

## POGO-SPONSORED TRAINING INITIATIVE Report

### 1. Name of grant recipient (Proposal Coordinator)

Dr. Nimit Kumar

### 2. Title of training

Ocean Observations for Coastal Applications

### 3. Dates of training (e.g., 01 Jan 1999)

Start date: 29 Jan 2024

End date: 07 Feb 2024

### 4. Location of training (e.g. institute, city, country) Please indicate if online/in person/hybrid.

By ITCOcean (INCOIS) at Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam

5. Number of trainees: 28 (2 couldn't make it due to various reasons).

### 6. Other partners/funding sources

SUST, Bangladesh;  
SQU, Oman;  
CEMACS, Malaysia;  
DCC-IOR (INCOIS), AU-CSBOB and VU-COOC, India.

### 7. Provide an outline of the training course/initiative (objectives, format, topics)

*Full programme can be included as an Appendix.*

The ITCOcean (a UNESCO Category-II Centre) at INCOIS, Hyderabad, India hosted a POGO-funded international training program '[Ocean Observations for Coastal Applications](#)' during 29 Jan-7 Feb, 2024. The gender-balanced pool of 30 participants belonged to 11 countries. This was the first professional training ever for at least two young researchers from outside the host country.

The training was coordinated by POGO-alumni Dr. [Nimit Kumar](#) with the support of regional POGO partners incl. Dr. Subrata Sarker (SUST, Bangladesh) who is also a POGO-CofE alumni and Coordinator, [NANO-DOAP](#) project, Dr. Sachinandan Dutta (SQU, Oman), Dr. Aileen Tan (CEMACS, Malaysia), Dr. TVS Udaya Bhaskar (ITCOO coordinator), and Dr. Sourav Maity (VU-COOC, India). The training featured invited talk by Dr. Eric Raes who leads [OceanOmics project](#) of Minderoo Foundation, which is part of a POGO-led endorsed Ocean Decade action - [OBON](#). The training was also associated with another endorsed Ocean Decade action [DECCaD-IO](#), which is led by Nimit on behalf of [IIOE-2's ECSN](#), co-founded by him and Eric along with other ECs from the IOR in 2015. As a part of this Ms. Nabanita Das and Ms. Shashowti Chowdhury Riya participated in co-designing the training and delivered a joint-talk.

With the support extended by INCOIS, the trainees participated to the first ever in-person regional ocean decade conference [IO-Con 2024](#), organized by [DCC-IOR](#) during 1-3 Feb 2024. The participation of the trainees was not limited to attendance but was also in the

form of invited speakers and panellists. This provided unique opportunity to onboarding them to UN Ocean Decade as well as ECOP's vital inputs to the Vision 2030 process, which leads to the global conference at Barcelona, Spain in April 2024. The trainees also participated into a side-event dedicated to ECOPs. Followed by the theory and conference, the trainees were taken to eastern port city of Visakhapatnam (Vizag), along with another batch of international trainees which provided not only a hands-on field campaign experience but also wider international networking opportunities beyond the pool of this training. The field training was coordinated by another team of POGO-alumni INCOIS colleagues Drs. Aneesh Lotliker and Sajiba Baliarsingh, with the support of Mr. Narasimha Darapu and team of Andhra University's CSBOB (Centre for Studies on Bay of Bengal) led by Profs. P. Rajendra Prasad and P. Rama Rao.

Full details of the training incl. agenda and photos are made available at:  
<https://incois.gov.in/ITCOcean/pogo1023.jsp>.

#### **8. Provide a summary of the students' performance and any informal feedback received**

*Please note that an evaluation questionnaire will be sent to the participants by the Secretariat and therefore we ask that you provide a list of trainees and their e-mail addresses. The questionnaire results will be shared with you in due course.*

The template shared by POGO was circulated among the trainees and about half of them have responded to the request. This feedback are provided along with this report. A majority of the suggestions (during the training as well as reflection in the feedback) focus on increasing the overall duration of the training while increasing the hands-on days. **We will try to address this in our future POGO proposals and hope that we will get equally supportive response from POGO.**

#### **9. Do you have any plans for future collaboration with the students, the host institute (if applicable) or for future editions of the training course?**

Yes. In fact, at least two of the students are already being guided by the faculties for their future endeavours. **Future editions of the training will be even more important with regard to the endorsed Ocean Decade action [DECCaD-IO](#).**

#### **10. List of trainees**

Please fill in the attached Excel spreadsheet with the list of trainees.

Prepared and shared along with the report.