

Global

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Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies

**IOC/WESTPAC Co-ordinating Committee
for the North-East Asian Regional -
Global Ocean Observing System
(NEAR-GOOS)**

Twelfth Session
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia
24 May 2008

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IOC/WESTPAC-NEAR-GOOS-CC-XII

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1. OPENING

1 Dr. Shaohua Lin, Chairperson of the IOC/WESTPAC Coordinating Committee for NEAR-GOOS, called the meeting to order at 10:00 on 24 May 2008. She welcomed all participants to the session, including members of the Committee, invited experts, observers and the technical secretariat. She outlined the major tasks of this meeting, stressing that the most important issue of this session was the future of NEAR-GOOS, which would be presented at the seventh session of IOC/WESTPAC (WESTPAC-VII), and the committee would focus on the issue. Participants were invited to give a self-introduction to the meeting. All participants are listed in Annex I. The chairperson welcomed a new committee member, Mr. Satoshi Sato, who replaced Mr. Okuno of the Japan Coast Guard.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2 The Chairperson invited the meeting to consider the Provisional Agenda. The agenda was adopted without modification, attached as Annex II.

2.2 DESIGNATION OF RAPPORTEUR

3 Dr. Lin nominated Mr. Takashi Yoshida, one of the committee members from Japan to be the Rapporteur for this session. The Committee agreed to this nomination, and Mr. Yoshida was duly designated as the Rapporteur.

2.3 WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

4 The Chairperson invited the Rapporteur to introduce the list of documents prepared for the meeting. It was informed that the meeting room was available on 24th only and the committee was asked to make an intensive discussion on a few important issues due to the limitation. As it had been agreed earlier, priority was given to the most important issues such as future of NEAR-GOOS and the input to the WESTPAC-VII. Other issues including information exchanges would be omitted and forwarded to the next session.

3. STATUS OF NEAR-GOOS

3.1 REPORT ON NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

3.1.1 Japan

5 Mr. Yoshiaki Kanno, a Japanese observer, presented a report on the Regional Real Time Data Base (RRTDB). He introduced that the RRTDB had been operated in good condition during the intersessional period except for a server trouble in April 2008. The base started to distribute a new data set for subsurface temperature and current analyses derived from the JMA's new ocean data assimilation system named MOVE/MRI.COM on May 1st, 2008. Kanno introduced that JMA completed the action point 1 and 14 of the last CC meeting (CC11) in Bangkok, January 2007, such as preparation of a concise introduction of RRTDB and making mutual link between RRTDB and the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) Specialized Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center (CEARAC) database.

6 Mr. Satoshi Sato presented a report on the operation of the Regional Delayed Mode Data Base (RDMDB) and the 1st NEAR-GOOS – NOWPAP Joint Training Course on Remote Sensing Data Analysis. RDMDB had been operated without any serious problem during the intersessional period. Oceanographic and marine meteorological data available on RDMDB increased by 12GB during the past 15 months, resulting in the total amount of 46.5GB data. The training course was successfully held in Nagasaki, September 2007, with financial support from the UNESCO-Japan in Trust for WESTPAC. Total number of

23 trainees, including trainees from all four NEAR-GOOS countries, participated in the course. NEAR-GOOS provided lectures on oceanographic data exchange and management, including the introduction of RRTDB and RDMDDB.

7 In response to the question about the future training course, Mr. Norio Baba, a representative of NOWPAP, informed the meeting of the 2nd training course, which was planned to be held in autumn 2008 in Korea. The committee considered how to cooperate with NOWPAP for the 2nd training course, such as provision of lecture about NEAR-GOOS as a source of in situ data required for remote sensing data analysis, and agreed to provide a lecture on NEAR-GOOS at the course.

3.1.2 Republic of Korea

8 Dr. Kwang-Soon Park presented the report on Korean NEAR-GOOS Real-time mode database with information on the operational oceanographic system in Korea. In the 1st stage, it is planned to establish 91 real-time observing stations by 2010 under the cooperation of Korean oceanographic institutes and agencies, such as NORI, KORDI, KMA and NFRDI. His presentations included suggestion and plan to develop an operational oceanographic system, currently planned by KORDI, mentioning the data integration issue and the development of new oceanographic products such as sea water temperature charts, wave charts, current charts and tide forecasting information.

