

Honolulu Declaration



At a meeting of the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO) in Honolulu (January 2012), world leaders in ocean observing representing 29 major oceanographic institutions from 18 countries re-affirmed their commitment to work together for increased understanding of how our oceans are affected by climate change, and to optimise the benefits to society of existing and future ocean observing systems.

We have demonstrated changes in the ocean environment that must have profound implications for the biodiversity of marine life, for our climate and weather systems, and for the well-being of world society.

Through its Oceans United forum, POGO is taking a leadership role to integrate and coordinate its work with those of relevant international organisations to ensure that ocean observations form an essential component of effective stewardship of the global environment.

Specifically, the Honolulu Declaration recommends and commits to:

1. Vigorous support of a globally-coordinated network of time series observation stations in the oceans to monitor a rapidly changing Earth System through OceanSITES; in particular to study the heat storage, deep-sea biogeochemistry and ecosystem function and other properties that are poorly known.
2. Support of the “Blue Planet” Task of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), including a related Symposium to be convened in November of 2012.
3. Support of the POGO exhibit at the EXPO 2012 in Yeosu, Korea and support of the ocean-related initiatives at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO+20).
4. Continued support for, active engagement with, and active promotion of the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS), including contribution of data from POGO members with Southern Ocean interests and capabilities.
5. Development of Oceans United as a global forum for dialogue within the marine scientific community, and with international agencies responsible for marine stewardship.
6. Continued investment in capacity building in developing countries and economies in transition, to further the global expansion of ocean observations, in particular through support of the Nippon Foundation-POGO Alumni Network for Oceans (NANO).

Signed on behalf of all participants by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Herzig', written over a white background.

Dated: 2 March 2012

Prof. Peter Herzig
Chairman of POGO

