



## POGO Newsletter: July 2010

### The Chilean Earthquake and Tsunami - impact on the University of Concepción

Concepción was heavily damaged by the Earthquake and the neighbouring areas by the subsequent tsunami. We have learned that all the oceanographers and their colleagues at the University of Concepción were spared, though many of them suffered serious damage to their properties and lack of power, water and food. The damage to their buildings and facilities in the main campus were minor, relative to the damage at their field station in Dichato. The station itself was completely destroyed, and their boat was carried by the tsunami a couple of kilometres inland, but was estimated to be salvageable (and was consequently relaunched). That there was no loss of life in Dichato is credit to Dr. Ruben Escribano, scientist at University of Concepción, who was at Dichato at the time, and alerted the police of the potential danger from tsunami. We have learned that Hotel El Araucano, where the POGO-10 meeting was held, has been practically destroyed. As a gesture of support and solidarity, POGO has waived the membership dues from the Chilean Consortium this year. Further means of helping the consortium will be discussed at POGO-12.



The Ocean Leadership of the USA, under Dr. Robert Gagolian's leadership, has set up a system which allows Ocean Leadership to receive donations to help Chilean oceanography recover from the disaster. Donators will be given receipts with a tax code that will ensure tax benefits for donations from the USA. For further details, see: <http://www.oceanleadership.org/2010/university-of-concepcion-oceanographic-relief-fund/>.

### POGO Annual Meeting: Moscow, January 26-28, 2010

The POGO-11 meeting was hosted by the Shirshov Institute of Oceanography. The weather was marked by below-seasonal temperatures hovering around -20 to -25°C, cold winds and snow. But the warm welcome and the wonderful hospitality laid out for the participants by Academician Robert Nigmatulin (Director, Shirshov Institute) and Prof. Sergei Shapovalov more than made up for the weather. Draft minutes of the meeting are available at: [http://www.ocean-partners.org/attachments/456\\_pogo-11-minutes\\_draft.pdf](http://www.ocean-partners.org/attachments/456_pogo-11-minutes_draft.pdf)



### Post OceanObs'09 Working Group

The working group that was set up following OceanObs'09 to develop a framework for taking forward the recommendations of the meeting has now begun its

deliberations. The co-chairs Dr. John Gunn and Dr. Eric Lindstrom have written soliciting inputs to the working group from the sponsoring organisations, including POGO. One avenue for providing inputs is through the POGO-nominated members of the committee: Dr. Yukio Masumoto (physical oceanography, Japan), Dr. Sun Song (marine ecosystems, China), Dr. Vicki Fabry (acidification, plankton, biogeochemistry, USA) and Dr. John Gunn (biology, Australia). Note that new members were added to the committee following POGO recommendation (at POGO-11 in Moscow) that Asian countries be better represented in the committee. In addition, there are other members in the committee with close ties to POGO, including Dr. Peter Burkill (Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science), Dr. Martin Visbeck (IFM-GEOMAR), Dr. Stan Wilson (NOAA), Dr. Mike Meredith (BAS) and Dr. Candyce Clark (NOAA). POGO is supporting the participation of Dr. Vicki Fabry. Full list of working group members is available at: <http://www.oceanobs09.net/wg/members.php>.

Suggestions from POGO-11 that the working group set priorities for scaling up ocean observations and provide budget estimates for the proposed observing elements, have already been passed on to Dr. Albert Fischer at IOC, who is providing secretariat support to the group. Please pass on any additional inputs you have directly to any of the working group members.

## Group on Earth Observations: Related Activities

**SAFARI:** The first-ever international symposium on Remote Sensing and Fisheries was held in Kochi, India, in February 2010 under the auspices of SAFARI (Societal Applications to Fisheries and Aquaculture of Remotely-sensed Imagery), a recognised task (AG-06-02) of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Task. The meeting received sponsorship and support from a number of international organisations and space agencies, including the Canadian Space Agency, GEO, the National Centre for Earth Observations (UK), the Indian Ocean GOOS and many Indian organisations, including the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology belonging to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the National Institute of Oceanography (a POGO member) and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (a POGO member) and its parent organisation the Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences. Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Secretary to MoES gave one of the keynote lectures. The symposium was attended by some 160 delegates from many countries. GEO was represented at the meeting and at the associated ChloroGIN workshop and training course by Dr. Jinlong Fan. The event was favourably reported in the local and national media, and is the subject of a video produced by the MarineBiz network (<http://www.video.marinebiztv.com>, search "SAFARI"). The report from the meeting is available at: <http://www.geosafari.org/kochi/>.



