IOC Circular letter No. 2347
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14 April 2010

To: IOC Member States (Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC in IOC Member States),
Permanent Delegates/Observers Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States,
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States

Cc: IOC Officers

Subject: Follow-up to the implementation of IOC Resolution EC-XLI-4

The 41st session of the IOC Executive Council that took place in Paris, France, from 24 June to 1 July 2008, adopted Resolution EC-XLI.4 on the “Guidelines for the implementation of Resolution XX-6 on the IOC Assembly regarding the deployment of profiling floats in the High Seas within the framework of the Argo Programme” (Annex 1). In particular, I call your attention to paragraphs 1 and 3 of the resolution.

Accordingly and following the above mentioned Guidelines, I inform you that letters expressing their wish to be notified, as provided by the Guidelines, have been received by the following Member States: Argentina, Brazil, China, Greece, and Peru. The name and address of Argo Focal Points of these States are listed in Annex 2 of this Letter.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully recall Member States (see Circular Letter 2271) the need to designate an Argo National Focal Point. Such designation at your earliest convenience would be greatly appreciated.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

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

Guidelines for the Implementation of Resolution XX-6 of the IOC Assembly Regarding the Deployment of Floats in the High Seas within the Framework of the Argo Programme

The IOC Member States recall and confirm the validity of Resolution XX-6, in particular the following elements of the resolution:

- The Argo Project is an important contribution to the operational ocean observing system of GOOS and GCOS, as well as a major contribution to CLIVAR and other scientific research programmes.
- There is a need to ensure that Member States gain maximum benefit from the data of the Argo project in real-time and at longer time scales, and that they have the possibility to participate in and contribute to the project.
- Concerned coastal States must be informed in advance, through appropriate channels, of all deployments of profiling floats which might drift into waters under their jurisdiction.

For the purposes of implementing Resolution XX-6 regarding the deployment of Argo floats in the high seas that may enter the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), IOC Member States should follow these Guidelines and promote awareness of them among interested institutions:

1. In accordance with Resolution XX-6, an IOC Member State must be informed in advance, through appropriate channels, of the deployment in the high seas of any float within the framework of the Argo Programme (hereinafter, Argo Programme float) that may enter its EEZ. In implementing this provision, the Executive Secretary of IOC will invite all IOC Member States to state at any time, if they so desire and by written note addressed to him, that they wish to be notified of the deployment in the high seas of all Argo Programme floats that may enter their respective EEZs. The Executive Secretary of IOC will immediately communicate such written note to IOC Member States.

2. A governmental, non-governmental or private entity designated as responsible for Argo Programme floats deployed in the high seas (hereinafter, the implementer) will transmit through the Argo Information Centre to the Argo focal points designated by the IOC Member States the following information:
   - type and number of floats planned to be deployed
   - dates and geo-coordinates of locations where floats are to be deployed in the high seas
   - contact information of the implementer
   - parameters and variables to be collected by sensors
   - other information that the implementer might consider of interest.

3. Whenever an Argo Programme float deployed in the high seas might drift into the EEZ of an IOC Member State that has requested the notification referred to in paragraph 1, the implementer of such Argo Programme float will notify the Argo focal point of the IOC Member State, by transmitting to it, reasonably in advance of the expected entry of the float into the EEZ, the following information:
   - type of the float deployed
   - date and geo-coordinates of location where the float was deployed in the high seas
   - date and geo-coordinates of latest location of the float
   - contact information of the implementer
- parameters and variables being collected by sensors
- other information that the implementer might consider of interest
- other Argo Programme float information that the coastal State might consider of interest, as specified in the original notification.

Upon request of the responsible IOC Member State, and with the express agreement of the coastal State that has requested notification referred to in paragraph 1, the Argo Information Centre can undertake the notification on behalf of the implementer.

4. All the data obtained by the Argo Programme floats once they enter the EEZ will be made freely available by the implementer, with the exception of data of direct significance for the exploration and exploitation of natural resources, whether living or non-living, which, to protect its sovereign rights and jurisdiction in its EEZ, the IOC Member State whose EEZ the float enters formally requires the implementer not to be distributed. The aforementioned IOC Member State is encouraged, when possible, to determine a time limit for this request.

5. The guidelines set forth in paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 apply mutatis mutandis to an Argo Programme float deployed in the high seas and drifting into the EEZ of an IOC Member State from the EEZ of another IOC Member State.

6. No action or activity taken on the basis of these Guidelines shall be interpreted or considered as prejudicing the positions of State Parties to a land or maritime sovereignty dispute or to a dispute concerning the delimitation of maritime areas.

7. For the purpose of an effective application of these Guidelines including, in particular, the notification to be provided by the implementer:
   a. the charts and lists of geographical coordinates of points, specifying the geodetic datum, duly publicized and deposited by IOC Member States with the Secretary-General of the United Nations will be used, or
   b. when such information is not available, the IOC Member States are encouraged to provide the relevant information to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the IOC or to the implementer, as appropriate.
Annex 2

Argo National Focal Points for receiving information according to paragraphs 1 and 3 of the "Guidelines for the Implementation of Resolution XX-6 of the IOC Assembly regarding the deployment of Profiling Floats in the High Seas within the Framework of the Argo Programme".

Argentina
Date of notification: 24 July 2008 and 30 October 2008 (Letters UNE/CXN/COI/76 and UNE/CXN/COI/103/08)
Focal Point: Mr Ariel Hernán TROISI
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Brazil
Date of notification: 24 July 2008 (Letter No. 45)
Focal Point: Mme. Janice R. Trotte
Conseillere aux Relations Institutionnelles de la Direction de l'Hydrographie et Coordinatrice du Comite Executif du Programme GOOS Brasil
Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegacao
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Brazil requested that all information be also sent to: previsao@chm.mar.mil.br

China
Date of notification: 2 March 2009 (Unnumbered Letter)
Focal Point: Mr. Fengkui Liang
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Greece
Date of notification: 26 February 2009 (Letter No. F2.3/AS.207)
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Peru
Date of notification: 9 March 2010 (Letter No. U/18/2010)
Focal Point:  Contralmirante Javier GAVIOLA Tejada  
Director de Hidrografia y Navegacion  
Marina de Guerra del Peru  
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Lima, Peru  
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