

10 May 2005

To: National SCOR Committees, Nominated Members of SCOR, SCOR Executive Committee, Chairs of SCOR Subsidiary Bodies, Affiliated Organizations, Corresponding Organizations, Interested International Organizations
From: Ed Urban, Executive Director

**37th SCOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF WORKING GROUP PROPOSALS**

Six working group proposals that have been submitted to the SCOR Secretariat for consideration at the 2005 SCOR Executive Committee Meeting are available on the SCOR Web site at <http://www.jhu.edu/scor/2005EC.htm>. The Executive Committee will be very grateful for comments from SCOR National Committees, individuals, and interested organizations to assist in the review of these proposals. This is, in fact, one of the most important ways in which SCOR's National Committees and cooperating organizations can provide input to SCOR on scientific priorities.

Comments are requested on the following points, among others:

- Is the proposal timely?
- Is the topic a priority for ocean science and for SCOR?
- Is a SCOR Working Group a good mechanism to advance this topic?
- Are the terms of reference appropriate?
- Are the membership suggestions appropriate? (Please note that individuals listed as potential members may not have been contacted yet and that membership is not final until approval by the SCOR Executive Committee.)
- How would you rank the priority of SCOR funding for these proposals? (We will have funds to support two new working groups to begin in 2006.) It would be particularly useful to receive your input on (1) which two (if any) of the proposals should be funded by SCOR even if no external funds can be arranged, (2) which proposals are acceptable if external funding can be arranged, (3) and which proposals would have to be significantly revised and re-submitted next year to be acceptable as a SCOR working group. (In the latter case, please specify what kind of changes would be needed.)

Additional membership nominations from SCOR National Committees are especially welcome. This is an opportunity to involve scientists from your country in SCOR working group activities. Working groups may not have more than ten Full Members (including the chair) due to financial limitations, however, so that not everyone who is nominated can be selected as Full Members. Some individuals may be invited to serve on working groups as Associate Members, but their

travel funds must come from sources other than SCOR. The primary criterion for selection as a member of a SCOR working group is the scientific expertise of the individual. Secondly, SCOR aims to ensure an appropriate international representation in all of its groups. Please send your comments on these proposals to me, by e-mail if possible, before **31 July 2005**, so that I can forward them to the appropriate Executive Committee member responsible for leading the discussion of each proposal. Finally, please consider whether financial support might be arranged for any of these groups through sources in your country. SCOR funding for working group activities is limited, so we depend on external funding to increase the number of working groups and the variety of topics covered. Even if external funding is certain, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of scientific merit, relevance to SCOR, and appropriateness of the proposed terms of reference and membership.

Thank you in advance for your assistance!