



International Council for Science  
**Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research**

SCOR Newsletter No. 8

April 2007

### New Location for SCOR Web site

SCOR Web site has been moved to <http://www.scor-int.org>. The new server will allow more storage space for SCOR documents and other upgrades to the site.

### Second SCOR Summit of International Marine Research Projects

SCOR convened a Summit of International Marine Research Projects on 7-9 December 2006 in London (UK), hosted by the UK Royal Society.



The purpose of this meeting was to bring together representatives of the major international projects and programs on ocean research and observation to discuss common issues, opportunities, and problems. The meeting agenda included the following topics: data management and interactions of projects with World Data Centers; interactions of projects with the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS); project coordination in Southern Ocean research and bathymetry, and International Polar Year activities; project needs for time-series stations; visualization of data; and capacity

building. Information about the meeting is available at [www.scor-int.org/Project\\_Summit\\_2/ProjCoord2](http://www.scor-int.org/Project_Summit_2/ProjCoord2).

Meeting participants included representatives from virtually all international marine research projects and programmes (CLIVAR<sup>1</sup>, CoML, GEBCO, GEOHAB, GEOTRACES, GLOBEC, iAnZone, InterRidge, IMBER, InterMARGINS, OceanSITES, and SOLAS), and the chairs of the GOOS panels. Two other ICSU organizations participated: the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR). Two World Data Centers (WDCs) were also represented: the World Data Center on Oceanography, Silver Spring, and the World Data Center for Marine Environmental Sciences (WDC-MARE).

The major recommendations from the meeting were as follows:

- Projects should interact directly with OceanSITES about their measurements of interest and their needs for time-series measurements.
- Funding agencies worldwide should encourage scientists who plan cruises for the Southern Ocean to incorporate in their proposals requests to collect and process multi-beam bathymetric data; fund multi-beam bathymetry data acquisition and processing on all research vessels equipped with multi-beam echo-sounders, whether on transit or on location; and work with PIs to

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<sup>1</sup> Acronyms are defined below.

ensure that bathymetry data are submitted with track data to the World Data Center for Marine Geology and Geophysics.

- Scientific Steering Committees for projects should urge their scientists to collect and process multi-beam bathymetric data on their research cruises, regardless of the other priorities of their mission, and make sure that these data are submitted to the World Data Center for Marine Geology and Geophysics. Project scientists should be encouraged to use maps from this WDC to plan cruise tracks that contribute to building the bathymetric database, and allocate sufficient time on transit to fill gaps in the database, even when this means steaming a path parallel to and separate from previously occupied survey lines. (A more complete statement of recommendations on this issue will be available later on the meeting Web site.)
- The projects and their International Project Offices should provide information to and interact with the new SCOR Committee on Capacity Building.
- SCOR should host a Web-based catalog of ocean capacity-building activities.
- SCOR (and other cooperating organizations, where feasible) should contact the national agencies that fund satellite observations of the ocean in order to express concern about an impending interruption of important satellite observations.
- SCOR should repeat its review of project Web sites in two to three years.
- SCOR should create a panel to make recommendations about incentives for data submission to databases and bibliographic citation of data that involve the use of persistent identifiers.
- SCOR should investigate whether the OPeNDAP software can be updated and revitalized.

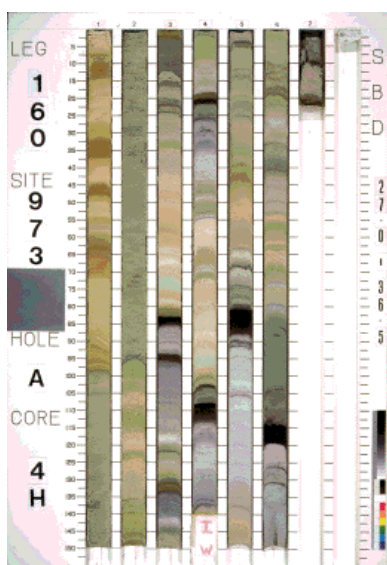
## SCOR Capacity-building Activities

As noted in Newsletter No. 7, the SCOR General Meeting in October 2006 approved the creation of a SCOR Committee on Capacity Building, chaired by Prof. Venu Ittekkot of the University of Bremen. Prof. Ittekkot and Prof. Bjørn Sundby, the SCOR President, met in February 2007 to discuss the new committee and its activities. They agreed that the idea of Regional Graduate Schools of Oceanography (RGSO) should be a priority to be developed together with other organizations that share this interest. SCOR is considering creating a pool of retired ocean scientists who would be willing to teach and assist in research in developing countries where RGSOs are established. To promote RGSOs, SCOR will work with the Partnership for Observations of the Global Ocean (POGO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and the regional centers of the International Council for Science (ICSU).

## Working Groups

SCOR sets up working groups to advance new areas of ocean science and to overcome technical problems related to oceanographic observations and measurements. SCOR working groups also document the state of the art in particular areas of ocean science, identify priority research questions, and identify needs for new observations.

