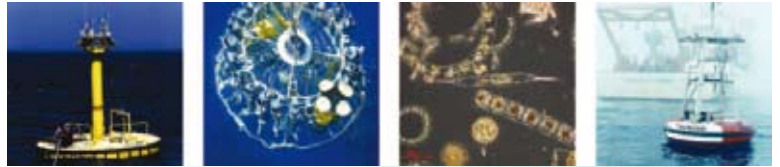




Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans

Newsletter

Issue 4
April 2011



12th POGO Annual Meeting in Seoul, 24-26 January 2011

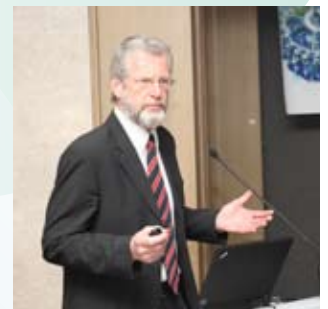


Welcome address by the President of KORDI, Dr. Jung-Keuk Kang

POGO-12 took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, during an unusually cold spell at the end of January 2011. The 3-day meeting was hosted by the Korean Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI). The level of organisation and hospitality displayed by the local hosts made a lasting impression on all participants.

POGO-12 was attended by around 50 participants. 28 of the POGO member institutions were represented, as well as other organisations such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, National Science Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the North Pacific Marine Science Organisation, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation, the Ocean Observatories Initiative and the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem.

The meeting marked the end of Dr. Kiyoshi Suyehiro's term as Chairman of POGO, and the hand-over to Prof. Peter Herzig (Director of the Leibniz Institute of Marine Sciences IFM-GEOMAR, Kiel, Germany). POGO thanked Dr. Suyehiro for his dedication and hard work, and warmly welcomed Prof. Herzig.



Welcome address by the new Chairman of POGO, Prof. Peter Herzig.

Topics of the meeting included International Cooperation in Ocean Observations, Disaster Response and Preparation (with focus on the Gulf of Mexico oil spill), Science Coordination, Capacity Building and Marine Geology. The meeting agenda, background documents, presentations, minutes and other information can be found at: <http://ocean-partners.org/meetings-and-workshops/meetings-and-workshops/pogo-12>.



Dr. Dosoo Jang (local host) introducing KORDI staff at the KORDI reception.

A press release was issued by KORDI, which made a high media impact, including Korean television news coverage and over 150 on-line articles published around the globe.

A special session was organised at KORDI to showcase KORDI research. This included presentations on the POSEIDON and GAIA ocean-climate projects, Korean satellites and remote sensing applications, underwater vehicles and polar research. These were followed by a tour of the KORDI Satellite Centre and a reception involving senior directorate and principal investigators of KORDI's major research projects.

The next POGO Meeting will be hosted by the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, a new member of POGO, from 9 to 11 January 2012.

News and Information Group Meeting

A separate meeting was convened on Sunday 23 January to discuss the POGO outreach activities undertaken in 2010 and the future outreach strategy. Topics of discussion included improvements to the newsletter, the use of Wikispaces to create informal, forum-like websites for related activities (e.g. the NF-POGO Alumni Network), and the 2012 Expo in Yeosu, Korea, for which POGO has been invited to exhibit a display on ocean observations.

12th POGO Annual Meeting in Seoul, 24-26 January 2011 (continued)

Seoul Declaration

The following Declaration was produced, outlining the future priorities for ocean observations.



Partnership Observation of the Global Oceans-12

"At a meeting hosted by the Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI) in Seoul in January 2011, scientists from 28 world-leading research institutions pledged to work together to improve knowledge and understanding of how our oceans are responding to global environmental change.

As we enter the second decade of the 21st Century scientists observe natural and human-induced changes to the ocean environment that have profound consequences for marine life, our climate and weather systems, and for the well-being of society world-wide.

The Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO) declared its commitment to sharing data and technologies from observing networks all over the world to provide the most complete picture of the health of our oceans, the current state of the planet, and to give new insight into what the future may hold. Through its Oceans United forum, POGO will lead a campaign to integrate its work with those of relevant international organisations to ensure that ocean observations form an essential component of effective stewardship of the global environment.

The oceans – the planet's vast reservoirs of water, heat and carbon – are essential for all life on Earth. Fifty percent of the oxygen we breathe comes from the ocean; we rely on the sea for food, transport and recreation. Marine and atmospheric pollution, ocean warming, loss of polar ice cover, reduction of bio-diversity, overfishing and ocean acidification are already having a dramatic impact on the global environment.

Scientists from many disciplines including physics, chemistry, biology and geology, have used their knowledge, skills and technical expertise to observe the remotest parts of the oceans – from pole to pole, from the surface to the deepest ocean trenches and below the sea-bed itself. But there are still gaps in our knowledge. To enable the capture and interpretation of data from parts of the ocean where little is known, POGO is developing initiatives, including the Centre of Excellence in Ocean Observations and the Visiting Fellowship Programme, to help build marine scientific capacity and technological expertise in emerging countries.

