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WESTPAC SYMPOSIUM 1986

A number of the preliminary details of the forthcoming Symposium advised in Newsletter No 6 have now been amended and confirmed.

The Symposium will be held in Townsville, Australia, 1-6 December 1986 at the Sheraton Breakwater Hotel. Accommodation will be available at the Hotel or at the residences of the James Cook University of North Queensland.

Subjects, structure and format are finalised and a detailed first notice is in publication and will be circulated as a matter of urgency.

By way of background it is proposed that four major concurrent sessions be conducted on days 2-4, each introduced by a leading figure in the field. The Symposium organisers have been fortunate in obtaining the agreement of:

Dr John Katili
Dr Klaus Wyrski
Dr Alan Longhurst and
Dr Ed Gomez

to speak to and introduce discussions in the subject areas:

Evolution of the arc complex; geology and speciation Ocean variability and the links with climate Interannual variability in marine communities, and Human influences on the marine environment, respectively.

Of major interest is the news that Dr Roger Revelle has agreed to deliver the keynote address at the Symposium Opening Session.

The participation of Dr Revelle and the other lead speakers is indicative of the importance of the Symposium to the region and the international marine science community.

IOC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL XIX

The next meeting of the Executive Council of the IOC will be held in Paris 6-12 March. A preparatory meeting, 3-5 March, will precede the session.

Dr Bunt, WESTPAC Chairman, will be attending the meeting which will be considering a number of issues of relevance to the WESTPAC group. As Chairman, Dr Bunt will also present a report of recent group activities to the Council.

The IOC Secretariat has circulated some of the papers for the meeting and National Coordinators are encouraged to ensure that their representatives are well briefed for this important sessions.

Dr Bunt is intending to visit both Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok on return from Paris for discussions with researchers and officials involved in WESTPAC programs in Malaysia and Thailand.

A report on those discussions and on the outcome of the Executive Council deliberations will be included in Newsletter No 8.

WESTPAC IV

National Coordinators will recall that in December last year Dr Bunt sought their views on the timing of the next plenary session of the Program Group ie WESTPAC IV. Responses to Dr Bunt's survey were conveyed to the IOC Secretariat in Paris.

Subsequently the Secretary of IOC, Dr Ruivo, has advised that as a result of budgetary restraints and shortness of time available to prepare necessary documentation, it will be necessary to postpone WESTPAC IV until mid 1987. Dr Ruivo has undertaken to formally advise member states of this decision.

As a result of this advice, Dr Bunt has decided to call a meeting of Task Team Chairmen/Coordinators both to review work undertaken by Task Teams since WESTPAC III and to plan program activity for the remainder of the inter-sessional period. It is hoped that Dr Ruivo will be able to attend this meeting which is tentatively planned for Canberra, Australia, 15-16 May 1986.

National Coordinators would, of course, be welcome to attend and further details will be forthcoming in Newsletter No 8.

GLOSS - 1ST EXPERT CONSULTATION

An Expert Consultation on a Global Sea-Level Observing System (GLOSS), was held in Paris on 2-6 December 1985, to prepare an Implementation Plan for GLOSS for consideration by the IOC Executive Council.

GLOSS is an international system of sea-level measurements, to be co-ordinated by IOC, with the purpose of providing valuable and comparable data and sea-level data products for international and regional programmes, as well as for national practical applications.

The main element of GLOSS will be a global network of permanent sea-level stations for obtaining standardised sea-level observations; this forms the primary framework to which regional and national sea-level networks can be related.

IOC Member States and regional bodies, such as WESTPAC, are urged to participate in the implementation of GLOSS by maintaining, up-grading, re-activating and establishing new stations and by providing assistance and support for developing countries to participate in and benefit from GLOSS through TEMA activities and/or bilateral and multilateral assistance mechanisms.

The meeting, chaired by Dr David Pugh (UK), was attended by Dr M A De Carvalho Oliveira (Brazil), Mr Christian Le Provost (France), Dr Satish Shetye (India), Dr Andrew Snella (USA), Prof Klaus Wyrski (USA), Dr Paolo Pirazzoli (France) and Dr Gordon Homes (Australia). Secretariat support was provided by Dr Albert Tolkachev of IOC.

IGOSS MEETINGS - GENEVA NOVEMBER 1986

During November 1985 the WESTPAC IGOSS Task Team Co-ordinator (Commander I J Bofinger, RAN) attended two meetings in Geneva as the Australian representative:

- a Meeting of Experts on Specialised Oceanographic Centres. (6-8 November 1985)
- b Joint IOC/WMO Working Committee for IGOSS. (11-20 November 1985)

MEETING OF EXPERTS ON SOCS

The three recognised SOCs of the USA, USSR and Japan were represented at the meeting as well as delegates from Australia, Canada, China, France, FRG and the IOC /WMO Secretariats.

