

## Membership in the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) Revised 25 March 2024

The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) was founded in 1957 and is an affiliated body of the International Science Council (ISC). SCOR is the primary nongovernmental organization for planning, promoting, and implementing international cooperative activities in oceanography. SCOR has contributed to the shaping of modern oceanography by establishing and supporting focused working groups and large-scale projects (see more at <https://scor-int.org/work/>). These endeavor to solve conceptual and methodological issues and to synthesize global, interdisciplinary research. Additionally, SCOR conducts several programs to build capacity for ocean science in developing nations and nations with economies in transition (see more at <https://scor-int.org/work/capacity/>).

Over 30 nations comprise the membership of SCOR. National SCOR committees provide a strong foundation for SCOR activities by providing guidance and financing to SCOR.

### Benefits of SCOR Membership

Membership in SCOR benefits nations in several ways. The advantages of membership in SCOR include:

- i. Nominating candidates for the Executive Committee of SCOR.
- ii. Assisting in the formulation of international scientific priorities, including participation in the annual selection process for new SCOR working groups.
- iii. Increased exposure of a nation's scientists to international ocean science activities.
- iv. Increased likelihood of participation in working groups and other SCOR activities.
- v. Increased visibility within a recognized international organization under the umbrella of ISC.
- vi. Increased opportunities for networking and scientific collaboration with international peers and groups, which may facilitate scientific exchanges, capacity-building opportunities, and new sources of funding.

These benefits are particularly important for nations that are still developing their ocean science capabilities and infrastructure.

The annual meetings of SCOR are generally hosted by national SCOR committees. These meetings provide opportunities for host nations to present the science being conducted locally to SCOR's international audience. Member nations receive background material for all annual SCOR meetings and have an opportunity to provide comments in person or in writing regarding working group proposals, the composition of SCOR working groups and the scientific steering committees of major oceanographic programs, and other SCOR actions. Support for the travel of a nation's Nominated Members to SCOR's annual meetings is the responsibility of the nation.

SCOR working groups provide a means of exposure for scientists from member nations to the worldwide oceanographic community. Nominations for working groups are sought from all national members and SCOR includes members of working groups from developing nations.

The SCOR budget for these activities includes travel funds for scientists selected to participate in them as full members.

#### Procedure for Membership

The main requirement to apply for SCOR membership is the demonstration that some national mechanism exists, or could be created, to serve as a National Committee for SCOR. The National Committee should include representation from the various marine science disciplines and from the various types of institutions in a nation's marine science community. The National Committee should nominate three individual scientists to represent the nation's SCOR Committee as Nominated Members of SCOR. The national Nominated Members are responsible to serve as a liaison and channel of information between SCOR and the nation's National Committee and broader ocean science community. A list of best practices for national SCOR committees can be found at [http://scor-int.org/Best\\_Practices.pdf](http://scor-int.org/Best_Practices.pdf).

A formal letter of application for membership from the expected dues-paying organization(s) can be presented and accepted at SCOR's annual meetings or between meetings. Requests should be sent to the SCOR Secretariat ([secretariat@scor-int.org](mailto:secretariat@scor-int.org)). Any request for membership should include a very brief overview of how the National Committee will be composed and managed in order to meet the requirements stated above and should identify the dues Category selected as most appropriate for the country (see below).

#### Annual Membership Dues

National committees belong to one of five membership categories. The only difference among the membership categories is the level of dues paid. A nation's membership category is roughly based on its gross domestic product and is also related to a nation's level of activity in ocean sciences. However, each nation determines its membership category and SCOR encourages nations to move to higher categories over time as they experience the benefits of membership. Dues categories can be found at <https://scor-int.org/scor/committees/scor-support/>.