IOC Circular Letter No 2408
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IOC/WWW/WESTPAC/WZ
3 October 2011

To: IOC National Official Coordinating Bodies in China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation

Cc: Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC);
IOC/WESTPAC Coordinating Committee for the North-East Asian Regional – Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS)

Subject: Confirmation and/or updating on national members of the IOC/WESTPAC Coordinating Committee for the North-East Asian Regional-Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS)

As per the decision of the 14th Session of the IOC/WESTPAC Coordinating Committee for the North-East Asian Regional-Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS) held in Tianjin, China, 8-9 September 2011, I am pleased to seek your confirmation and/or updating on your national members for the IOC/WESTPAC Coordinating Committee for the NEAR-GOOS in accordance with the adopted Terms of Reference as annexed.

Keeping the effective and efficient communication between the Secretariat and participating countries is essential to ensure the success of NEAR-GOOS, particularly in its second phase to promote the “development of a basic integrated ocean observing and operational forecasting system in the NEAR-GOOS area adhering to the GOOS Principles and building on the data management and exchange mechanisms developed in the first phase”.

To this end, it would be appreciated if you could confirm and/or update your national members for the Committee. We would be grateful if any updates on your members, together with his/her CVs could be sent, no later than 31 October 2011, to Mr Wenxi ZHU, Head of the IOC Regional Office for the Western Pacific by email (w.zhu@unesco.org) or FAX (+66-2-143 9245).

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I would take this opportunity to thank you again for the great support provided in the development of NEAR-GOOS at its first phase, and look forward to your continuous cooperation in its second phase.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO
ANNEX 1

Terms of Reference
IOC/WESTPAC Coordinating Committee
for the North-East Asian Regional-Global Ocean Observing System

As part of the revised organizational structure for NEAR-GOOS in its second phase, the NEAR-GOOS Coordinating Committee will operate with the following general Terms of Reference:

Composition:
The Committee shall consist of representatives of all member countries. Each country shall designate two members, preferably with one person coming from the operational meteorological/oceanographic community. The Committee shall elect a Chairperson among the members. The Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee will act as NEAR-GOOS Coordinator. The Committee shall meet to the extent possible in regular annual sessions at the expense of the participating countries. Other countries and appropriately affiliated organizations can attend the sessions as observers.

In case a Member is unable to attend, his or her government will try to send a suitable replacement, so that there is continuity of representation.

Responsibilities:

a) Coordinate the development of applications in operational oceanography that demonstrate the usefulness of regional collaboration;

b) Encourage the increase the volume of quality-controlled data available to the NEAR-GOOS Community through the respective national and regional databases, where possible with the smallest time delay possible;

c) Inventory and analyze existing activities relevant to NEAR-GOOS including operational systems and programmes, organizations, scientific programmes, services and products, commercial interests, and training and capacity building;

d) Coordinate to produce integrated comprehensive data sets and data products that conform to the principle of end-to-end data management;

e) Prepare a NEAR-GOOS Strategic Plan that highlights the direction of NEAR-GOOS over the next five years that incorporates the economic, social and environmental protection needs of the region with a clear approach to enhancing the coordinating mechanism of NEAR-GOOS;

f) Publicise and disseminate NEAR-GOOS plans and information to regional governments and the general public;

g) Recommend scientific and technical activities to support NEAR-GOOS implementation by coordinating new pilot projects and providing linkages to existing projects and programmes;

h) Produce guiding documents for the near real time data collection and exchange in the NEARGOOS region;

i) Advise and consider sources of funding for pilot project development with various funding agencies and in consultation with pilot project leaders;

j) Liaison with national NEAR-GOOS committees, J-COMM, GOOS Project Office and other GOOS-related bodies as appropriate;

k) Develop linkages with existing relevant organizations, programmes and projects in the region.