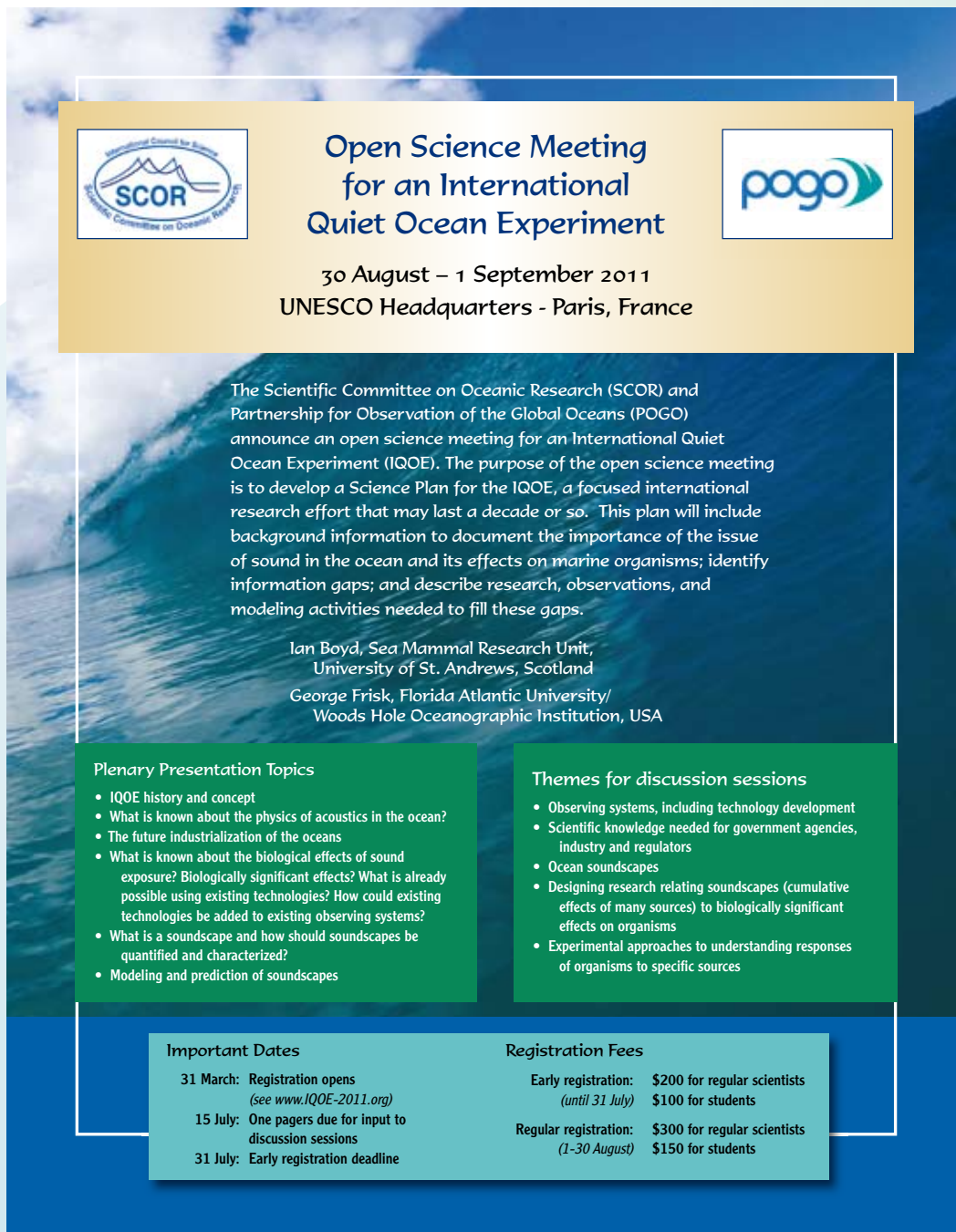
The Seoul declaration recommends:


1. Establishment of a globally-coordinated network of time series observation stations in the oceans to monitor a rapidly changing Earth System through OceanSITES.
2. Monitoring of changes in ocean acidification at the global scale.
3. Implementation of a sustained deep ocean observation system to study the heat storage, deep-sea biogeochemistry and ecosystem function and other properties that are poorly known.
4. Improvement in baseline data and sustained observations, especially in vulnerable areas such as the polar oceans and semi-enclosed basins, to facilitate rapid response and mitigation in the event of natural or man-made disasters.
5. Development of Oceans United as a global forum for dialogue within the marine scientific community, and with international agencies responsible for marine stewardship; and development of communications plans to engage citizens of the world in the importance of marine research for the well-being of society."

Nippon Foundation Tsunami Relief Efforts


The Nippon Foundation has extensive experience working with local partners to provide support after disasters. The Nippon Foundation/CANPAN Northeastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund will provide effective, accountable, and timely support to trusted partners working in the affected areas. To ensure the highest degree of transparency, reports on the receipt and use of funds used will be posted on The NF/CANPAN website.

