

Ref. 013/2001  
GPH/CN

C/- G.S. J. J. D. Marice Ltd  
Box 21, Cronulla, Sydney  
N.S.W. 158

CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM TO NATIONAL COMMITTEES

INDIAN OCEAN INVESTIGATION

The recent meeting of the UNESCO Office of Oceanography and the SCOR Executive decided that a meeting of Zooplanktologists should be arranged:

- 1) to hear what zooplankton programmes are planned or in operation, particularly with regard to methods of sampling and treatment of samples
- 2) to discuss whether changes or increases in these programmes should be suggested
- 3) to discuss whether the programmes can be helped by the establishment of a Biological Centre, and if so, in what way the Zooplanktologists would co-operate with the Centre
- 4) to suggest to SCOR and UNESCO what action should be taken to establish a satisfactory Centre.

The idea of a Centre was first proposed in 1960 by SCOR to help with the large collections of biological material (mostly zooplankton) which will be made. Many suggestions have been made for the Centre -

- a) it could be a Reference Collection of Indian Ocean types
- b) it could be a sorting laboratory, sending groups of material to experts and keeping nothing; in this case it would exist for only a few years
- c) it could receive samples or halves of samples and store these for examination by experts overseas or experts who come to the Centre
- d) it could sort the samples it received and store them as groups for examination by experts overseas or experts who come to the Centre
- e) it could, over a long period, make a systematic examination of the material it received.

SCOR hopes that the proposed meeting will answer these questions so that action can be taken at once. SCOR hopes that by having the working Zooplanktologists present, the meeting will give practical suggestions which will be followed during the Indian Ocean investigations. Participants should be Zooplanktologists who have definite programmes for work in the Indian Ocean, i.e. they must work on board ships in the Indian Ocean or work with Indian Ocean samples in their laboratories. At the meeting, they will be expected to say what work is proposed by the laboratories in their country, including information on what material their colleagues wish to receive. Concerning the use which might be made of the Centre, participants should give suggestions which, if adopted by SCOR and UNESCO, will be followed by the laboratories in their country. It would also be helpful if, in addition to speaking for the Zooplanktologists in their country, participants could say whether other types of biologists (workers on phytoplankton, benthos, fish etc.) wished to use such a Centre.

The Indian National Committee for Oceanic Research has proposed that facilities at Cochin be used for the Centre and I suggest that participants go first to Cochin for one day to examine these facilities and then spend two days at Delhi in discussion with Dr Wooster, the Director of the UNESCO Office of Oceanography, and myself. Dr Wooster and I would then consult with the Indian authorities on what further action is needed.

I suggest that the meeting start in Cochin on August 14. If this date does not suit the majority I suggest September 4 as the alternative. I would like you to give me, before July 14, the name and address of the participant you recommend as being a Zooplanktologist who will be active in Indian Ocean work and who can speak for his colleagues. So that I can make the necessary arrangements please tell me if August 14 is suitable and if fares and per diem are needed.

(G.F. HUMPHERY)  
President of SCOR