in support of the establishment of a Regional Graduate School of Oceanography in the region. An *ad hoc* task team was established and consultations are in progress.

Commitments of individual WESTPAC countries to support GOOS were expressed during the GOOS meeting held 5-6 July 1999. NEAR-GOOS follow-up is in progress and SEA-GOOS is still in a planning phase.

An informal meeting was held during IOC-XX and it was tentatively decided to hold the IOC/WESTPAC Scientific Symposium in the first half of 2001 in the Republic of Korea. The local

organizing Committee is being established in the Republic of Korea. Proposal for extra funding under UNESCO Participation Programme has been prepared and submitted *via* the Korean UNESCO National Commission and MOMAF.

No direct action has yet been started for the implementation of WESTPAC-V. Negotiations with the Australian official are planned to start soon.

More tight intersessional contacts with Member States, especially with those who have not participated in the past sessions such as the southern Pacific island States, were envisaged.

Resolution XX-14: The IOCARIBE Sub-Commission

The IOCARIBE Sub-commission continued with the implementation of the programme adopted in their last session in San Jose, Costa Rica. After the successful initial meeting, plans for IOCARIBE GOOS are proceeding through the elaboration of a catalogue of available data in the Region. Mr. Rafael Steer-Ruiz, after a long and devoted service to the Sub-commission, ceased in its function as Head of the IOCARIBE Office in April 2000 and has been replaced by Mr Alan Duncan, from Trinidad and Tobago, who is occupying the post *ad interim*. Following IOC-UNESCO guidelines, external recruitment is underway for this post at the P-4 level.

Resolution XX-15: Establishment of a Regional IOCINCWIO Office

A Memorandum of Understanding was established between IOC and Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) for the hosting of the IOCINCWIO Project Office (31 January 2000). The MOU specifies that KMFRI will provide office space and office equipment, as well as two local support staff. IOC will provide remuneration for a P-3 level consultant as Head of the IOCINCWIO Project Support Office.

Mr. Mika Odido was hired as Head of the IOCINCWIO Project Office (P-3 Consultant) for an initial period of 6 months (renewable) from 8 February 2000. Financial support has been provided for the operational expenses of the Office.

Resolution XX-16: Implementation of IOCINDIO Workplan and Establishment of a Regional Support Office

The third Session of the IOCINDIO Regional Committee was held from 21 to 23 February 2000 in the Islamic Republic of Iran, preceded by the two-day Workshop on Integrated Coastal Zone Studies. A regional Workshop on storm surges and a regional meeting for finalizing the plan of actions to implement the project proposal on storm surges disaster reduction for the northern part of the Indian Ocean took place in New Delhi from 20 to 26 October 1999. The issue related to the establishment of a regional support office for IOCINDIO was discussed during IOCINDIO-III. The regional Committee decided to postpone this proposal until IOCINDIO-IV.

A regional training course on Sea Level Measurements and Data Analysis will be held jointly with PERSGA from 15-20 April 2000 in Saudi Arabia. The Coral Reef Monitoring and Management Regional Workshop is postpone till the second half of 2000.

Resolution XX-17: IOC Regional Committee for the Central Eastern Atlantic (IOCEA)

The proposal to establish an IOCEA regional support office, as well as discussion of other issues relevant to regional committee activities will take place during IOCEA-V, to be held in Dakar, Senegal from 5-11 May 2000. The Dakar session will be preceded by an ODINAFRICA

Workshop, to take place in Dakar from 2-4 May 2000 where focus will be on ensuring full implementation of RECOSCIX-CEA.

Resolution XX-18: Black Sea Regional Committee (BSRC)

The first Black Sea GOOS Workshop took place in October 1999 in Varna, Bulgaria. An IOC/IODE mission was implemented to Georgia in March 2000 to assist the country in establishing a marine research and oceanographic data and information management infrastructure.

Resolution XX-19: IOC Activities Related to the Caspian Sea

A regional Workshop on the Floating University took place in Astrakhan, Russia, from 22-23 November 1999. The Workshop formulated recommendations on coordination of capacity building activities in the region.

The idea of a demonstration project expressed at the 10-11 October meeting for the Volga River and Caspian Sea basins was supported by the Chairpersons of the five intergovernmental scientific programmes of UNESCO. An international planning meeting on the development of a demonstration project: «Sustainable Development of Large River Basins - A Pilot Project for the Volga Basin and The Caspian Sea» will take place in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia from 2-6 May 2000. The objective of the meeting will be to analyze the scope of the project, define an initial methodological approach and lay down the framework for further actions. The results of the meeting will be reported at the 33rd Session of the IOC Executive Council.

There was some progress in establishing links of cooperation with the Caspian Environmental Programme of UNDP where IOC is considered as one of the partners in the programme implementation.