Discussions concentrated on the development of SOCs and it was decided that the basic requirement for a regional SOC was to produce:

- a monthly quality controlled sets of BATHY/TESAC data,
- b monthly BATHY/TESAC distribution charts similar to the present Canadian product with an indication of depth of penetration of observations included, and
- c monthly lists of observation platforms.

Australia agreed to investigate the feasibility of assuming the responsibility for an SOC for the Southern Pacific area.

JOINT IOC/WMO WORKING COMMITTEE FOR IGOSS

The fourth session of the Joint IOC/WMO Working Committee for IGOSS was opened by the Chairman Dr G L Holland of Canada and participants were welcomed to the session by Dr G K Weiss, Director of the World Weather Watch Department.

During discussions the Australian Representative presented a report on IGOSS activities in WESTPAC and suggested that some of the difficulties of involving some of the nations within the WESTPAC area in IGOSS might be overcome by the IGOSS Operations Co-ordinator carrying out a tour of the WESTPAC area to promote IGOSS. As a result of this suggestion Commander Bofinger was requested to Chair an ad-hoc Working Group to discuss the Regional Implementation of IGOSS.

The previous office bearers declined re-nomination and Y Tourre of France and T Thompson of Sweden were elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

A final report of the meeting will be circulated to National Representatives for IGOSS in due course by the Secretariat. The fifth Session of the Joint IOC/WMO Working Committee for IGOSS is planned to take place in Paris 1988.

SCOR/IOC-FAO MEETINGS

In April Dr Peter Rothlisberg, Chairman of the OSLR Study Group 2: Continental Shelf Productivity, has been invited to attend two workshops in North America of interest to members of WESTPAC OSLR. The first, in San Francisco, is the SCOR/IABO/U NESCO Workshop on Coastal-Offshore Ecosystem Couplings. Conceived by SCOR Working Group 65 "Coastal-Offshore Ecosystem Relationships" the workshop has the following specific terms of reference:

- 1 To review and compare the energetics of coastal (littoral and estuarine) and offshore pelagic and benthic populations.
- 2 To suggest methods for improving knowledge of energy conversion between coastal and offshore pelagic migratory and benthic populations and to determine what further research is needed.

Toward that end the following subjects will be discussed by the 20-25 invited scientists:

- 1 Coastal/offshore water exchange processes.
- 2 Nutrient exchange between coastal and offshore systems.
- 3 Transport of matter across the coastal/offshore boundary.
- 4 Coastal/offshore relations in animal populations.
- 5 Relative productivity in coastal and offshore systems.
- 6 Effects of man-made disturbances.

A workshop document will be prepared from the background papers, discussions and recommendations of the participants.

The second workshop in Campeche, Mexico is jointly organised by IOC and FAO as part of the International Recruitment Programme (IREP). It's title: IREP (OSLR) Workshop on Recruitment in Tropical Coastal Demersal Communities (TRODERP). Taking the lead from the Sardine-Anchovy Recruitment Project (SARP) which applies to pelagic fishes this workshop will look at coastal demersal communities, both vertebrate and invertebrate. Background papers dealing with reef fishes, penaeid prawns and other benthic communities along with coastal oceanography will be presented. Again a publication including the background papers, discussions and recommendations for future research will be prepared.

NEW DIRECTOR OF AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE (AIMS)

Dr Joe T Baker OBE has recently been appointed Director of AIMS following the retirement of Dr John Bunt.

Dr Baker is well known to WESTPAC member state researchers having acted as rapporteur at WESTPAC III and attended WESTPAC II in Jakarta as a member of the Australian delegation.

Dr Baker's position prior to taking up duties at AIMS in November was as Director of the Sir George Fisher Centre for Tropical Marine Studies at James Cook University.

AUSTRALIAN MARINE RESEARCH IN PROGRESS
(AMRIP 85)

Australian Marine Research in Progress (AMRIP) is a data base designed to assist in coordinating the further development of marine research in Australia. It has been developed to encourage the flow of information between individual researchers and research organisations and, also, to provide the basis for more effective cooperation and coordination between researchers and the users of research in industry and Government. The further development of the data base should assist researchers to design projects which complement on-going research and to identify areas of research which are not currently addressed. AMRIP will also improve the national capacity to keep other countries informed of Australian interests and activities in the marine science arena.

The 3rd (ie 1985) edition of AMRIP was published in September 1985 and lists 989 projects in all fields of marine science and technology. It is extensively indexed and cross-referenced.

Copies of AMRIP 85 are available for buyers outside Australia at \$A10 plus appropriate postage charges from:

VICTORIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCES
14 Parliament Place
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
AUSTRALIA

Overseas purchasers should use the purchase order form attached to this Newsletter. Australian purchasers should contact VIMS direct.

