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МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

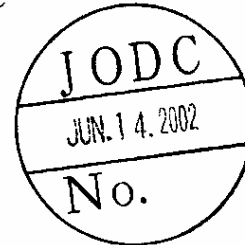
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3 June 2002

IOC Circular Letter No. 2024
(Available in English only)

To: Member States of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)

Cc: Permanent Delegates to UNESCO of Member States of IOC/WESTPAC
Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of IOC
Chairman and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC/WESTPAC
Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of I-GOOS
Chairman and Vice-Chairman of IODE
Members of NEAR-GOOS Co-ordinating Committee
Director, UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific
(UNESCO Jakarta Office)
Director, UNESCO Bangkok Office
IOC Regional Secretariat for WESTPAC
Director, UNESCO Beijing Office
Director, South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)
Director, Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department, Japan Coast Guard



Subject: Sixth IOC/WESTPAC Training Course on NEAR-GOOS (North-East Asian Regional - Global Ocean Observing System) Data Management, Japan Oceanographic Data Centre (JODC), Tokyo, Japan, 21 October – 1 November 2002

On behalf of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO I have the pleasure in inviting you, in your capacity as representative of your country, to assist in the identification of the most suitable participants for the above training course.

The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) is a comprehensive system called for in Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 to enable effective and sustainable management and development of

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seas and oceans, and prediction of future change. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is playing the leading role in planning and implementing GOOS, which is co-sponsored by the IOC, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Council for Science (ICSU). Education, training and technical assistance are essential parts of GOOS in terms of capacity building in order to ensure the widest participation of Member States.

NEAR-GOOS is the first regional pilot project of GOOS implemented by China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. It is intended to provide a regional framework for gathering, co-ordinating and distributing data in the North-East Asian region, to enable participating countries to make better use of their investments in ocean observations and research and to lead to a regional contribution to GOOS. NEAR-GOOS started its operation of a data exchange system in October 1996 and has since provided oceanographic data and relevant products to users free of charge through electronic communications.

Training for the WESTPAC countries is one important aspect of NEAR-GOOS operation, considering the fact that new technology is continually introduced for an effective data exchange within NEAR-GOOS. The NEAR-GOOS Co-ordinating Committee, at its first session (Bangkok, September 1996), endorsed the idea of having training activities in support of NEAR-GOOS and invited the Japan Oceanographic Data Center (JODC) to organize training courses concerning on-line data exchange to strengthen the implementation of NEAR-GOOS. JODC builds on the experience of the WESTPAC Data Management Training Courses that were conducted as an activity of the RNODC-WESTPAC for more than ten years.

The present Training Course on NEAR-GOOS Data Management has been organized since 1997 by the JODC with the financial support of the Japanese Government, as well as the assistance from the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the Ocean Research Institute (ORI) of the University of Tokyo, and other relevant organizations in Japan. Further to the recommendation of the Fifth Session of the NEAR-GOOS Co-ordinating Committee, this training course will also comprise an introduction to the IODE Resource Kit, a comprehensive training and self-training system on Ocean data and information management, developed by the IODE, and the lecture on marine biological and chemical data processing.

This will be the sixth in this series of training courses. The detailed information of the course is attached herewith together with the qualifications of the participants and other necessary information.

Financial support for the training course is made available by the Japanese Government through the UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust. Up to Seven participants can be

funded. Each selected participant will receive a study grant, which includes an economy class return air ticket and subsistence allowance for the period of the participation in the course. A few additional places will be available for self-paying participants. The participants will be assumed to undertake full responsibility for the purchase of necessary overseas insurance. The final selection will be made by JODC and the IOC Secretariat on the basis of the application forms received from the candidates.

You are kindly invited to send your recommendation of suitable candidates, accompanied by completed application forms (enclosed) to the following address:

Ms. Lam Ho Hien
GOOS Project Office
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1, rue Miollis, 75732, Paris Cedex 15, FRANCE
Tel: (33.1) 45.68.39.74
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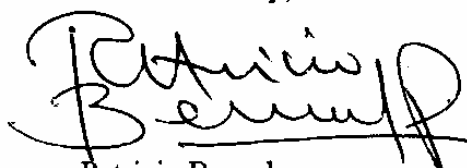
a copy to: IOC Regional Secretariat for WESTPAC
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Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Tel: (66) 2561-5118, 9
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Japan Oceanographic Data Centre (JODC)
Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department, Japan Coast Guard
5-3-1 Tsukiji Chuo-ku Tokyo 104-0045 JAPAN
Tel: (81.3) 3541. 4295
Fax: (81.3) 3545. 2885

Deadline for submission of application: 2 August 2002

I thank you for your collaboration in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Patricio Bernal
Assistant Director General of UNESCO
Executive Secretary of IOC