**SCOR/IMAGES WG 124 on Analysing the Links Between Present Oceanic Processes and Paleorecords**—This working group met on 21- 24 November 2006 at the Hanse Wissenschaftskolleg in Delmenhorst, Germany, to discuss controversial/topical issues that are relevant for the link between surface ocean productivity and the paleorecord. These included the opportunities and problems of the “rain ratio,” the role of trace metals in the Southern Ocean, key areas and species for highest export, effects of hypoxia on large-scale nutrient budgets, and windows of opportunity for new technologies to detect changes in paleoproductivity. The group plans to publish these manuscripts in 2007.



**WG 125 on Global Comparisons of Zooplankton Time Series**—This working group met for the second time in Lima, Peru in December 2006. The group identified new data sets and made progress toward developing and refining statistical tools to analyze zooplankton time-series data, and alternative modes of expressing variability. The group will hold an opportunistic meeting in conjunction with the 4<sup>th</sup> International Zooplankton Production Symposium in Hiroshima, Japan, in April 2007.

**Working Group 129 on Deep Ocean Exchanges with the Shelf (with IAPSO)**—This new working group will hold its first meeting on 10-11 July 2007, during the International Assembly of the Union of Geodesy and Geophysics in Perugia, Italy.

**Working Group 130 on Automatic Plankton Visual Identification**— This group will hold its first meeting on 2-3 June 2007, in conjunction with the 4<sup>th</sup> International Zooplankton Production Symposium in Hiroshima, Japan.

## Large-Scale Ocean Research Projects

SCOR sponsors five large-scale ocean research projects: GEOHAB, GEOTRACES, GLOBEC, IMBER, and SOLAS. In addition to obtaining funding for these projects from the U.S. National

Science Foundation, SCOR helps the projects in other ways, such as providing training for the staff of the project offices, providing travel support to project summits, and leasing conference management software for project conferences.

The GEOTRACES Scientific Steering Committee held its first meeting in San Francisco, California, USA, on 16-18 December 2006. The major actions resulting from the meeting include

- Formation of a standing GEOTRACES data management committee
- Initial planning for a GEOTRACES Data-Model Synergy Workshop to be held at the Hanse Wissenschaftskolleg in Delmenhorst, Germany.
- Initial planning for three meetings for GEOTRACES cruises in the Pacific (26-29 June 2007 in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA), Atlantic (10-12 September 2007 in Oxford, UK), and Indian (October 2007 in Goa, India) oceans.

## Other Activities

The planning committee for the Second Symposium on The Ocean in a High-CO<sub>2</sub> World met in Monte Carlo, Monaco on 26-27 Feb. to develop the program for the symposium, identify speakers, and evaluate the meeting site. More information about this activity will be provided in the next Newsletter.

## Publications

The report of the open science meeting for the GEOHAB Core Research Project on Harmful Algal Blooms in Eutrophic Systems is now available in hard copy and in pdf format (from [www.geohab.info](http://www.geohab.info)).



## SCOR Annual Meetings

**2007**—The 2007 SCOR Executive Committee Meeting will be held in Bergen, Norway on **26-28 August 2007**. It will precede a conference on “Polar Dynamics: Monitoring, Understanding, and Prediction” on 29-31 August 2007 (see <http://www.gfi.uib.no/conference2007/info.htm>).



**2008**—The 2008 SCOR General Meeting and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium will be held in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA on 20-24 September 2008. The organizing committee for the symposium is chaired by Laurent Labeyrie.

**2009**—SCOR has not made a decision about the location of its 2009 meeting and welcomes invitations.

## Other Upcoming Meetings

- *Surface Ocean CO<sub>2</sub> Variability and Vulnerabilities*, 11-14 April, Paris, France
- *IMBER/LOICZ Continental Margins Open Science Meeting*, 17-21 September 2007, Shanghai, China (see <https://www.confmanager.com/main.cfm?cid=792>)
- *SOLAS Summer School*, 22 October – 3 November, Corsica, France (see <http://www.solas-int.org/>)

For additional information about SCOR activities, please see the SCOR Web site: <http://www.scor-int.org>.

## Acronyms:

CACGP	Commission on Atmospheric Chemistry and Global Pollution
CLIVAR	Climate Variability project (WCRP)
CoML	Census of Marine Life
GEBCO	General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans
GEOHAB	Global Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms program (SCOR, IOC)
GEOTRACES	an international study of the global marine biogeochemical cycles of trace elements and their isotopes (SCOR)
GLOBEC	Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics project (SCOR, IGBP, IOC)
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
IHDP	International Human Dimensions (of Global Change) Programme
iAnZone	International Antarctic Zone Programme
IMAGES	International Marine Global Changes Study (IGBP/PAGES)
IMBER	Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research project (SCOR, IGBP)
InterMARGINS	An international and interdisciplinary initiative concerned with all aspects of continental margin research
InterRidge	An initiative for international cooperation in ridge-crest studies
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
LOICZ	Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone project (IGBP, IHDP)
OceanSITES	A worldwide system of long-term, deepwater reference stations measuring dozens of variables and monitoring the full depth of the ocean from air-sea interactions down to 5,000 meters.
SCAR	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research
SCOR	Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research
SOLAS	Surface Ocean–Lower Atmosphere Study (SCOR, IGBP, WCRP, CACGP)
WCRP	World Climate Research Programme
WDC	World Data Center
WDC-MARE	World Data Center for Marine Environmental Sciences

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 Bergen, Norway:  
<http://www.ulriken.no/bilder/vaagen.jpg>