To: Official National Coordinating Body for Liaison with the IOC in States Members of the IOC
Executive Heads of UN Organizations Member of ICSPRO and others (IAEA, UNEP)
Executive Heads of Intergovernmental and Non-governmental organizations cooperating with the IOC

cc.: The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

Subject: Invitation to the Second planning meeting of the Reference Group for the International Indian Ocean Expedition 50th Anniversary Initiative (IIOE-2), Qingdao, China, 20–21 November 2013

The IOC Assembly at its twenty-seventh Session adopted Decision IOC-XXVII/Dec.5.1.2 regarding the International Indian Ocean Expedition 50th Anniversary Initiative (IIOE-2). On this occasion it was decided that it is appropriate for the IOC in collaboration with SCOR and IOGOOS, to further develop a proposal for the second International Indian Ocean Expedition in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the original IIOE of the 1960s. Accordingly, the IOC further decided to add the IIOE-2 to the agenda of its Executive Council at its 47th Session in 2014 in order to formalize, through a Draft Resolution, IOC's involvement in an IIOE-2, implemented for the period 2015–2020. In conjunction with this, the Assembly called on Member States to support the planning effort to the best of their capacities, in order to facilitate the work of the IIOE-2 Reference Group and IOC Executive Secretary in preparing relevant documentation, timeline, organizational and financial implications for the IOC of a prospective IIOE-2.

To these ends, the IOC through its Perth Programme Office (PPO) cordially invites you to participate in the Second planned Reference Group meeting for the IIOE-2 (IIOE-2 RG2), to be held in Qingdao, China, during 20–21 November 2013, under local hosting and support from the First Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanographic Administration, China, with coordination and sponsorship through the IOC Perth Programme Office, and co-sponsorship and support through the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific, Sustained Indian Ocean Biogeochemistry and…/…
Ecosystem Research of IOGOOS/IMBER (SIBER) and IMBER. SCOR will also again support the IIOE-2 RG2.

The IIOE-2 Reference Group was formed, under the initial auspices of SCOR, Indian Ocean GOOS and the IOC through its supporting Perth Programme Office, to explore and plan for the possibility for a second such international expedition, IIOE-2, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the original IIOE of the 1960s, and especially to further significantly advance the understanding of the Indian Ocean in its own right and in its influence and tele-connections to the oceanic and climatic systems of the globe generally.

The IIOE-2 planning effort has been underway, starting with the first meeting of the IIOE-2 Reference Group in Hyderabad, India, 14–15 May 2013, under the auspices of IOC (through the Secretariat of the IOC in conjunction with the IOC/UNESCO Perth Programme Office), Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System Regional Alliance (IOGOOS) and Scientific Committee on Ocean Research (SCOR), with support from the Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research programme (IMBER) and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) (Ministry of Earth Sciences, India).

The IIOE-2 RG1 meeting resulted in a formative initial multi-disciplinary examination of the potential scope and depth of an IIOE-2, identifying a wide range of potential ‘big-picture’ science questions and issues and related activities that could motivate and underpin the IIOE-2. IIOE-2 RG2 will aim specifically to define a focused set of overarching science and societal drivers for the IIOE-2.

Useful information

- As for the first IIOE-2 Reference Group meeting, the Co-Chairs for IIOE-2 RG2 will be Dr Nick D’Adamo (Head, IOC/UNESCO PPO) and Professor Raleigh Hood (SIBER Co-Chair; University of Maryland USA).

- The www.iocperth.org website provides a link to materials leading up to and resulting from IIOE-2 RG1, for background and reference, including details of the discussions and considerations from the meeting.

- The local host and coordinator of the meeting on behalf of FIO is Dr Weidong Yu (Director, Center for Ocean and Climate Research, FIO, SOA, Qingdao, China), wdyu@fio.org.cn.

- FIO has established a local website for the IIOE-2 RG2 meeting http://www.fio.org.cn/en/IIOE/index.jsp. Further information will be put on this site as plans develop.

- Note that IIOE-2 RG2 will also be held back to back and at the same location with the 2nd planning workshop for the Eastern Indian Ocean Upwelling Research Initiative (EIOURI), which will be convened November 18-19 under the auspices of the CLIVAR-GOOS Indian Ocean Panel, IMBER and FIO. EIOURI is being developed by the CLIVAR-GOOS Indian Ocean Panel and SIBER and is being conceived as a prospective contribution to the IIOE-2. Details are available at http://www.fio.org.cn/en/IIOE/index.jsp.

Logistics

- The IIOE-2 RG2 meeting will be held in the Meeting Hall of the 3rd floor of the Administrative Building within in FIO campus, located at 6 Road Xian-Xia-Ling, District Lao-Shan, Qingdao 266061, China.

- A block of rooms has been set aside in the Blue Horizon Hotel, which is within walking distance to the FIO campus meeting venue. The hotel address is: 9-2 Road Miao-Ling,
District Lao-Shan, Qingdao, 266061, China, Tel 0532 88996666. The price of a standard room is RMB460, single room RMB480, and Deluxe Room RMB630.

- Please note that participation will be on a self-funded basis. There is no financial support available for participants for travel or accommodation for the meeting.

- However there will be no registration fee and morning teas, lunches and afternoon teas will be supplied. One welcome banquet will be hosted by FIO.

- Prospective participants from IOC Member States may wish to seek further background and information on the IIOE-2 from Dr D’Adamo.

**Action required if you wish to participate**

- Please advise of your intention to participate to Dr Nick D’Adamo at nick.dadamo@bom.gov.au with copy to Dr Weidong Yu at wdyu@fio.org.cn

- A formal letter of invitation will be arranged by Dr Yu and then sent to you in order that you may obtain your own visa for China.

- To book the hotel, please send an email to lhlskyd@163, and cc to yfang@fio.org.cn.

I look forward to your participation to and support of this initiative.

Yours sincerely,

signed

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