

## **Answers from the IMBER project**

### **Data Management/Publication Discussion**

1. Please present the status of your project in terms of management of data and/or metadata.

The IMBER Data Portal is now available through the IMBER Web site at: [http://www.imber.info/DM\\_home.html](http://www.imber.info/DM_home.html). This portal contains the following sections: What's new? Committee; Data Policy; Benefits; Cookbook; Meetings & Trainings and Useful links. Furthermore the portal includes a direct link toward IMBER GCMD Portal (centralizing IMBER Metadata <http://gcmd.nasa.gov/portals/imber/>). The IMBER GCMD Portal is currently being set up with the help of Mélanie Meaux (GCMD data manager).

The IMBER Data Management Committee (DMC) has developed the "IMBER Data Management Cookbook" with simple "recipes" to guide marine researchers through data collection and documentation. The draft version is available online at <http://planktondata.net/imber/> for comments?. We are encouraging other projects to and data centres to provide comments as well. The final Cookbook will be presented for approval at the next IMBER SSC meeting.

2. Is your project keeping track of project cruises and collecting any information about the cruises?

No, IMBER is not keeping track of cruises.

3. Are your project cruises included in the POGO research cruise database (see <http://www.pogo-oceancruises.org/cruises/>)?

No unless individual PI's put them there.

4. Has your project discussed and/or encouraged data publication?

Yes, this is an option that IMBER is promoting.

### **Education and Capacity Building**

1. What activities, plans, and ideas does your project have in relation to education and capacity building?

In 2008, IMBER, CLIVAR, GLOBEC and EUR-OCEANS jointly organized a training workshop for young scientists entitle "Climate driven ecosystems changes" (CLIMECO [http://www.imber.info/CLIMECO\\_home.html](http://www.imber.info/CLIMECO_home.html)). The motivation came from the need for making the connection between climate and ocean scientists to better understand the sensitivity of ocean to climate change. The goals were to bring together young marine scientists working in biogeochemistry and ecosystems research (grad students, postdocs) with climate scientists and to provide them with information on climate drivers of ocean processes. A movie for large public made with the collaboration of Oceanopolis and EUR-OCEANS was prepared during this activity. The movie presents Jeffrey Krause (Oregon State University, USA) talking on the phytoplankton and the impact of increasing temperature on phytoplankton cells. Because of the great success and the large number of applications (190 applications for 30 places), the possibility of repeating this kind of activity has been discussed.

IMBER and EUR-OCEANS supported the organization of a Summer School in Ankara, Turkey (August 11 -16, 2008). Prof. Temel Oguz, a member of the IMBER Capacity building working group was the principal organizer. The course structure was designed in the form of formal lecture series on fundamentals of biogeochemical cycles, fundamentals of ecosystem modeling, and advances in end-to-end food web modeling. The lecture series were further complemented by hands on use of modeling tools extending from simple theoretical models to complex coupled physical-biogeochemical model systems.  
([http://www.imber.info/E2E\\_EcoModel\\_programme.html](http://www.imber.info/E2E_EcoModel_programme.html))

In collaboration with the IPO host institution, IUEM, IMBER is organising a summer school to be held in August 2010 in Brest. We propose an instructional program for young researchers in ocean sciences, including doctoral students and post-docs, presenting comprehensive information on the linkages between the Earth's climate, and the circulation, ecology and biogeochemistry of the oceans, and their impacts on human societies. The proposed activity intends to stimulate discussions between scientists from various scientific domains (both natural and social) related to climate changes. A full proposal to APN was submitted last October.

On 7 March 2009, the IMBER IPO participated in the organization of the "Open House" held at the host institution (IUEM). The objective was to promote IMBER locally and inform scholars and students about marine science carrier.

Finally, the IMBER IPO maintains a portal for students and young scientists ([http://www.imber.info/Education\\_and\\_Training.html](http://www.imber.info/Education_and_Training.html)). This portal contains information about job, funding opportunities, summer schools and conferences.

2. How are you funding your education and capacity-building activities?  
We develop funding proposal to various funding organisation (including APN, ESF, NSF, regional organisation). One of them is SCOR through the funds for travel for developing country scientists. We also try to run capacity building concurrently to all major IMBER activities.

3. Are you, or would you like to, work with other projects on education and capacity-building activities?

Yes. This is something we have done in the past with GLOBEC, CLIVAR and SOLAS with CLIMECO for example.

4. Would you be interested in jointly supporting a Web site that could be used to Webcast project events?

Yes. The web broadcast was a superb tool for IMBER during the CLIMECO activity allowing us to double our audience during the lectures and questions period.

## **Projects and Ocean Observations**

1. Is your project cooperating with any existing time-series sites and/or establishing new ones?

IMBER does not cooperate directly with time-series sites at this point however we support and encourage these initiatives

2. Is your project cooperating with the Global Ocean Observing System?  
Yes, IMBER is developing a relation with the Ocean Observations Panel for Climate (OOPC).

3. Will your project potentially contribute to global assessments, such as next IPCC, the next Millennium Assessment, or the Global Marine Assessment?