Donations are now being accepted by credit card at 1,000 yen per share. All donations will go to the victims of the earthquake. Go to http://members.canpan.info/kikin/products/detail.php?product_id=1080 for more information and to make a donation.





Open Science Meeting for an International Quiet Ocean Experiment



30 August – 1 September 2011
UNESCO Headquarters - Paris, France

The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) and Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO) announce an open science meeting for an International Quiet Ocean Experiment (IQOE). The purpose of the open science meeting is to develop a Science Plan for the IQOE, a focused international research effort that may last a decade or so. This plan will include background information to document the importance of the issue of sound in the ocean and its effects on marine organisms; identify information gaps; and describe research, observations, and modeling activities needed to fill these gaps.

Ian Boyd, Sea Mammal Research Unit,
University of St. Andrews, Scotland
George Frisk, Florida Atlantic University/
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA

Plenary Presentation Topics

- IQOE history and concept
- What is known about the physics of acoustics in the ocean?
- The future industrialization of the oceans
- What is known about the biological effects of sound exposure? Biologically significant effects? What is already possible using existing technologies? How could existing technologies be added to existing observing systems?
- What is a soundscape and how should soundscapes be quantified and characterized?
- Modeling and prediction of soundscapes

Themes for discussion sessions

- Observing systems, including technology development
- Scientific knowledge needed for government agencies, industry and regulators
- Ocean soundscapes
- Designing research relating soundscapes (cumulative effects of many sources) to biologically significant effects on organisms
- Experimental approaches to understanding responses of organisms to specific sources

Important Dates

31 March: Registration opens
(see www.IQOE-2011.org)

15 July: One pager due for input to discussion sessions

31 July: Early registration deadline

Registration Fees

Early registration: \$200 for regular scientists
(until 31 July) \$100 for students

Regular registration: \$300 for regular scientists
(1-30 August) \$150 for students

As a foundation for the work of the IQOE and as a service to those interested in the topic of the effects of sound on marine organisms, a Web portal has also been developed for literature and other information, called the Aquatic Acoustic Archive (see <http://www.aquaticacousticarchive.com/>). This initiative and all other IQOE planning work has been funded by the Sloan Foundation.

POGO Capacity Building

POGO Training Programmes: Deadline 2 May 2011

Applications for the POGO-SCOR Visiting Fellowships, POGO Visiting Professorships and POGO Special Visiting Fellowships for On-board Training on an AMT Cruise are still being received. The closing date is **2 May**. We hope to select and notify successful applicants by the end of May.

SCOR Meeting on Ocean Science Capacity Building in the Middle East and North Africa

The meeting was held in Izmir, Turkey, from 19 to 21 April 2011. The meeting was hosted by the Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology (IMST), Dokuz Eylül University (DEU) and sponsored jointly by SCOR, IMST and the Inter-Islamic Science and Technology Network on Oceanography (INOC). The goal of the meeting was to discuss the capacity building activities in the region in the field of ocean sciences and to explore the feasibility of establishing a regional graduate network for oceanography. In attendance were representatives of SCOR, POGO, INOC, the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) of IOC, the North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES), and representatives of Institutions from INOC member states such as Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey.



Participants of the SCOR Meeting on Ocean Science Capacity Building in the Middle East and North Africa.

INOC is an inter-governmental organisation with a mandate to facilitate the exchange of scientific data and information and the transfer of knowledge. This is achieved through the organization of international scientific conferences, workshops and training courses with a strong capacity building component. INOC is interested in catalyzing the development of joint research and capacity building activities in the region and welcomes international cooperation with organisations outside the region.

The SCOR concept of a Regional Graduate Network for Oceanography (RGNO) (see http://www.scor-int.org/RGSO_Design_Principles.pdf) was presented and discussed to assess its feasibility in the region, within the context of already existing higher education structures and mechanisms. Benefits would include developing a graduate program with joint courses, taking advantage of the strengths of each institution and the unique features of different ocean environments in different countries; establishing shared scholarships among institutions; sharing high-tech equipment, analytical and modeling tools, as well as research facilities; and sharing expertise through faculty/scientist exchanges. The facilities already available and the planned regional research programme (ECOLE: observing and assessing ECOSystem changes in the LEvantine Sea), in conjunction with the mechanisms offered by international organizations such as SCOR, POGO, and IODE could be used to initiate training courses and establish a training centre and thus to lay the foundation for such a regional network.

Call for Contributions to the POGO Newsletter

We would like to include more news items from the POGO members in this quarterly Newsletter. Of particular interest would be items on collaborations between POGO member institutions, for example through joint projects/cruises or the signing of Memoranda of Understanding. To contribute a short article for the next issue (July 2011), please e-mail Sophie Seeyave (ssve@pml.ac.uk) by **17 June**.

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