**ChloroGIN:** The network Chlorophyll Globally Integrated Network held its second workshop in Kochi, India in February 2010, in conjunction with the SAFARI symposium. The participants reviewed progress and planned future activities, including the submission of a proposal to

tions in fisheries and water resources, including SAFARI and ChloroGIN.

**GEO Ministerial:** POGO is planning a media event in connection with the GEO ministerial in Beijing on 3 – 5 November 2010. Mr. Terry Collins, who master-minded the press release in association with the GEO ministerial in Cape Town in 2007, will be providing similar services this time round. In the course of the summer, a press release will be prepared, outlining progress in recent years, and need for further commitment to complete the vision. An embargoed press notice will be released to the media some two weeks prior to the event, and POGO will be looking for spokesmen to speak to the press at various locations, so that the global press release can be given local colouring by the regional press. An Ocean United Exhibition is also being considered for Beijing. Support from POGO members is sought for these events.



GEO seeking international funding to take forward the ChloroGIN vision. A North-East Asia node was added to the ChloroGIN network, with Prof. Joji Ishizaka from Japan as the contact point. Minutes of the workshop are available at: [http://www.chlorogin.org/meetings/Kochi\\_workshop\\_2010](http://www.chlorogin.org/meetings/Kochi_workshop_2010).

**UK-GEO Meeting:** Dr. Trevor Platt spoke about POGO's involvement with GEO to a meeting of the UK-GEO community at the DEFRA Innovation Centre in Reading on June 10. The group welcomed the scope and quality of the POGO contribution to GEO.

**Proposal to GEO for funding under Agriculture and Water Themes:** A proposal has been submitted by POGO to GEO under the Earth Observations for Decision Support scheme. If the proposal succeeds, funding will be made available for support of international activities related to remote sensing applica-

**International Training Course:** An international training course on use of remote sensing and *in situ* observations in support of ecosystem management was held in Kochi, India, in February 2010, prior to the SAFARI symposium. Some 50 participants attended the course.



Details of the course are available at: [http://www.geosafari.org/kochi/training\\_course.html](http://www.geosafari.org/kochi/training_course.html).



## Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission: Related Activities

### Global Conference on Oceans Coasts and Islands:

Dr. Trevor Platt participated in the Global Conference on Oceans Coasts and Islands in Paris in May 2010. The meeting is part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the IOC.



**International Ocean Data Exchange:** IODE offered a teaching module on data management and related topics at the NF-POGO Centre of Excellence in 2009, which was very much appreciated. We hope that this collaboration will be continued this year.

### Meeting with new Executive Secretary, IOC:

On Tuesday, May 4, Dr. Kiyoshi Suyehiro (POGO Chairman), Dr. Trevor Platt (POGO Executive Director), Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright (Executive Secretary, IOC) and Dr. Boram Lee (Programme Officer, IOC) met in IOC headquarters to discuss various ways in which IOC and POGO might work together towards common goals. Among the issues discussed in a very cordial and constructive meeting were:

1. **Next meeting of POGO** (January 2011). The Executive Secretary of IOC will make every effort to attend, within the limits of her busy schedule.
2. **The GEO Summit** (Beijing, November 2010). POGO has worked hard to raise the profile of the oceans within GEO. At the GEO meeting in Beijing, POGO intends to call a press conference about the ocean, and has started discussions with a media consultant towards this goal. We might think of this as an ocean summit. POGO will keep IOC informed of progress in this matter and would welcome IOC as a partner in the events in Beijing, and in preparations for them, understanding that IOC might not have extra manpower available to mobilize at short notice.
3. **The Baker Report.** The group discussed informally some points raised in the Baker Report, including capacity building (probably the best way to make progress at short notice would be through the IOC office in Ostend) and the idea of making, in the future, an international ocean forum modelled loosely on the Davos forum (develop this theme gradually through events such as the Beijing Summit). It was noted that

there already exist some initiatives with possibly parallel interests (such as the World Oceans Conference and the Global Ocean Conference), so that a cautious approach would be wise to avoid unnecessary overlap. A possible starting point, or nucleus, might be the following.

4. **Oceans United.** An informal alliance of ocean interests, Oceans United, was founded a few years ago by POGO, to provide a common voice for oceans inside groups such as GEO. At that time, the then Executive Secretary of IOC (now retired) was invited to be its first spokesman. Subsequently, a web site was made for Oceans United. That site is quite out of date, and its scope seems more limited than was originally intended. As founder of Oceans United, POGO will now name a new spokesman, and will revitalize Oceans United in the time remaining before the Beijing Summit. In this, POGO has the full concurrence and moral support of the present Executive Secretary of IOC, who has asked POGO to take over the administration and maintenance of the Ocean United server, which POGO has agreed to do. Both sides accept that a common voice for marine interests, outside of intergovernmental restrictions, could be very useful. A new mailing list will be developed for Oceans United, because the present one is out of date. The POGO approach to the Beijing Summit will be through Oceans United, following the successful model of a previous summit, held in Cape Town.

