IOC Circular Letter No. 2468
(Available in English only)

IOC/WWW/1506/TG/dm
Paris, 18 January 2013

To: National Official Coordinating Bodies of IOC Member States – Group III

cc.: IOC Chairman, IOC Secretary for IOCARIBE, UNESCO Korean National Committee, UNESCO Brazil National Committee

Subject: Invitation to a Workshop on “The Present Status of Sustained Ocean Observations and Services in Caribbean and Latin America Countries (Group III)”, 6–8 March 2013, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Sir/Madam, Distinguished National Representative,

Frederico Antonio Saraiva Nogueira, Vice-chair of IOC Group III, and I would like to reconfirm the invitation to IOC Group III countries to nominate a scientific expert to attend the Workshop on “The Present Status of Sustained Ocean Observations and Services in Caribbean and Latin America Countries (Group III)”, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 6 to 8 March 2013. (Refer to Letter No. VCP/IOC G3 001/2013, Jan. 05, 2013, Vice Chair of IOC for Group III).

Following consultation with the chair and vice-chairs of the IOC and recalling that the IOC Executive Council at its 45th session (Paris, 26-28 June 2012) decided, through XLV/Decision 4.2 (“The Future Needs for Intergovernmental Coordination and Governance for Sustained Ocean Observations & Services”),

to establish an inter-sessional consultation of all Member States and coordinated by a Vice-Chair to identify scientific and technical issues within IOC mission and mandate, in order to improve IOC’s activities in the area of sustained ocean observations and services,

we would like to clarify that the workshop will be an informal part of this consultation. The consultations are to aid the Assembly to focus the discussion of Sustained Ocean Observations & Services on the needs and expectations of the Member States.

Chairperson
Dr Sang-Kyung BYUN
Principal Research Scientist
Climate Change & Coastal Disaster Research Dept.
Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KOIST)
787 Haeanlo
Ansan 426-744
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Executive Secretary
Dr Wendy WATSON-WRIGHT
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission — UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15,
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons
Prof. Peter M. HAUGAN
Director, Geophysical Institute
University of Bergen
Allégaten 70
5007 Bergen
NORWAY

Capt. Frederico Antonio SARAIVA
NOGUEIRA
Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation
Rue Barão de Jacequei, s/nº
Ponta da Armação
Niterói, Rio de Janeiro
CEP 24.048.900
BRAZIL

Dr Atanas PALAZOV
Director, Institute of Oceanology – Varna Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
P.O. Box 152
Varna 9000
BULGARIA

Prof. Yutaka MICHIDA
University of Tokyo
Member of National Committee for IOC
Kashinoha 5-1-5
Kashiwa 277-8564
Chiba
JAPAN

Prof. Adoté Blim BLIVI
Chef de Recherche
Head of CGILE
Ministère de l’Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche
University of Lomé,
B.P. 1515
Lomé 228
TOGO

.../...
The coordination of global sustained ocean observations and services has been identified as an integral part of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy and are supported through the IOC’s Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM). The secretariat greatly appreciates the input from all Member States on this issue, and thanks the Republic of Korea and Brazilian Navy for supporting this workshop dedicated to issues of Caribbean and Latin American countries.

Also supporting this consultation will be a questionnaire available soon to all Member States on the workshop webpage (http://ioc.unesco.org/SustainedObsGroupIII) which will be discussed by the experts from Group III at the workshop.

This workshop is intended to broaden the discussion initiated at the “Group II forum” held in Varna, Bulgaria in 2012. Once again the Republic of Korea, through Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST), has graciously offered to support a dialogue between scientists and experts of an IOC Electoral Group. The workshop is mainly devoted to promote Sustained Ocean Observations and Services of IOC in Group III and aims to:

a. Exchange information of the current status of ocean observation and services systems among the Member States in Caribbean and Latin America countries (Group III).
b. Find the future potentials to be benefited from IOC’s existing observation programmes, such as GOOS and JCOMM, in the region of Caribbean and Latin America countries (Group III), with special regard of the Framework for Ocean Observing.

To this end the meeting will follow the format of the workshop held for Group II in Varna, Bulgaria in March 2012 and will be organized in two discussion forums:

• 1st Forum on the “The Future of Sustained Ocean Observations and Services in Group III” providing for an exchange of views among IOC Chair and ex-chair, vice-chairs and ex vice-chairs, and Executive Secretary; and
• 2nd Forum on “The Present Status of Sustained Ocean Observations and Services in Group III” for sharing the information on the current status of ocean observation system in Caribbean and Latin America countries (Group III).

Further meeting information, documents and logistical information will be posted as available on the website: http://ioc.unesco.org/SustainedObsGroupIII.

I am pleased to invite you to attend to the workshop in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (6–8 March 2013) or to send a representative, preferably familiar with ocean observations for operational purposes. All the travel expenses will be financially supported by the Korean Government. I kindly ask you to forward the detail of the participant(s) by 25 January 2013 to the IOC Secretariat (Dr Albert Fischer: a.fischer@unesco.org and Dr Tom Gross: t.gross@unesco.org), with copy to Group III Vice-chair: frederico.asn@gmail.com and Ms Nayeon Jeon: nayonjeon@kiost.ac.

With the assurances of our highest consideration, we remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]                [signed]

Frederico Antonio Saraiva Nogueira  Wendy Watson-Wright
Vice Chair of IOC for Group III  Executive Secretary, IOC
                                    Assistant Director-General, UNESCO