



# IOC/WESTPAC E-Bulletin

## The Seventh IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium a great success Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, 21-25 May 2008

### Contents

<i>IOC/WESTPAC</i>	1
<i>SEAGOOS</i>	2
<i>The Indian Ocean Dipole Begin</i>	4
<i>Building Capacity</i>	5
<i>In WESTPAC</i>	6

The Seventh IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium “Natural Hazards and Changing Marine Environment in the Western Pacific” was held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, 21-25 May 2008, with the kind support of the Government of Malaysia. The Symposium was to provide a platform for scientists to present, discuss and share their research findings and experiences related to the theme of the Symposium. Within the theme, presentations and discussions focused on the four following sub-themes:

- I. Effects of climate change on the Western Pacific
- II. Coastal and offshore processes in the Western Pacific and their measurement
- III. Marine environmental forecast and data management
- IV. Marine ecosystem health



A total of 321 participants from 16 countries attended the Symposium. All of the participants made valuable contributions to the nature of discussions and resolution on the key points in the presented papers.

### CLOSING AND WRAP-UP SESSION

The final day of the Symposium was allocated for the deliberations on summary reports on the four sub-themes and the workshop sessions. The process involves the submission of reports based on a structured format where the reports submitted by the session chairs were consolidated by chairpersons of the National Organizing Committee, Local Technical Committee, Local Scientific Committee and the Organizing Secretary. The consolidated and articulated report was submitted to panelists selected from amongst the participants covering the various sub-themes.

# Southeast Asian Ocean Observing System (SEAGOOS)

*By Dr. Somkiat Khokiattiwong, Phuket Marine Biological Center, Thailand*

Since the initial agreement of the science community in Southeast Asia on the establishment of SEAGOOS in 2001, during the Fifth IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium in Seoul, Republic of Korea. IOC/WESTPAC has been following up on the establishment of SEAGOOS over the past years. The Recommendation SC-WESTPAC-V.3 adopted by the Fifth Session agrees on the establishment of Coordinating Committee as a management and coordination body for the SEAGOOS. Several consultative meetings during 2003 to 2005 were convened to this end. The Operational Guideline of SEAGOOS was one of outcomes from the consultative meeting. It was finally adopted by the Sixth Session of IOC/WESTPAC and endorsed by the following 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of IOC Assembly with reservations on the membership of SEAGOOS.

The progress of SEAGOOS for the period of 2005-2008 included any aspects as following:

## 1. Preparation of the Coordinating Committee meeting and Strategic Plan for SEAGOOS:

- The IOC/WESTPAC Secretariat has invited the member states of WESTPAC to nominate their delegates to be the Coordinating Committee of SEAGOOS. Many countries have already nominated the Coordinating Committee for SEAGOOS such as Australia, Japan, China, Thailand, and Vietnam. SEAGOOS would keep encouraging the

member state for their nominations and support for the SEAGOOS activities.

- The Strategic Plan has been under development with joint efforts among Dr. Somkiat Khokiattiwong (SEAGOOS Coordinator), Mr. Wenxi Zhu (Acting Head of IOC/WESTPAC Office), Dr. Nick D'Adamo (Head IOC-Perth Office), and Dr. Hugh Kirkman who has been greatly contributing to this development by volunteering to draft the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is supposed to be finalized by the late of this year. The first meeting of the Coordinating Committee was therefore expecting to be held in the early to mid of next year.

## 2. SEAGOOS's pilot project:

To activate SEAGOOS and "sell" its benefits to the member states of WESTPAC, two pilot projects for SEAGOOS therefore were proposed to the Seventh Session for IOC Sub-commission for the Western Pacific.

- The First Pilot Project will focus on the Standardization and Exchange of Tide Gauges and Sea Level Data for Climate Change Research in Southeast Asia. To this end, one workshop will be jointly convened by SEAGOOS and the Southeast Asia START Regional Center (SEA-START) around early of October 2008 at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

High quality real-time and delayed mode sea level data are necessary for early warning of storm surge and coastal hydrodynamic processes, as well as for the understanding and long term projection of impacts of climate change on marine systems.

