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IOC/WWW/AF/TG
27 February 2014

To: IOC Member States in Asia Pacific Region (Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC, Group IV)
Chairs GOOS Regional Alliances: NEARGOOS, SEAGOOS, PIGOOS, IOGOOS
Chair IOC/WESTPAC

cc.: National Commissions for UNESCO and Permanent Delegations of UNESCO of IOC Member States, Group IV
IOC Officers
Prof. Aina Wu, Director, RMIC for the Asia Pacific Region
Wenxi Zhu, IOC/WESTPAC Secretariat

Subject: Liaison Group for Marine Instrumentation in the Asia Pacific region

Action required: Nominate national member(s) for the LGMI-AP on the basis of the guidelines as detailed in the annex and inform the Secretariat

You will recall that the WMO-IOC Regional Marine Instrument Center for the Asia-Pacific Region (RMIC/AP) was established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO through WMO Congress Resolution 9 (Cg-XVI) and IOC Resolution XXVI-9. The RMIC/AP holds activities in support of the JCOMM Observation Programme Area (OPA), under the auspices of the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM).

In accordance with its Terms of Reference (JCOMM-III Recommendation 1), the goals of the RMIC/AP are: (i) to assist WMO Members/IOC Member States within its region in calibrating their national meteorological standards and related oceanographic monitoring instruments according to the RMIC capabilities; (ii) to organize training workshops; and (iii) to organize marine instrument inter-laboratory comparisons. It should be noted that recently, the RMIC/AP has begun to offer calibration services (seawater conductivity/salinity, seawater temperature, seawater depth, tide, wave) to WMO Members/IOC Member States.

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At its fourth session (Yeou, Republic of Korea, May 2012) JCOMM recommended that coordination mechanisms should be established in each region which benefit from RMIC facilities, for example by seeking the nomination of JCOMM focal points on marine instrumentation in each country.

This issue was therefore discussed at the second JCOMM Marine Instrumentation workshop for the Asia Pacific region, Tianjin, China, 3-6 December 2012 (see JCOMM MR No. 95). The workshop, which was organized by the RMIC/AP, agreed that the mechanism to be established in the Asia Pacific region should allow the RMIC/AP to better address its Terms of Reference and maintain a close liaison and coordination in the region regarding the related activities. External institutions not directly involved in JCOMM should also be involved in this coordination mechanism (e.g. fisheries).

The Terms of Reference for a Liaison Group for Marine Instrumentation in the Asia Pacific region (LGMI-AP) have been discussed with the RMIC/AP, and are proposed in the Annex.

I am therefore writing to you to invite you: (i) to nominate national member(s) of the LGMI-AP on the basis of the guidelines with regard to membership as detailed in the Annex; (ii) to inform the secretariat accordingly (preferably via e-mail to t.gross@unesco.org); and (iii) to request the nominated person to contribute to the activities of the LGMI-AP per the Terms of Reference in the Annex.

I would like to thank your country for its substantial contribution to the activities of JCOMM. I look forward to receiving your feedback and to the successful further development of marine meteorological and ocean observational networks in your country.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

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

Enclosure: Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Liaison Group for Marine Instrumentation in the Asia Pacific Region (LGMI-AP)
Annex

Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Liaison Group for Marine Instrumentation in the Asia Pacific Region (LGMI-AP)

The Liaison Group for Marine Instrumentation in the Asia Pacific region (LGMI-AP) is established to facilitate cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, and the exchange of national information and requirements between countries in the region on all aspects related to marine meteorological and oceanographic instrumentation. The primary goal is to facilitate and optimize the support provided in the region by the WMO-IOC Regional Marine Instrument Center of the Asia-Pacific Region (RMIC/AP) to WMO Members and IOC Member States.

**Terms of Reference:**

The members of the LGMI-AP shall:

1. Act as focal points at the national level on marine meteorological and/or oceanographic instrumentation aspects;
2. Liaise regularly with the RMIC/AP Secretariat, and provide information on relevant national requirements, activities and events, as well as feedback regarding RMIC/AP services provided to their countries;
3. Encourage and facilitate their country’s participation in the activities of the RMIC/AP, make proposals, and communicate on relevant standards and procedures;
4. Attend regular meetings of the LGMI-AP, and contribute to the definition of the RMIC/AP workplan;
5. Develop, update and maintain a list of relevant national experts, organizations and institutions which can potentially benefit from the activities of the RMIC/AP, and participate at its activities.

**Membership:**

The members of LGMI-AP are national focal points nominated by WMO Members of WMO Regional Association II and IOC Member States as appropriate respectively according to the following guidelines;

1. They are experts in marine meteorological and or oceanographic instrumentation, standard, quality control, and are ready to contribute to international cooperation through their participation in the LGMI-AP;
2. Their management is allowing them to spend sufficient time for assuming their roles as members of the LGMI-AP.