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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)

**INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION FOR THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION OF UNESCO**

Summary. This report is submitted in accordance with the IOC Resolution EC-XLI.2 adopted by the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the IOC Executive Council in June 2008. It contains information on the progress in the preparation for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IOC which will be commemorated during the period 2010-2011.

The report presents the achievements in the preparation and points out the drawbacks. It provides some ideas on the ways for improving the preparatory process.

## Introduction

The IOC Executive Council at its Forty-first Session decided that the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IOC “should start with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Executive Council and end with the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOC Assembly...” (para. 90 of report IOC/EC-XLI/3). This means that the years 2010–2011 will be dedicated to the commemorative events to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) established in 1960 by Resolution 2.31 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its eleventh session, and in conformity with the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Conference on Oceanic Research (Copenhagen, 11-16 July 1960).

Basic reasons to celebrate the anniversary are to express the profound gratitude to all those who have associated over the last 50 years with the development of the IOC, to create awareness of the IOC achievements in the past and present, and to look into the future and obtain commitments from governments to take action, provide adequate resources and give the priority to the oceans and coastal areas which they deserve as finite economical assets and as providers of basic ecological services that make life possible on Earth.

At the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the IOC Assembly in 2007 (Resolution XXIV-4) and the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the IOC Executive Council in 2008 (Resolution EC-XLI.2) the participants discussed and adopted criteria for a successful celebration of the anniversary.

The Executive Council at its 41<sup>st</sup> Session adopted an outline of the Indicative IOC Plan of Action which was annexed to Resolution EC-XLI.2

The Resolution, in particular, invited “Member States and other appropriate bodies and organizations cooperating with the Commission, to contribute to the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IOC, and to inform the Executive Secretary of their efforts, so that a full list of activities can be maintained.” The Resolution also called upon “the Director-General of UNESCO to consider allocating targeted financial resources to the IOC in the draft programme and budget for 2010–2011 (Draft 35 C/5) to support the plan of action for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and in particular, to organize a global ocean conference and actions associated with the 36<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO in 2011.”

By the same Resolution the Council requested “the Executive Secretary to establish a dedicated account for the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IOC to be financed by extra budgetary contributions” and invited “Member States and other potential donors to consider making extra budgetary contributions in this regard.”

## Implementation of the Plan of Action and of other decisions of the IOC Governing Bodies relevant to the 50th Anniversary of the IOC

Following the recommendations of the Assembly and Executive Council the Executive Secretary in November 2008 appointed a part time consultant to help in the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Plan of Action and in the coordination of all other activities related to the commemoration. By the IOC Circular Letter N° 2286 of 9 February 2009 Member States were informed of this decision and were invited to cooperate with the coordinator and help him to implement his responsibilities.

The development of the **book on the IOC History** is being coordinated by the former chairpersons, Prof. D. Pugh and Mr G. Holland with the aim to have it published in 2010. The IOC Headquarters provided assistance in search for funds and publishers and helped to organize a meeting with the staff of the UNESCO publishing house to discuss these matters.

The Director-General of UNESCO invited the IOC to consider having the **Ministerial Round Table on Oceans in conjunction with the General Conference in 2009** in order to reposition the

oceans into the international agenda. This idea was endorsed by the UNESCO Executive Board in April 2009. The Ministerial Round Table will be held on 12–13 October 2009. The participants in the Round Table will discuss the special role that the UN plays in establishing the legal framework for ocean governance and the role of UNESCO and its IOC in providing critical contributions of marine sciences to accurate, unbiased assessments of the state of the ocean environment and to the provision of guidance to decision-makers and policy-makers. The IOC Executive Secretary is leading the preparations for the event.

As it was recommended by the IOC Executive Council in 2008 efforts were made to have the Executive Council 43<sup>rd</sup> Session in 2010 in the UN Headquarters in New York. List of basic organizational requirements has been prepared and transferred to the UN. Negotiations have been started. To our regret we have been informed that due to the renovation of the UN Headquarters building the UN will not be in a position to host the meeting of the Executive Council in 2010.