A proposal to hold over the 1987 edition until 1988, to coincide with the Australian Bicentennial and the Sixth International Coral Reef Symposium, is being considered. This special volume would contain analyses of trends in marine science and technology identified by the database since 1981.

The management partnership of AIMS, CSIRO-CILES, GBRMPA and VIMS is also considering the ways in which Australian information systems such as AMRIP can service needs in Asian and Pacific countries, or can act as a model for the development of special information systems for them.

REPORT OF WESTPAC MPRM TASK TEAM MEETING

Newsletter No 5 (June 1985) reported briefly on the outcome of the first meeting of the WESTPAC MPRM Task Team, Townsville, 17-19 April 1985.

Full copies of the report, which include presented country status report, are now available from:

Mr R N Harriss
Australian WESTPAC Liaison Officer
Department of Science
PO Box 65
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
AUSTRALIA

The reports are in short supply and will be allocated on a first come basis.

COASTAL AND OCEAN ENGINEERING HYDRAULICS LABORATORY CAPABILITY

The Department of Science has produced a limited printing of a directory of Coastal and Ocean Engineering Hydraulics Laboratory Capability available in Australia. Copies have been distributed to relevant Australian Agencies.

The directory not only lists equipment and facilities in major hydraulics laboratories in Australia, but also includes lists of consultants interest groups etc. The directory is of value not only to the serious technical professional but also to others such as financial advisors.

A small number of copies are still available free of charge and may be obtained on application from

The Department of Science
PO Box 65
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
AUSTRALIA

ASEAN PROGRAM

ASEAN-AUSTRALIAN CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMS IN MARINE SCIENCE PROJECT I: TIDES AND TIDAL PHENOMENA

The Planning and Management meeting for this project was held in Penang, Malaysia on 3-6 December 1985.

Tentative agreement was reached to provide 21 additional tide gauges for the establishment of a network to serve the maritime needs of the ASEAN region and a training program for nominally 10 people at MSc/Post-Graduate level or else a special format program over one year focussing on tides, numerical time series and field practices. The training is to be conducted in an Australian tertiary institution.

A Management/Steering Committee was established at the Penang meeting, to be chaired by Captain Wilson Chua, Singapore Port Authority. Australian consultants on the project are Mr Con Veenstra, Division of National Mapping, and Professor Geof Lennon, Flinders University of South Australia.

Following the Penang meeting, quotations have been sought for the supply of the instrumentation and nominations have been called from the ASEAN nations for the training program.

The Management/Steering Committee will meet next on 18-21 February 1986 at Phuket, Thailand.

WESTPAC NEWSLETTER - GIANT CLAM RESEARCH

The Tridacnid clams accumulate trace metals to levels which are dependant on, and therefore reflective of concentrations available to them from their immediate surroundings. Thus, their potential for monitoring trace metal pollution in tropical reef waters is of considerable interest and is currently being assessed within the Department of Marine Biology at the James Cook University of North Queensland at Townsville. Three main areas of research are being considered. These are:

- 1 Uptake and depuration kinetics of trace elements in clam tissues,

- 2 The relationship between tissue concentrations of trace elements and those in exogenous food organisms and water, and the importance of each route of uptake.
- 3 Metal-metal interactions in clam tissues and their implications from a monitoring viewpoint.

Part 1 of the research programme was initiated in 1984. Parts 2 and 3 are planned experiments for 1986 and 1987 respectively.

The kinetic studies have so far shown that the kidney is the major site of trace metal deposition and is of central importance with respect to the clams indicator ability. The kidney rapidly accumulates trace elements in response to elevated ambient levels and, as a result, is particularly useful for monitoring episodic metal inputs. Furthermore, the generally very slow release of bound metals from the kidney (the biological half-lives may be of the order of years) make it ideal for use in multiple year surveys because it provides the investigator with information which might otherwise be lost using bio-indicators with shorter time-integrating capabilities.

This program is funded by a Marine Science and Technology Grant, Department of Science, Canberra.

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AUSTRALIAN OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA CENTRE HYDROCOMP COMPUTER FACILITY

HYDROCOMP is a powerful mini-computer system comprising a PRIME 9750 with 4 megabytes of memory and 930 megabytes of disk storage. The system is comprised of two main applications:-

- a Tidal functions, and
- b Oceanographic applications.

The Tidal Section of the Hydrographic Office will use the system to store (on-line) tidal measurements obtained from RAN survey vessels and analysed information. Software is available to analyse raw data and to produce tidal predictions.

The oceanographic functions are spread across military and civilian activities. For the RAN the system will maintain the largest database of physical oceanographic information in Australia. This data will be used as climatological input for various predictive models maintained by the RAN. Operational products will be produced by the Naval Weather Centre at Nowra and the AOCDC is responsible for climatological products.

