



2007 Report of activities by the Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO) to SCOR

POGO 8

The POGO year started with a productive eighth Annual meeting in Qingdao, China, 17-19 January 2007 attended by 55 delegates, including the Director of GEO, from 16 countries. The main focus of the meeting was to address ways in which ocean observations can be given a higher profile in the developing plans of GEO. Interactions between POGO/Ocean United and GEO are seen to be mutually beneficial, with GEO lobbying governments to support and sustain an integrated ocean observing system, and the ocean community actively contributing and promoting the success of GEO tasks. Besides the GEO discussions the meeting consisted of a range of themed presentations, POGO business and Capacity Building reports, plans to progress an International Research Cruise Information Database and a proposed submission to establish a Nippon Foundation - POGO Centre of Excellence. PDF copies of the main presentations made during the meeting are available on the POGO website (http://www.ocean-partners.org/meetings/P8_agendapresentations.htm).

GEO Related Actions from POGO-8

Soon after POGO 8 the POGO Chairman, Tony Haymet submitted a letter to the GEO Secretary outlining how the ocean community might map its activities to the 9 'Societal Benefit Areas' of GEO. Four proposed contributions were outlined:

1. POGO Ambassadors to GEO

David Farmer, Jim Baker and Howard Roe will continue to promote ocean observations in GEO and a fourth person (still to be identified) will represent the ocean community within the GEO Architecture and Data Management themes of GEO.

2. GEO Ministerial Meeting

Key exemplars of ocean observation e.g. Argo, CoML, CPR and their products that have already demonstrated clear societal benefits will be

highlighted at the Ministerial meeting from the ocean community. Subsequent to the POGO letter POGO/Ocean United representatives have played an active part in collaboration with IOC, GOOS, Argo and CoML in two planning meetings for the Ministerial helping to ensure that the oceans are appropriately taken into account in the Draft Report on GEO progress that will be submitted to the ministers. Climate change, Water security, Ecosystems/biodiversity and disasters are themes that are high on the agenda for the meeting; topics where ocean observations are critical. The Chairman of POGO, Tony Haymet, will lead a strong delegation representing POGO/Ocean United at the Ministerial and affiliated meetings in late November 2007, where POGO will have an information booth demonstrating the importance of ocean observations.

3. Knowledge Transfer and Communication

It is recognised that the ocean community has to improve communicating the socio-economic relevance, value and urgent need to implement a comprehensive ocean observing system in view of the threats to marine ecosystems from natural and anthropogenic sources and likely consequences of climate change. To this end the Partnership will explore links between GEO communicators and POGO with the aim of promoting the importance of observing the oceans. As part of this effort two short video animations covering ocean observations/ocean biodiversity are being prepared by POGO and CoML for presentation at the GEO Ministerial in Cape Town in November 2007.

4. Contributions to GEO Tasks

During POGO 8 potential lead and contributing scientists from the Ocean community that could contribute to the GEO Tasks listed in the GEO 2007-2009 Workplan were identified. To try and achieve proactivity in the Tasks the POGO Executive Director is examining ways in which assistance may be given to help stimulate each of the Task Groups.



International Cruise Information Database (I-CID) and web-site

A website that hosts an International Research Cruise Information Database (I-CID) is being developed as a joint POGO, Census of Marine Life (CoML) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) initiative to:

- improve information sharing on past, current and planned cruises,
- document details of ocean-going research vessels > 60 metres,
- enhance the cost-effectiveness of cruises by facilitating joint cruises as well as berth and equipment sharing.

The project is being developed by a SeaDataNet consortium (BODC (UK), BSH (GE), MARIS (NL) and EurOcean (PT)) and is building on an existing EU funded project: SeaDataNet (www.seadatanet.org).

Launched in May 2007, the I-CID website (www.pogo-oceancruises.org) is being progressively populated with data and upgraded with the development of an online Content Management System for RV operators by the end of 2007. The database consists of three modules:

1. Research Vessel Cruise Programme database, containing planned cruises per research vessel and owner / operator
2. Research Vessel Directory database, containing characteristics of each research vessel, owner / operator contact details and, if available, a link to the ship's web page
3. Cruise Summary Report (CSR) database, containing details of completed cruises and providing a first level inventory of oceanographic measurements made and samples taken.

SCOR has been a partner with POGO right from the outset in the planning and development of I-CID. POGO seeks continued support from SCOR programme leaders to help maintain an up-to-date database into the future. The usefulness of this initiative will depend very much on collective inputs from the community to the site.

Nippon Foundation - POGO Centre of Excellence

The Nippon Foundation has approved the new project to establish a Centre of Excellence in Oceanography. The Centre will be established in one of the POGO member institutes. The invitations to submit proposals have been circulated to all POGO members, and the closing date is August 31. The winning proposal will be selected in September. Ed Urban (SCOR) is a member of the Supervisory Committee for this initiative, which was developed in collaboration with SCOR.

POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme

The POGO-SCOR Fellowship programme continues to be a highly-regarded programme, and one of the key activities of POGO. The applications to this scheme have increased considerably in the last two years.

POGO 9, Bermuda (9 -11 January 2008)

The next annual meeting of POGO will be held at the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences. The meeting will be centred around three themes: the new GEO Coastal Initiative and how this can build on existing and planned coastal efforts; time series observations and how they can be integrated into GEO and a Director's Forum that will discuss the effectiveness of international mechanisms to implement, co-ordinate and promote the utilisation of existing and the development of an enhanced ocean observation system.