YES.

### **Project Publicity/Visibility**

1. What does your project do in terms of publicizing itself to the scientific community and the public?

An IMBER brochure and a poster are available as a communication tool to promote the IMBER program. They introduce the global scientific context of IMBER and present the four themes of the program with a special focus on the major questions of Theme 2 which is the heart of IMBER. Information regarding how to get involved and how to contact the International Project Office (IPO) are also included. Both the brochure and poster are downloadable on the IMBER website ([www.IMBER.info/useful-downloads.html](http://www.IMBER.info/useful-downloads.html)) and available on request at the IPO.

The IMBER website ([www.imber.info](http://www.imber.info)) is a major communication tool for IMBER. It is constantly updated with new information through the year. The IMBER Web site has been visited 20600 times since its launching. Visitors of the IMBER website are from 157 countries. The number of visit has doubled since 2007. In 2008, the IMBER web site was visited 15600 times. A curve of the number of visit per day over the two last years showed peaks of hits generally following announcements for IMBER activities. The IMBER website is also used for the advertisement of small meeting and conferences.

IMBER produces the *IMBER Update* three times a year. This is distributed to the IMBER email list. Eleven issues of the electronic newsletter "*IMBER update*" were published since 2005, three in 2008 (<http://www.imber.info/newsletters.html>). The newsletter includes IMBER science highlights, report from the activities of the IMBER working groups, summaries from IMBER endorsed and contributing projects, reports from regional and national programmes, and a list of the upcoming IMBER related conferences and workshops.

Considering the growing number of request for circulation of information regarding activities happening in the IMBER scientific network, the IMBER IPO started in April 2007 the publication of a monthly eNews bulletin to the IMBER email list. It contains information related to IMBER News, funding and collaborative opportunities, early career scientist conferences/summer schools, jobs opportunities, publications, new web sites, meetings, conferences and workshops.

The IMBER IPO attends local scientific events in order to promote the project at local and regional scale. For example, the IMBER IPO set up a stand at the International SeaTech Week meeting that is held every year in Brest (France). This is the opportunity to make IMBER visible locally, regionally and also at the European level.

2. What visibility do you gain from your project's publicity efforts?

We have seen the number of hits on our Website almost double between 2007 and 2008. We also noticed that the Website visits were increasing in association to our announcement of conference or other activities. For example CLIMECO pages were some of the most visited pages. The other most visited pages are "job opportunities", "education and trainings" and "newsletter".

3. Are you, or would you like to, work with other projects on publicity and visibility?

Yes.

#### • **Modelling**

1. Is modelling a component of your project?

Yes.

2. If so, how are modelling, research, and data management linked?

The modelling community was represented on the DM Committee

3. Would there be benefit in any cross-project modelling activities or agreements?

Yes.

#### • **Interactions with Intergovernmental Organizations**

1. Do you regularly cooperate with any intergovernmental organizations (e.g., IOC, PICES, ICES, etc.)?

IMBER is developing a relation with PICES through the new programme FUTURE. Through our working group on carbon, we have a direct relation with IOCCP which is sponsored by IOC and provides communication and coordination service for the ocean carbon community. IMBER also interacts with the European Union for funding through various programmes.

2. If so, what have been the benefits of such cooperation, as well as the costs?

IMBER benefited from this cooperation through joint funding of activities.

**Use of Conference Manager System** (SCOR leases this system for use by its projects)

1. Do you use the Conference Manager system to manage your events, and if so, what are its benefits?

The IMBER project used the services provided by Conference Manager for two major events (cid=792 and cid=1185). Today, IMBER is working with this company for the organization of the next IMBER IMBIZO (cid=1683). Conference Manager is a powerful application that has contributed to the success of IMBER conference organization. This tool is easy to use and intuitive. The team with whom we worked is always responsive and quick to answer. Last, prices are competitive for SCOR projects.

## 2. What would you like to change about Conference Manager?

Please find below a list of suggestions that could increase the efficiency of the organization of our future meetings.

### 1) e-mail notifications

#### 1.1 Notification of registration

**Fact:** When a meeting participant registers, we (the administrators) receive an automatically generated e-mail from [system-mail@confmanager.com](mailto:system-mail@confmanager.com) entitled for example "Registration for IMBER - IMBIZO Symposium / Invoice".

**Possible solution:** It would be very helpful to have the registrant last name inserted in the subject of the e-mail instead of having a general subject identical for everyone.

#### 1.2 Notification of abstract submission

**Fact:** when a meeting participant submits an abstract, we (the administrators) receive an automatically generated e-mail with a general subject determined by ourselves (example: Your application for IMBER IMBIZO Symposium).

**Possible solution:** It would be also very helpful to have the applicant last name inserted in the subject of the e-mail instead of having a general subject identical for everyone.

#### 1.3 Notification of payment

**Fact:** When a meeting participant pays online, the administrator does not receive any e-mail confirmation. We have to enter the management system to check who has paid.