In order to make observed sea level data from different countries in Southeast Asia regionally comparable, and conform to the same standard and quality, a standardization of datum as well as correction for temporal and spatial discrepancies are necessarily taken as the first step.

Continuous GPS (CGPS) will be provided to workshop attendants by European experts. CGPS stations installed at tide gauges can determine the exact position and in particular, the vertical velocity of the land or the sea floor underlying each tide gauge.

The objectives of the workshop are:

1. Provide the status of sea level data being observed and collected for country report.
2. Set up a regional system to exchange observed sea level data and make these available on a real-time basis.
3. Assist some countries in the region to build capacity on space-geodetic technique for sea-level observation.

- IOGOOS/SEAGOOS pilot project: Operational Oceanographic Products and Applications for the North East Indian Ocean. This will be the first joint workshop of two regional GOOS, which will be held in February 2009, Perth, Australia, with the support of the Australian Government.

The joint pilot project between IOGOOS and SEAGOOS will aim to identify and apply suitable operational oceanographic products for forecasting key oceanographic processes

of mutual interest to Member States of IOGOOS and SEAGOOS. Initially, the project will focus on the application of BLUElink to the northeast Indian Ocean region.

BLUElink is an Australian-based operational ocean forecast system ([www.bom.gov.au/bluelink](http://www.bom.gov.au/bluelink)) currently operating 'on line' for the waters around Australia. The first phase of the project, which was completed in mid-2007, has delivered an ocean forecasting system that provides, for the first time, on an operational basis, a seven-day, full-depth, forecast of temperature, salinity and currents for the Australian region: ([www.bom.gov.au/oceanography/forecasts](http://www.bom.gov.au/oceanography/forecasts)).

In the future, as part of the expansion of this project, it is envisaged that the geographical coverage would extend to the entire Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Sea regions in parallel with BLUElink's planned future coverage which is to include the entire IO and SEA regions.

SEAGOOS is still looking for collaboration from member states and support from international agencies to develop the pilot projects and projects in near future.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the SEAGOOS, please contact:

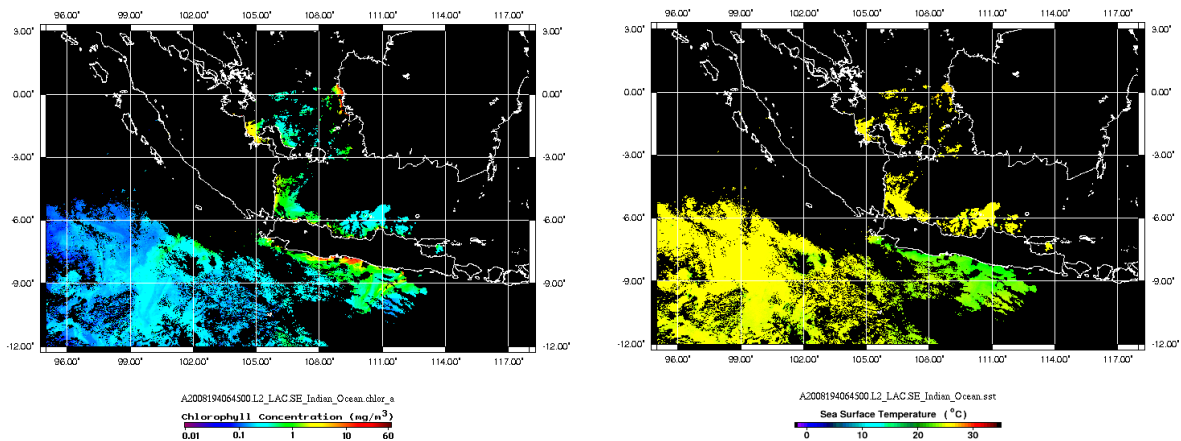
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## The Indian Ocean Dipole Begin

### MODIS Aqua Image of Southern Java

By Dr. Chun Knee Tan, United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan



MODIS Aqua surface chlorophyll a (left) and sea surface temperature (right) on 8 Jul 2008

In May 2008, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) scientist forecasted that Indian Ocean Dipole would show its positive mode for coming next few months. The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) Aqua sea surface temperature showed the surface cooling have started since March 2008, and it is now at its full peak where the whole southern Java already filled with cooler water (25-26°C) due to the intensive upwelling. The upwelling is found already reach southwestern Sumatra and expected to cover the southern Sumatra when the Indian Ocean Dipole approaching its peak later in the summer.