## **EXPO 2010 and 2012**

EXPO 2010 will take place in Shanghai, China from 1 May to 31 October 2010 under the theme “Better City, Better Life”. EXPO 2010 Shanghai will showcase a number of initiatives for achieving better living conditions and more sustainable urban environments —currently home to over half of the world’s population. The United Nations will have its own pavilion, which will bear the theme of “One Earth, One UN”.

The IOC was invited by the organizers of EXPO and the Commissioner General of the UN Pavilion in its own capacity to contribute to the exhibition describing the Commission activities relevant to the theme of EXPO and the UN Pavilion.

EXPO 2010 Shanghai represents a wonderful opportunity to increase awareness in the activities of the IOC and in promoting the role of the Commission in sustainable development of coastal areas and in protecting coastal cities and their inhabitants against marine natural hazards. In this regard it coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary objectives.

As a result of a thorough consideration it was decided that due to the lack of human and financial resources it would be more appropriate to have the IOC contribution as part of the whole UNESCO effort under the theme “Safety of settlements at risk from the effects of marine natural hazards such as tsunami, storm surges and floods: demonstration of sustainable coastal zone management practices developed and recommended by UNESCO/IOC.”

There was a proposal formulated for the IOC contribution to the Pavilion accompanied by the estimate of funds required for the production of the IOC contribution. The proposal was submitted for funding. The contribution includes the Magic Planet Globe with the updated and adjusted software and new thematic displays to meet better the objectives of the EXPO theme (NASA, developer of the Magic Planet Globe, kindly agreed to be a partner in this endeavour); large display panels to demonstrate in an attractive way the UNESCO/IOC activities in the area of the safety of the settlements being at risk of the effects of marine natural hazards; development of a video film(s) related to the environment of coastal cities and mega cities. The funds requested for the implementation of this proposal are at the level of USD 70,000.

EXPO 2012 is planned to be organized under the theme “The Living Ocean and Coast” by the Republic of Korea in Yeosu. The Theme of the EXPO is closely related to the IOC mission and objectives. The Assembly may recall that the delegation of the Republic of Korea at the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Executive Council suggested that a World Ocean Conference be organized in conjunction with the EXPO 2012 Yeosu to provide a good opportunity to bring together scientists and a considerable number of ministers and thus help to raise the visibility of IOC.

IOC plans to be an active participant in this very important event through the organization of the two international meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on the “Effects of Climate Change on

the World's Oceans” and JCOMM-IV meeting as well as having an IOC Pavilion during the whole duration of the exposition.

The Assembly may wish to advise the Executive Secretary regarding the IOC participation in the UN Pavilion of EXPO 2010 Shanghai and recommend actions regarding the IOC participation in EXPO 2012 Yeosu. While discussing the organization of the Conference in conjunction with EXPO 2012 Yeosu the plans for the celebrative Conference with UNESCO in 2011 in Paris should be taken into account.