Resolution XX-20: Pan-African Conference on Sustainable Integrated Coastal Management (PACSICOM)

IOC was participated in the Special Informal Consultative Meeting (Nairobi, Kenya, 30 September 1999) and in the Third meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the preparation of the Partnership Conference (Mauritius, 1st November 1999). Discussions were arranged on the IOC support to the PrepCom Secretariat. In this regard IOC pledged financial support for the Secretariat in 2000. The present Chairperson of the preparatory Committee was invited to ODINAFRICA-II Planning Workshop and IOCEA-V Session (Dakar, Senegal, May 2000). Support was received from the Government of Finland for publishing the PACSICOM Conference proceedings.

Discussions are underway regarding the form and development of proposals for pilot projects to implement the recommendations of GOOS-AFRICA to PACSICOM. The recommendations on data centres and communications infrastructure are already being addressed to some extent through the activities of ODINAFRICA.

IOC and ACOPS have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly assist African Member States in the preparation of proposals and related documents to be submitted to donors for funding. IOC has invited UNESCO's CSI to collaborate within the framework of CSI's intersectorial coordination mandate related to coastal zones and small islands.

Resolution XX-21: Priority Africa

The ODINAFRICA-I project is providing support amounting to more than US\$775,000 (Trust Fund + Regular Programme); ODINAFRICA-II, if approved, will have a budget of more than US\$4,000,000 (including national counterpart contributions, IOC/UNESCO RP+TF).

Within the framework of ODINAFRICA-I and ODINAFRICA-II, a GODAR component is included with the specific purpose of bringing Africa-specific ocean data and information, currently outside the IODE community, into IODE and thus to the African Member States. The ODINAFRICA-I project has already provided modern technology (computers, Internet access) to 7 IOCINCWIO Member States. ODINAFRICA-II, if approved, will provide modern technologies to 18 African Member States. The ODINAFRICA projects (both I and II) include a considerable training component.

Resolution XX-22: Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa - Second Phase (ODINAFRICA-II)

Eighteen Member States in Africa have decided to participate in the ODINAFRICA-II project (Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania and Tunisia). Additionally External Expertise Partners were identified in Flanders (VUB, LUC, BLIZ) and Australia (AODC). All Partners have pledged counterpart contributions, identifying both infrastructural support and manpower to implement the project.

The reviewed and finalized ODINAFRICA-II proposal has been submitted to the UNESCO-Flanders Cooperation Steering Group in November 1999. It was preselected in February 2000. The final version has been accepted formally by the Steering Group in April 2000 and has been submitted to the Flemish Government in April 2000.

The First Planning Workshop on the 'Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa - Phase II' will be organized in Dakar, Senegal between 2 and 4 May 2000, hosted by the UNESCO Office in Dakar. The African Partners clearly defined their national data and information requirements within the framework of national ocean and coastal area related national priorities. The workshop also defined the management structure for the Project. Appropriate recommendations will be forwarded to IOCEA-V.

Resolution XX-23: Regional Secretariat Office of the Sub-Commissions for IOCARIBE and WESTPAC

A draft resolution was submitted to Commission III (Science) of the UNESCO General Conference with the request to provide additional funding to IOC for permanent posts for WESTPAC and IOCARIBE regional offices. Unfortunately, the resolution was not approved by the Commission.

Resolution XX-24: Follow-up Actions to the 1998 International Year of the Ocean

Only very few actions have been taken for the implementation of this resolution due to lack of resources - funds and staff. During 1999 the Floating University Programme was implemented on board two research vessels in the Black, Mediterranean and Baltic Seas. High School and College students from five Baltic countries took part in the Baltic Floating activities.

For promoting the role of IOC in education on marine environment and for increasing awareness in the need for the marine environment protection, the First International Conference of Aquariums, Museum and Science Centres was implemented in Boulogne-sur-Mer (France) from 6 to 9 June 1999.

IOC participated and contributed to the 26th World Festival of Underwater Images which took place in Antibes (France) in October 1999. Special IOC prizes were given to selected participants of the festival as a reward for their success in competition.

Resolution XX-25: IOC Programme and Budget for 2000-2001

The 157th Executive Board approved the zero nominal growth budget. The UNESCO General Conference endorsed the budget proposed by Executive Board with minor adjustments. The General Conference received a Draft Resolution submitted by Costa Rica and supported by the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Panama to increase the IOC budget and staff allocation according to IOC Resolution XX-25. Despite the severe budgetary limitations approved by the Executive Board and the General Conference, several countries supported the DR for increased budgetary support for IOC. However, during the General Conference, the Bureau of Commission III (Science), in compliance with the budgetary ceilings approved, decided not to endorse the request.