9 Dr. Hee-Dong Jeong reported about the Korean Delayed Mode Data Base. Korean DMDB had been successfully constructed and well serviced since its establishment. He informed that there was no major change on the database operation during the intersessional period, and that bimonthly serial oceanographic data around the Korean peninsula since 1961 and daily coastal oceanographic observations since 1923 were major contents of the database.

3.1.3 China

10 Dr. Zhi Chen presented a report on the Chinese real-time mode database. Chinese real-time ocean observing system, which includes 63 coastal stations, 6 buoys and voluntary ships, is a source for the database. The database was kept running operationally in 2007. It was informed that the National Marine Environment Forecasting Center (NMEFC) had a plan to update the database software in 2008.

11 Prof. Wenjing Fan made a report on the Chinese delayed mode database. Since the 11th CC meeting, the database has been well maintained. The National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS) developed a viewable quality-control system and provided technical instructions, products and advisory service to Chinese users. It has published four volumes of the South China Sea Atlas and the last volume of the atlas is going to be published. NMDIS's data management activity includes international data managements such as ODAS/JCOMM Metadata Management Center, GLOSS data management, China GTSP Data Center and China Argo Data Center.

12 Special effort to edit and publish "A Strategic Plan for NEAR-GOOS in its Second Phase" was made by NMDIS. The publication was distributed at the session to the participants. The committee expressed its appreciation to NMDIS for the effort.

3.1.4 Russia

13 Dr. Vyacheslav Lobanov presented national activity in Russian Federation on NEAR-GOOS project, including the status of database operation, monitoring activity in the NEAR-GOOS area and the ESIMO program, "Unified System of Information on the World Ocean". During the intersessional period, activity under NEAR-GOOS has been continued. Some development on the delayed mode database has been made since 2007, such as update of cruise metadata, R/V position monitoring, inventory of chlorophyll data and a link to DINRAC/NOWPAP portal. The ESIMO program is a Russian national ocean data management program, which should benefit to NEAR-GOOS in the next phase, 2008-2012.

3.2 REPORT ON THE WORKING GROUPS ON NEW GENERATION SST

14 Dr. Hiroshi Kawamura, the chairperson of the working group on New Generation Sea Surface Temperature (NGSST working group), reported the progress of the group, including the NGSST and relating workshop held just before this CC meeting. He informed that the NGSST demonstration operation had been conducted during the intersessional period and regional high resolution SST digital dataset had been continuously provided through the NGSST website. As a related topic on the regional remote sensing, Kawamura introduced the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) remote sensing project, validation of remote sensing algorithm and the Yellow Sea Ocean Colour project (YOC-2007). He concluded his talk with his view on the future direction of NGSST working group, in which he expressed that NGSST almost completed its research and development for operational SST product development and asked the committee to further consider the need of the remote sensing technology for NEAR-GOOS.

15 The committee expressed its appreciation for Kawamura's long dedication to NEAR-GOOS and then discussed the future direction of NGSST working group. It recognized that a lot of technology development on remote sensing SST had been achieved by the working group, and future work would provide further technological basis for the regional ocean monitoring capacity building. From the viewpoint of enhancing the ocean monitoring capacity, the committee agreed to ask the working group to consider to introduce new element such as ocean colour in their work. Name and terms of references of the working group will be amended accordingly.

Action: the CC to rename the NGSST working group and draft its terms of references in consultation with Prof. Kawamura, by the next CC meeting.

3.3 REPORT ON THE WORKING GROUP ON DATA MANAGEMENT

16 Mr. Yoshida, the acting chairperson of the working group on data management (DM working group), informed the committee of the progress on the working group since CC11. The group met at its second session on May 23, 2008, just before this CC session, reviewed the progress during the last intersessional period, discussed its work plan and elected a new chairperson. It was informed that the database network had been well operated by participating institutes, with some update as reported in the national activities: agenda item 3.1. Regarding the inventory of existing in situ chlorophyll a and sediment material data, which was an action item of CC11, Russian, Japanese and Chinese data holdings were presented. At its second session, the working group felt there was no need to modify the work plan and agreed that the group would continue the operation of the database network and make necessary update, and would update the inventory of chlorophyll a data. Yoshida informed that Dr. Hee-Dong Jeong was elected as the new chairperson of the working group at the second session.

17 The committee expressed its appreciation to the working group for its effort, endorsed the report and congratulated Dr. Hee-Dong Jeong on being elected as the new chairperson. To further improve the usefulness of the database network, a suggestion on the development of data quality control was made. It was pointed out that there were several international data management initiatives which had developed data quality control schemes, and that it was efficient to cooperate with not only NEAR-GOOS partners but also those existing data management initiatives. As a specific action in the next intersessional period, the committee discussed about a workshop on ocean data management with a focus on quality control issues and agreed to seek the possibility to organize such workshop.