**World Association of Marine Stations:** A workshop was held at IOC in April 2010 to discuss the plans for the formation of a World Association of Marine Stations. POGO was invited and Dr. Shubha Sathyendranath attended on behalf of POGO. The plan is to extend the European Marine Network of Marine Institutes and Stations (MARS) and similar regional networks



around the world, to form a global network of marine stations. At the workshop, it was decided to proceed with the plans to establish WAMS under the Auspices of IOC. POGO has been invited to be on the Steering Group. Press release of these developments is available at: [http://www.ocean-partners.org/attachments/467\\_WAMS%20Press%20Release%20for%20Science%20community%20Final070510urls.doc](http://www.ocean-partners.org/attachments/467_WAMS%20Press%20Release%20for%20Science%20community%20Final070510urls.doc).

**IOC Executive Council Meeting:** Dr. Shubha Sathyendranath represented POGO at the meeting of the IOC Executive Council in June.

## Other POGO News

**Ocean Data Sources:** As recommended at the POGO-11 meeting, the POGO website has begun to host a compilation of sources of ocean data. The POGO Secretariat thanks all who have responded to this initiative and provided pointers to various data sources. We have also learned of similar efforts or interests in other organisations, for example International Ocean Data Exchange (IODE) and IMBER (Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research). Possible ways of working with these initiatives have to be explored.

**POGO-SCOR Visiting Fellowships:** There were thirteen successful applications for the POGO-SCOR Visiting Fellowship programme. Successful candidates are from Argentina (1), Chile (2), China (2), India (6), Iran (1) and Mexico (1).

**POGO-SCOR Visiting Professorship Programme:** There were seven excellent proposals for this year's POGO-SCOR Visiting Professorship Programme. Unusually, POGO decided to appoint two Visiting Professors in this competition. They are Professor Lisa Levin (an expert on deep-sea benthic ecology and ecosystems of oxygen-minimum zones) and David Checkley (an expert on zooplankton and fisheries), both from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. They will be hosted by Dr. Bronwen Currie at the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Namibia, for three months.

**The POGO AMT Fellowships:** The fellowship was very successful last year, with both the host and parent organisation expressing great satisfaction with the programme. This year's applications are currently being reviewed.

**The Nippon Foundation – POGO Centre of Excellence in Bermuda:** As the Centre of Excellence completes its successful second year of operation, recruitment to the programme of Year 3 has just been completed. The selected scholars this year are drawn from Brazil, Venezuela, Vietnam, India, Bangladesh, Cote d'Ivoire, Turkey, Kiribati, Russia and Iran, from over 110 applications from all over the world. Dr. Tony Knap, Dr. Gerry Plumley (Director of the Programme at Bermuda), Prof. Peter Herzig, Prof. Howard Roe, Dr. Trevor Platt and Dr. Shubha Sathyendranath attended the selection committee meeting in London in March 2010.



The Nippon Foundation and POGO are now planning towards an alumni meeting in 2011 in Japan. A planning meeting will be held in the Autumn of 2010. Dr. Trevor Platt visited the Nippon Foundation in April 2010 to discuss progress and plan future activities (and got caught in the Iceland-volcano-eruption related flight disruptions).

**POGO-12:** The next annual meeting of POGO will be hosted by KORDI (Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute) and will be held during 24-26 January 2011. Please mark these dates in your calendar. If you have suggestions for organising particular sessions at the annual meeting, please write to Dr. Trevor Platt ([tplatt@dal.ca](mailto:tplatt@dal.ca)).

## POGO Secretariat

Delegation from Korea: A senior delegation from KORDI, including the President Kang, visited the POGO Secretariat in June for discussion of topics of mutual interest, including the next meeting of POGO, which will be held in Seoul.



**New Appointment:** The long search for a new addition to the Secretariat, to facilitate communications, outreach and project management, has reached a very successful conclusion with the appointment (effective July 5) of Dr Sophie Seeyave, a phytoplankton physiologist and ocean biogeochemist. She received her PhD from the University of Southampton. Sophie comes to POGO from the SOLAS International Project Office. We welcome her and look forward to a constructive collaboration (photo at left).

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