**Possible solution:** It would be very convenient to receive an automated e-mail each time someone pays.

### 2) Registration tool

#### Specific case for a conference with parallel sessions

**Fact:** we organized a symposium structured around 3 parallel workshops (IMBIZO; <http://www.confmanager.com/main.cfm?cid=1185>). Participants had to register for one workshop only. We had difficulties to set up the registration form including a section asking people to which workshop they registered. Consequently, we have set up a general registration form; the selection of the workshops was requested later during the second step "abstract submission". To bypass the problem we had to define the 3 workshops as "Key Words". It was

quite confusing for participants who were expecting to tick for the selected workshop during the first step “registration” instead of the second step “abstract submission.

**Possible solution:** I believe there is a mean to set up the registration form including a section where people have to select one (or several) workshop inside a Conference. Could you please, explain how to set up this? Maybe, this could be better explained to administrators when we set up the registration form.

### 3) Abstract tool

#### 3.1 Abstract form set up

**Fact:** On the abstract form, under the contact section (first name, last name, address of institution etc...), registering person has to fill in the “Province/State” section. However, this applies for USA inhabitants only. In most of European country, there is no province state. This button should be optional. Could you tell me if there is a mean to make this button optional (maybe when we set up the abstract form)?

#### 3.2 Abstract submission

**Fact:** When a meeting participant submits an abstract successfully, a window opens telling:

“You have previously uploaded a file. Click here to download and review that file. If you wish to submit a new file to replace that one, you may do so below. You must click 'Finish' to complete the submission process.” (See the image below). It seems that this notification is not visible enough as lots of participants have submitted their abstract several times.

IMBER IMBIZO "application form" submission

Please upload your completed application form. We remind you to save the file as "lastname\_initials.doc"

You have previously uploaded a file. Click [here](#) to download and review that file. If you wish to submit a new file to replace that one, you may do so below. You must click 'Finish' to complete the submission process.

**File Upload**

**File Upload:** Please upload your file. Your submission is not complete until you upload your file.

Choose file:

Parcourir...

Upload!

**Reminder:** in order to upload your file you must click the upload button, then click finish.

<< Previous Cancel 1 2 3 Finish

**Possible solution:** Maybe, the confirmation could be more highlighted (example: “Your file has been submitted successfully!”).

### 4) Management of data files

#### 4.1 Data files regarding registration, abstracts and awards

**Possible change:** It would be very convenient to have the possibility to upload a single file including all information: registrant list, abstract list and award list.

If it is technically not possible, it would be useful to have at least, the list of Awards including in the file “Abstract list”.

#### 4.2 “Abstract Award applied” file

**Fact:** The names of applicants are not inserted in the file compiling the list of Awards (see image below). The identifier is the abstract ID. Consequently, the administrator must find to which person the abstract ID is attributed which is a very long process.

**Possible solution:** It would be convenient to have the name of persons linked to the selected Award instead of having the abstract ID only.

A	B	C	D	E	F
ABSTRACT ID	ABSTRACT TITLE	AVERAGE SCORE	I wish to attend the BEER workshop (Nov 9th, 2008).	Best Young Scientist Presentation	
38975	INTERACTIONS BETWEEN ATMOSPHERE, ECOSYSTEM AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN NIGERIA.	1.5000	Yes	No	
39674	NEW NITROGEN ADDED BY TRICHODESMIUM IN THE ARABIAN SEA DURING THE SPRING 2006		Yes	Yes	
42713	Hydrochemistry of surface water in Cauvery River basin at Delta region of Southern India	1.0000	No	No	
42751	No Poster		No	No	
42777	VIDEO PARTICLE PROFILES ACROSS THE TROPICAL ATLANTIC AND INSIDE A PROMINENT FRACTURE ZONE IN THE MIDATLANTIC RIDGE		Yes	No	
42779	TSUNAMI AND ITS EFFECT ON COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS OF SRI LANKA		Yes	Yes	
42815	No poster		No	No	
42823	IMPACTS OF CLIMATE AND OCEAN CIRCULATION CHANGES ON PLANKTON PRODUCTIVITY AND BIOGEOCHEMICAL CYCLES	5.0000	No	No	
42889	Biogeochemical Controls on End to End Foodwebs	4.5000	No	No	
42921	Inter daily variability of nanoplankton and microplankton assemblages in the coastal upwelling zone off northern Chile.		No	Yes	
43003	Bacterial remineralization in the Amundsen Sea, Antarctica		Yes	No	
43085	Vertical Zonation and Distributions of Calanoid Copepods Through the Lower Oxycline of the Arabian Sea Oxygen Minimum Zone		Yes	No	
43089	FEEDING OF CARNIVOROUS ZOOPLANKTON IN WEST GREENLAND WATERS	3.0000	Yes	No	
43115	No Poster	4.5000	Yes	No	
43121	THE BATHYPELAGIC COMMUNITY OF THE MONTEREY CANYON		Yes	No	
43123	A PROCESS STUDY ON THE SEASONAL HYPOXIA ADJACENT TO THE CHANGJIANG ESTUARY: POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF EPISODIC STORM EVENTS		No	No	
	PHYSICAL EFFECTS ON THE SPRING				