Action: the DM working group to continue the operation of the database network, make necessary update on the databases, and update the inventory of chlorophyll a data.

Action: the CC and DM working group to seek the possibility to organize a workshop on ocean data management.

3.4 DRAFT REPORT OF NEAR-GOOS FOR THE WESTPAC 7

18 Yoshida presented the NEAR-GOOS progress report (2005-2007) drafted for submission to the seventh Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Committee for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-VII), held just after this session. It reviewed the NEAR-GOOS activity after WESTPAC-VI, May 2005, highlighting the operation of database network, establishment of two working groups such as the working groups on data management and on NGSST, and a series of training course. The committee endorsed the report. Future NEAR-GOOS actions to be reported to WESTPAC-VII were discussed under next agenda item.

4. FUTURE OF NEAR-GOOS

19 Mr. Wenxi Zhu, the technical secretariat, expressed its concern on the poor recognition of NEAR-GOOS by users and decision makers, and pointed out that the committee should consider how NEAR-GOOS could appeal to policy makers and convinced them of the importance of NEAR-GOOS by showing future direction and action plans indicating its purpose and how it could benefits users.

20 Dr. Lin mentioned a possibility for NEAR-GOOS to provide information on global sea level change, which could meet the growing interest in the global climate change issues, referring to the sea level height GPV data and tide gauge data available on the NEAR-GOOS databases. Dr. Park followed with an idea to provide operational oceanographic products to meet a variety of marine application needs, including marine rescue and reducing damage from natural disaster. In these contexts, Dr. Lin suggested that NEAR-GOOS should strengthen its capacity for operational oceanography by:

- enhancing data management: collection, quality control, and provision of service
- developing products and,
- cooperating with other projects in much more variety of fields, and provide more rich variety of services, so that NEAR-GOOS could get more strong attention from policy makers.

21 Mr. Yoshida reminded the committee of the importance of not only developing new products but also routine operation for the existing users, and stressed that routine operation should not be underestimated, while there is no conflict between new activity and the existing operation.

22 Mr. Zhu expressed his view on the importance of developing NEAR-GOOS products, and suggested to establish a demonstration pilot project to develop attractive products in an application area. Dr. Chen expressed his idea on an international ocean forecasting system. On the other hand, Yoshida pointed out that NEAR-GOOS had been providing basic observation and analyses to feed wide range of users including national authorities which were responsible to provide information service to nation, and that NEAR-GOOS should not compete against such national authorities but support the authorities by providing useful ocean data and information products. Dr. Park pointed out that oceanographic field was different from meteorological field, in which each country has a national authority to provide operational forecast to the nation, and there might be possibility to establish a new pilot project to develop operational oceanographic products. Park suggested a new working group on an operational system to develop basic oceanographic products such as temperature, salinity and current, under international cooperation.

23 The CC recognized the necessity to demonstrate the value of NEAR-GOOS and that NEAR-GOOS should consider developing new attractive products and establishing a pilot project for such development. As the first step, NEAR-GOOS need to understand what products exist and what projects are going, and therefore, in order to review current project and products, a workshop on the development of NEAR-GOOS product group was proposed. The CC decided to hold a workshop on NEAR-GOOS products during the next intersessional period.

Action: the CC to organize a workshop on NEAR-GOOS products during the next intersessional period.

5. OTHER ISSUES

24 Some information about GOOS, including the Fourth Forum of the GOOS Regional Alliance (GRA-IV), was provided by Dr. Lin, the vice chairperson of the I-GOOS. The forum will be held in November 2008, Guayaquil, Ecuador, and a representative from NEAR-GOOS, one of the GOOS regional alliances, will attend it. In order to facilitate better planning for national and regional GOOS activities relating to such global initiative, Dr. Lobanov asked Dr. Lin and other CC members to share such information through e-mail.

6. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

25 Dr. Lobanov kindly offered to host the thirteenth session in Vladivostok, Russian Federation. The Committee welcomed the offer and decided to have the next session in Vladivostok in September 2009.

7. CLOSURE

26 The chairperson thanked all CC members, resource persons, partners, observers and the technical secretariat for their active participation in the session. She concluded the session by stressing importance of more cooperation between members to make NEAR-GOOS more successful. The session was closed at 17:00 on 24 May 2008.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

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