High chlorophyll a show a coincident biological response to the cool upwelling water. The cool upwelling water originated from the deep ocean has more nutrient than the surface water. When this rich nutrient water reach the surface, it help to replenish

the nutrient and causing large phytoplankton bloom as observed in the MODIS Aqua chlorophyll a image. This bloom might be helpful to boost the fish stock in the region, however, in 1997, the upwelling triggered a giant red tide that caused the destruction of ecosystem at the Mentawi Acheopalego.

The cooling of the Southern Java and Sumatra will impact the local weather. Cooler SST will reduce the convection and less evaporation from the sea. Thus, it will further lead to reduce rainfall in this area. The cooling ocean might cause longer drought at the Java and Sumatra area.

Image courtesy:

NASA GFSC Ocean Biology Processing Group

For detail, please contact

[cktan@hq.unu.edu](mailto:cktan@hq.unu.edu)

## Funding Opportunity

### The Nippon Foundation Overseas Grants for Maritime and Ship-related Projects

Nippon Foundation provides assistance to ocean-related projects that:

- contribute to the formation of a new international order of the seas
- International capacity and network building projects
- foster sustainable regional development
- promote public understanding and appreciation of the ocean
- Other original and innovative international projects related to the ocean

#### Eligibility:

Applicants must be non-profit organizations based outside of Japan. They can be regional or international NGOs/NPOs, and include educational and research institutions.

For detail, please access to

[http://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/eng/how/marine\\_affairs.html](http://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/eng/how/marine_affairs.html)

## Job Opportunity

- (i) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) NOWPAP RCU, is seeking high professional and enthusiasm personal for the Administrative Officer (P-3) for Toyama office and Scientific Affairs Officer (P-3) for the Busan office. Deadline of application are 14 and 17 October 2008, respectively.

For detail, please visit [http://www.unep.org/vacancies/default.asp?vac\\_level=P](http://www.unep.org/vacancies/default.asp?vac_level=P)

- (ii) Laboratoire Océanographique in Villefranche sur mer ([LOV](#)), France invites applicants to a 12 months position as Post doc. The main topic concerns the conception and validation of differential equation models of photosynthesis and calcification by calcifying species of phytoplankton. The candidate must have a PhD degree. The net salary is according to CNRS regulations at 1800 euros per months. A written application containing CV, scientific papers and references must be submitted to Dr. Antoine Sciandra and Dr. Olivier Bernard. For more detailed information, please contact:

Antoine Sciandra : [sciandra@obs-vlfr.fr](mailto:sciandra@obs-vlfr.fr) (phone 33 (0)493 763 819) and/or

Olivier Bernard : [olivier.bernard@inria.fr](mailto:olivier.bernard@inria.fr) (phone 33 (0)492 387 785).

## Capacity Building

### Austral Summer Institute IX (ASI IX)

#### Coastal Processes and Environmental Problems

The Department of Oceanography and the Center for Oceanographic Research in the eastern South Pacific of the University of Concepcion are pleased to announce the Austral Summer Institute IX (ASI IX) to be held at the Main Campus of UDEC, in Concepción. It will be devoted to topics on coastal processes and environmental problems.

Date: 15 December 2008 - 30 January 2009.

Venue: Department of Oceanography & FONDAP COPAS Center, University of Concepcion, Chile

Application Due: Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> 2008.

For detail, please visit

<http://www2.udec.cl/oceanoudec/oceanografia/index.html>

## IOC/WESTPAC Announcement

### First International Workshop on the Fluvial Sediment Supply to the South China Sea

The WESTPAC project on "Fluvial Sediment Supply to the South China Sea: Anthropogenic and Natural Aspects (FluSed)" is going to hold the first international workshop that focus on fluvial sediment records both on lands and in the South China Sea.