## PROMOTION MATERIALS

- an **IOC 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo** has been designed and approved by the Executive Secretary for a wide use by IOC Member States, programmes and partners with all activities and products related to the anniversary and announced as a contribution to the commemoration. The logo is available in high resolution electronic form (IOC Circular Letter N° 2294). Although until now there is no special procedure for using the IOC anniversary logo there are certain criteria/principles which should be taken into account while bestowing the permission. The IOC Headquarters (attention of Dr Oliounine) need to be informed of the planned activity for which the logo is to be used in advance, and the event, campaign, poster, publication should be included in an official list of the anniversary activities. The monitoring and updating of the list is being carried out by the IOC Secretariat.
- small and big **flags with the anniversary logo** have been produced through a generous contribution of the United Kingdom. 200 table flags are being delivered to the IOC with masts and wooden basis as well as 50 larger flags with eyelets and toggles. They will be available during the 25th Assembly. Big flags will be given to the Heads of Delegations of those Member States which plan research expeditions at sea during 2010–2011 to host the IOC flag on the masts of research vessels.
- **2010 calendar** is planned to be developed with the support of the GOOS Office. It will be a weekly desk calendar with 52 photos on 52 themes within the IOC mandate and a brief descriptive paragraph under each photo. The implementation of this project will raise awareness of the IOC activities.
- **ties and baseball caps** with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo have been designed and after a tender process potential producers have been identified. Unfortunately we are still in search for sponsors. The estimate of the cost of this project is about USD 4,500 for two hundred ties and USD 1,000 for the same number of caps. We hope that during the Assembly some of the IOC Member States will be interested in supporting the project financially.
- negotiations have started with the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and UN Postal Administration regarding the possibility of issuing a **commemorative stamp(s)** dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. By the IOC Circular Letter N° 2285 of 9 February 2009 Member States were invited, *inter alia*, to consider the possibility of issuing sets of national stamps dedicated to the oceans and IOC with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. Information on progress in this regard from delegations will be appreciated.
- within the IOC proposals aimed to contribute to the UNESCO contribution to EXPO 2010 Shanghai there is one related to the development of a short **video film on the environment of coastal cities and marine coastal hazards**. If funds permit it will be a useful input to the IOC promotional efforts.
- **memory flashdrives of 2 GB** with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo are planned to be available to all registered participants of the IOC Assembly. They will contain the Assembly documents.

- negotiations are in progress regarding the **Ocean Awards/Prizes** to be given to selected individuals to recognize ocean related accomplishments. The criteria for such awards could include: an international initiative aimed at increasing the knowledge about the Ocean; long term service to the ocean scientific community, the IOC or other international organization sharing the IOC objectives.
- the possibility of having one high level prize for the achievements and contribution to the marine science and another in ocean policy, and the launching of a “**young marine professional award**” are being considered.

## ANNIVERSARY WEBPAGE

A prototype of the anniversary webpage was prepared in cooperation with the GOOS support office (Thomas Gross). The webpage is part of the IOC website and consists of two parts:

- the webpage starts with the description of the IOC mission as it is presented in the last version of the IOC Statutes. It will follow with a few quotations containing the opinions of the Heads of some UN agencies regarding the unique place and role of the IOC. After this introduction there will be the 50 years Time Line presenting the main achievements of the IOC in implementing its mission. By using the mouse a user will have access to the key activities and entire texts of relevant documents.
- the second part of the webpage will start with the key points of the IOC Assembly and Executive Council Resolutions relevant to the 50th anniversary. It will contain a global map identifying those Member States that are contributing activities to the anniversary programme. We expect that a final version of the webpage will contain photos of events, of research vessels, carrying the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary flags etc. Information will be regularly updated based on new inputs received from Member States. In the list of planned activities there will be a sub-item on the inputs received from the IOC programmes and partners.

The prototype version of the webpage will be demonstrated to the Assembly for information and comments. If funds permit and comments and contributions are received from Member States in the coming three-four months we plan to finalize the website and make it operational and widely accessible by the end of this year.

## CONTRIBUTION OF MEMBER STATES AND PARTNERS

On the 9th of February 2009 the IOC Circular Letter N° 2285 was sent to the IOC Member States inviting them to contribute to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the IOC. Below there is the list of planned activities received by the IOC from the IOC Member States, programmes and partners as of the beginning of June 2009.

### Conferences

- International Conference on “Functioning and Evolution of ecological systems of the Azov-Black Sea basin in the time of global climate change and regional anthropogenic influences”, Ukraine, third quarter of 2010 [dates and place to be identified]
- International Conference to commemorate 50 years of the establishment of the IOC/IODE Programme, IOC/IODE Working Committee, 2011 [dates and place to be identified]
- Fifth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands. Advancing integrated Ocean Governance at National, Regional, and Global Levels, 3–7 May 2010, UNESCO, Paris. Science unit of IOC jointly with UNEP and Ocean Forum Secretariat