The AODC will be maintaining close contact with civilian agencies both nationally and internationally in order to obtain additional data sets and also to provide a service to the marine science community. Initial data holdings will consist of approximately 180 000 XBT and MBT observations and 50 000 nansen stations. It is anticipated that these figures will grow as additional data becomes available.

HYDROCOMP will have the capability of providing a number of data products including distribution charts, statistical summaries, cross sections, contours and listings of 'raw' data. The main emphasis of the system has been the graphical presentation of information so consequently many of the products are the result of graphical interpretation.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

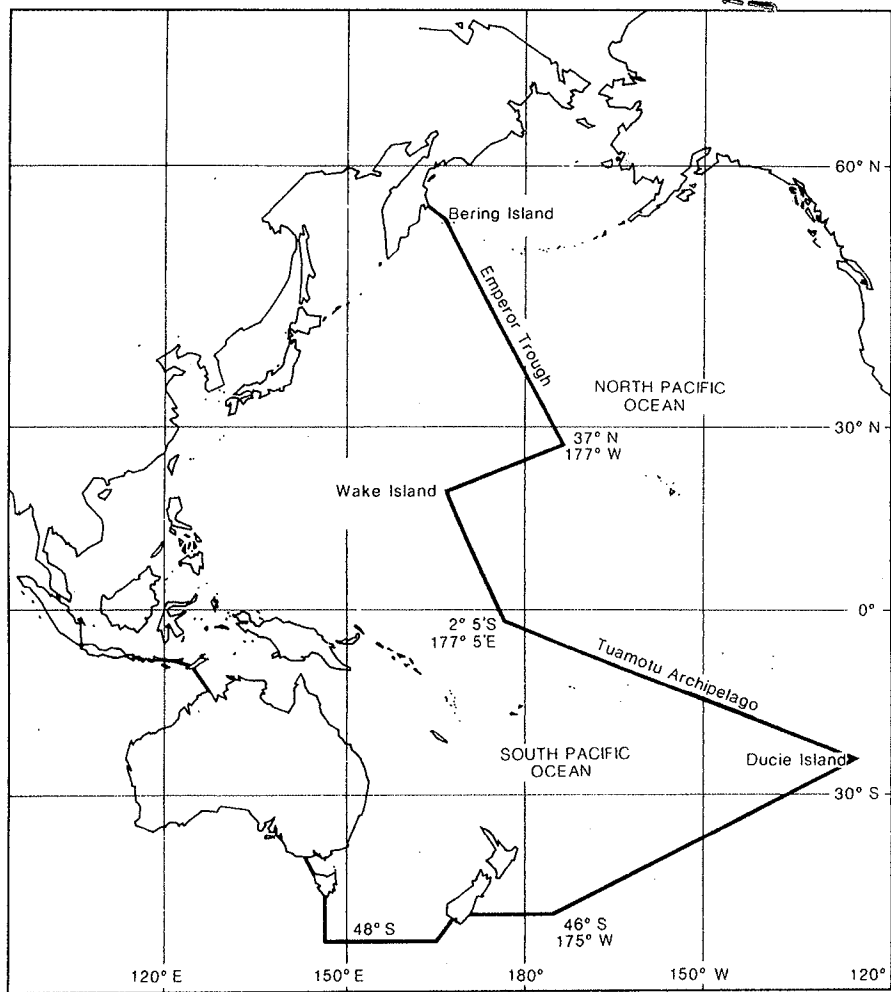
It has been decided to include in this and future Newsletters, dates and places of upcoming meetings, seminars, workshops etc of interest to WESTPAC member states.

This first list is, not surprisingly, a little scant. It would be appreciated therefore if details of upcoming events could be passed to the Chairman WESTPAC for inclusion in future issues.

March 3-5	IOC ECXIX, Preparatory Meeting	Paris
March 6-12	IOC ECXIX	Paris
March 4-13	Japanese Meteorological Agency Seminar on Exchange of Real Time Oceanographic Data	Tokyo
March 4-14	WMO Regional Association V (South West Pacific)	9th Session Wellington
March 17-21	IOC/PGI/Indian NIO Regional Seminar on the Handling and Dissemination of Oceanographic Information and Data	Goa
April	SCOR/IABO/UNESCO Workshop on Coastal Offshore Ecosystem Couplings	San Francisco
April 21-25	IOC/FAO IREP(OSLR) Workshop on Recruitment in Tropical Coastal Demersal Communities (TRODERP)	Campeche
May 12-16	1st Informal Planning Meetings for WCRP	Geneva
May 15-16	WESTPAC Task Team Coordinators Meeting	Canberra
May 25-31	Asian Fisheries Forum	Manila
December 1-6	WESTPAC Symposium	Townsville

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Once again the compilers of this Newsletter call for contributions of interest to the WESTPAC region.



The WESTPAC region