Date : 27-29 November 2008

Venue: State Key Laboratory of Marine Geology, Tongji University, China.

Abstracts submit before 20 October 2008. (Travel grants are available for application before 30 September 2008.)

Contact: Dr. Zhifei Liu

Tel.: +86-21-6598-4877, fax: +86-21-3501-4204

Email: lzhibei@mail.tongji.edu.cn

### First bid-writing workshop for institutions in IOCINDIO and WESTPAC

Date : 9 - 13 December 2008

Venue: Sabah, Malaysia

[http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com\\_oe&task=viewEventRecord&eventID=259](http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewEventRecord&eventID=259)

### International Conference on Underwater System Technology: Theory and Applications 2008 (USYS 2008)

The 2nd International Conference on Underwater System Technology: Theory and Applications 2008 (USYS'08) is focuses on exploring new technology and approach to utilize the vast resources of the oceans, developing new engineering strategies for the preservation of the oceans eco-system, as well as providing a specialized forum for discussing the future of underwater system technology.

Date : 4 - 6 November 2008

Venue: Bali, Indonesia

Contact: Secretariat of USYS'08

Tel : +00604-5995999 ext 6074 or 6002

Fax : +00604-5941023

Email: usys08@eng.usm.my or  
usys08@gmail.com

[http://ee.eng.usm.my/urrg/usys08\\_main.html](http://ee.eng.usm.my/urrg/usys08_main.html)

### International Hydrography and Oceanography Conference and Exhibition 2008 (IHOCE '08)

IHOCE '08 aims to bring the latest technologies and expertise to the growing hydrographic and oceanographic sectors of the Asia Pacific region.

IHOCE '08 will encompass the requirements and expertise for technological development and modernisation programmes in the Maritime industry for the region.

Date : 18-20 November 2008

Venue: Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, KLCC, Malaysia

Contact: F&R Exhibition and Conference Sdn Bhd

Tel: +603 . 2161 . 0951, +603 . 2161 . 1051

Fax: +603 . 2161 . 1106, +603 . 2164 . 5815

Email: info@fr-exhibitions.com.my

<http://www.fr-exhibitions.com.my/iho08/index.htm>

## Post-IOC/WESTPAC Workshop on South China Sea

Date : 25 November 2008  
 Venue: Kuantan, Pahang  
 Contact: Prof. Dr. Noraieni Haji Mokhtar  
 Tel: +603-8885 8201  
 Fax: +603-8889 3008  
 E-mail: noraieni@mosti.gov.my

[www.mosti.gov.my](http://www.mosti.gov.my)

## South China Sea Conference (SCS 2008)

*The South China Sea: Sustaining Ocean Productivities, Maritime Communities and the Climate (SCS 2008) will be held in conjunction with the International Year of Planet Earth. This Conference on the South China Sea will provide the opportunity to gather current information on the state of research in the South China Sea, for the formulation of research priorities in this region.*

Date : 25 - 29 November 2008  
 Venue: Kuantan, Pahang  
 Contact: Dr. Lim Phaik Eem  
 Tel: +603-7967 4640  
 Fax: +603-7967 6994  
 E-mail: scs\_ioes@um.edu.my

<http://ioes.um.edu.my/scs2008/scs2008.html>

## Partner Organizations Announcement

### PEMSEA

#### EAS Congress 2009 Regional Photo Contest

*PEMSEA and HP Philippines organize the East Asian region-wide Photo Contest with the theme, "The Coast, The Ocean, My Community". The contest has three categories (Youth, Hobbyist and Professional) and is open to nationals of the East Asian region.*

Due date of submission: 31 December 2008

<http://d130148.u37.wsiph2.com/forms/photocontest/index.htm>

### COBSEA

#### The Second COBSEA Marine Litter Workshop and Cleanup Campaign

*The Second COBSEA Marine Litter Workshop and Cleanup Campaign will be organized in Pattaya, Thailand in close cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand and the local government of Pattaya. During the workshop, the further implementation of the recently adopted COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP-MALI) will be discussed.*

Date : 18-20 September 2008  
 Venue: Pattaya, Thailand

<http://www.cobsea.org/cleanupeas/>