REPORT ON POGO-SCOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2009

Supervisor’s Report (Parent Institution)

Name of Trainee: Charissa M. Ferrera  Supervisor (Parent Institution): Dr. Gil Jacinto

Supervisor (Host Institution): Dr. Andy Rees  Dates of Training: 05 Oct – 18 Dec 2009

Subject of Training: Nitrogen cycling and underway pCO₂ analysis in the Atlantic Ocean (research cruise AMT 19)

1) Please provide an evaluation of the training received.

The training received by Ms. Ferrera afforded her an excellent opportunity to learn new skills and techniques related to the assessment of nitrogen cycling and pCO₂. Shortly after she arrived, Ms. Ferrera shared rather extensively with the chemical oceanography group the details of the methods she learned as well as good field/ship/laboratory practices.

2) What applications of the training received do you envision meeting at your institution?

We have started to seriously look at the carbonate chemistry of the country’s internal seas and the Pacific side of the Philippines. Ms. Ferrera’s added exposure on the measurement of pCO₂, among the other carbonate parameters, is an important part of this new focus. We will, undoubtedly, draw on her experience and skills in this area. Moreover, the role of nitrogen cycling, specifically nitrification and N-uptake rates, will be areas that we hope to pursue in future research programs especially in semi-enclosed seas. Finally, Ms. Ferrera’s shipboard and laboratory training has enabled her to observe and practice techniques in typical/routine chemical oceanographic measurements that she has shared with us at the Institute; some of these have provided an impetus to review and improve on our own methods/techniques.

3) Is this exchange likely to lead to future collaboration with the host institution?

In the near future, the exchange will not yet lead to collaboration in the fields Ms. Ferrera trained in. However, PML scientists (Steve de Mora and Trevor Platt) have visited MSI and discussions have been made on some areas of common interest (e.g., remote sensing and ocean colour). There may be opportunities to pursue work in these and affiliated areas (e.g., climate change) with possible EU funding in the future.

4) Please provide your comments on the Fellowship Programme.

I think the Fellowship Programme provides an excellent opportunity for young students/scientists to learn from experienced ocean scientists the tools and techniques needed to pursue ocean science in their home institutions/countries. One of the obvious benefits to participants of the program is to be part of a long-standing effort/program of looking at oceanographic (coupled with atmospheric) processes at large
scales. They contribute to the effort but also have fun and excitement as they take part in the cruise and post-cruise activities. Inevitably, many of the participants get even more drawn to the field of oceanography which is an important outcome especially for developing countries participants. Matching applicants, with their expertise and their (current and new) interests, to the POGO program and activities will continue to be a challenge. Associated with it is the ideal situation that fellows are able to directly apply their new skills in their home institution upon their return. Finally, I would continue to encourage our young researchers to apply and hopefully be allowed to take part in future POGO cruises/activities.

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