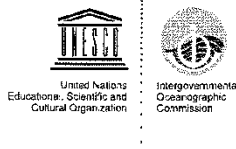


UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Perth Regional Programme Office



Dr Ed Urban
Executive Director SCOR
College of Marine and Earth Sciences
Robinson Hall
University of Delaware
Newark, DE, 19716 USA

26 August 2009

Dear Dr Urban

I write in respect to Dr Yin's SCOR proposal "Long Time-Series Observations in Coastal Ecosystems: Comparative Analyses of Phytoplankton Dynamics on Regional and Global Scales", submitted to SCOR in 2009.

Dr Yin first brought this proposal to my attention during 2008 and I am pleased to see it now submitted to SCOR.

The generic merits of developing a better characterization of phytoplankton dynamics around the globe are for many of us in this field of bio-physical oceanographic research and application, obvious. In my view, the proposal states its case in a compelling and well structured manner, demonstrating a strong scientific motivation and societal relevance for the work. There is a strong need to establish and maintain long time-series of such a key environmental parameter in order to have local, regional and comparative characterizations of primary producers now and into the future. This is particularly so as anthropogenic impacts manifest as a result of exploitation of natural resources (potential trophic cascade effects), environmental pollution and climatic induced changes (such as from temperature and acidification forced by global warming and related carbon dioxide impacts in the atmosphere and ocean). The changes that will occur in oceanographic characteristics (eg currents, S-T structures) as the earth's water properties change from global warming will both impact on primary producer populations, but could also be better understood by characterizing changes in the dynamics of these organisms as surrogates of hydrodynamic change.

The proposal is timely in respect of the urgent need to establish and enhance long-term data on phytoplankton characteristics and dynamics. The proposal demonstrates a global brief, and is strongly underscored by the wide spectrum and high scientific standing of the listed committed participants.

The UNESCO IOC Perth Office would encourage the proponents if successful to use the marine scientific networks established through the Office to support the proposal's scientific objectives, including:

- The Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System, and projects it supports such as the hydrodynamically oriented Indian Ocean Panel of GOOS/CLIVAR and the complementary prospective bio-geochemical/ecological science alliance (likely to

Correspondence to: Officer in Charge, UNESCO IOC Perth Office, 5th Level, Bureau of Meteorology, 1100 Hay Street, West Perth, Western Australia, 6005, AUSTRALIA Email: nick.d'adamo@bom.gov.au Tel: +61 (08) 9226 2899 Fax: + 61 (08) 9226 0599

(Postal Address: PO Box 1370, West Perth, Western Australia 6872, AUSTRALIA).

formed under IOGOOS and IMBER) called SIBER (Sustained Indian Ocean Biogeochemical and Ecological Research);

- South East Asian Global Ocean Observing System;
 - Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System;
 - Western Australian Global Ocean Observing System;
 - Australian Integrated Marine Observing System.
- Furthermore, the IOC's Ocean Sciences Section will have an institutional interest in the proposed Working Group.

I would happy to facilitate liaison between these entities (which the UNESCO IOC Perth Office either facilitates, sponsors or works closely with) and Dr Yin's proposed phytoplankton Working Group.

There is a clear and pressing need for the type of long term data and associated ecological understanding proposed by Dr Yin's proposal.

The UNESCO IOC Perth Regional Programme Office lends its strong support to the SCOR Working Group proposal and wishes it every success.

Regards



Dr Nick D'Adamo
Officer in Charge, UNESCO IOC Perth Office

CC: Dr Kedong Yin