- International Conference on “Climate Effects on Fish and Fisheries: Forecasting Impacts, Assessing Ecosystem Responses, and Evaluating Management Strategies”, 26–29 April 2010, Sendai, Japan. Science unit of IOC jointly with PICES
- International high-level forum on ocean issues, China, 2010 [dates and place to be identified]
- XIV Latin-American Congress on Marine Sciences with a special session dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Havana, Cuba, October 2009
- A workshop on the role of the IOC in the development of oceanography and marine ecology in Egypt and Arab World, 17–20 November 2009 in conjunction with the NIOF international conference, Alexandria, Egypt
- International Symposium on the Role of the Indian and Pacific oceans in Climate Change and Variability, 10–12 November 2010 United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan
- International Symposium to celebrate IOC activities related to marine science and services, “IOC Programmes: Past, Present and Future”, 29–30 October 2010, Yasuda Auditorium, the University of Tokyo, Japan
- International Conference on the “50 Years of Education and Awareness Raising for Shaping the Future of the Oceans and Coasts”, 27–30 April 2010, Russian State Hydrometeorological University, St. Petersburg, Russia
- International Symposium on ocean sciences, Indonesia [title, dates and place to be identified]

#### Other Meetings

- A series of meetings with the focus on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. April 2010, Argentina jointly with the IEEE's Ocean Engineering Charter, OCEATLAN and ISABP
- Special session of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IOC and oceanographic research in Ukraine, Kiev, second quarter of 2010

#### Training courses and workshops

- China, 1-2 international training courses on ocean dynamics and climate planned to be organized under the auspices of the First institute of Oceanography of SOA, 2010
- Japan, series of international training workshops will be organized for participants from the WESTPAC region. Spring-Fall 2010, dates and place to be Identified

#### Research Cruises

- Japan, research cruises will be implemented under the IOC anniversary flags from January to December 2010
- China, a co-operative cruise will be implemented as a part of the WESTPAC programme “Responses of marine hazards to Climate Change in the Western Pacific” , in June 2010
- Ukraine, research expedition on board RV *Professor Vodjanitskii* under the theme “Integrated study of the resources capacity in the Black Sea basin, of the state and quality of sea waters”, 2010 [dates to be identified]

### Promotion

- Cuba, posters exhibition highlighting IOC activities is planned during XIV Latin-American Congress, October 2009
- Cuba, Children Fair on Marine Sciences will be organized in April 2010 with a special session dedicated to the IOC
- Ukraine, publication in the second quarter of 2010 of a popular brochure dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to the participation of scientists from Ukraine in the IOC Programmes
- Ukraine, a series of mass media interventions will be organized under the theme "Integration of ocean sciences —experience and future of international cooperation", second–fourth quarters of 2010
- UNESCO/IOC/IODE/ODINAFRICA, publication of the book "African Oceans and Coasts". June 2009

### **FUNDING**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of March the IOC Circular Letter N° 2297 was sent to the Member States requesting them to consider voluntary extra budgetary contributions in support of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities. The Circular Letter also contained description of modalities which can be used for the transfer of funds.

Fund-raising efforts are in progress. As of the beginning of June three Member States expressed readiness to provide cash contribution to the activities relevant to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to be implemented by the Headquarters. They are: Canada – USD 50,000, China – USD 10,000 annually during the period 2009–2011, and Belgium – USD 25,000 in support of the publication of the IOC History Book. Funds from China and Belgium for the year 2009 have already been received. There are some technical problems for the transfer of funds from Canada.

The Assembly is invited to consider the ways of fostering the financial contribution to the IOC aimed for the implementation of the activities related to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **SOME GENERAL OBSERVATIONS**

We are missing active involvement of the IOC Member States in implementing their own decisions relevant to the anniversary. There is a need for funds and human resources, as we can not succeed if there are no voluntary funds coming to the IOC account specially dedicated to the anniversary.

The estimate of the level of funding necessary for the implementation of the Plan of Actions and other activities relevant to the anniversary is about USD 500,000 for the three-year period. Most of the funds are needed not for celebration events but rather for implementing activities approved by the IOC governing bodies dedicated to the anniversary objectives, such as a Conference, a Ministerial meeting(s), publication of the IOC History Book, development of exhibits for different expositions, consultants' fees to assist in the production of short media messages and adaptation of IOC policy briefs as well as for the development of a final version of the anniversary website, etc.

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