

SCOR Visiting Scholars

SCOR is developing the idea of enlisting the services of ocean scientists from the SCOR community, from both developed countries and developing countries, both recently retired and active, to teach short courses and to provide more extended on-site education and mentorship at developing country institutions. Some countries and/or individual institutions have requirements for their scientists to retire at a given age, sometimes as early as 60 years of age. Many retired ocean scientists are still interested in teaching and mentoring, and are supported by pensions after their retirement, so do not need salary support. Some active scientists can also use some of their already-supported work time to work in a developing country.

Hosting visiting scientists, whether retired or active, can have many benefits to host institutions also, such as inspiring, motivating, and informing students and faculty, and leading to future collaborations between the visiting scientist and the host institution.

The idea of this new SCOR activity will be to develop a database of ocean scientists interested in short-term visits to a developing country in the SCOR community. Such a program would be a partnership, with the host institution providing local accommodation and SCOR finding resources to pay for airfares and other local expenses. The participating scientists will donate their time. The participating scientists might be onsite for as little as two weeks or as long as visa requirements would allow. The Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO) has experience with sending active and retired professors to developing country institutions (see <http://www.ocean-partners.org/Nippon-POGO2006.htm>) and POGO is implementing a new program focused on ocean observations and modeling (see http://www.ocean-partners.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=310&Itemid=43). The SCOR program will be complementary with the POGO program, covering all ocean and related sciences, but not topics included in the POGO program.

This announcement is being distributed to the SCOR community to identify interested individuals and host institutions. Individuals interested in participating in this program should provide the following information:

- Name and contact information of applicant
- Experience in teaching and research – one summary paragraph and short CV
- Languages spoken and written fluently—Many institutions in developing countries seek scientific instruction in English to help prepare them to interact with scientists from the global ocean science community, but may also prefer individuals with some knowledge of their national language.
- Specific teaching and research interests
- Countries/regions of interest
- Willingness to donate time and time of availability
- Coverage by health and accident insurance—Lack of coverage would not rule out any candidate, but would alert SCOR to the need to arrange such insurance.

This information will be made available to potential host institutions, but will not be posted on the Web in open-access format.

Institutions interested in hosting a SCOR Visiting Scholar should provide the following information, in a short proposal describing the visiting scientist's term at the host institution:

- Help requested: teaching, mentoring in research, technology assistance, etc.
- Term of service desired, including specific dates
- Local subsistence provided
- Language abilities desired
- Plans by the host institution to build on the training received

Host institutions will be responsible to identify visiting scientists who will best serve the needs of their institutions for capacity building, training, and mentoring.

SCOR will institute a selection process through its SCOR Committee on Capacity Building to review the applicants and the proposed work assignments at the host institutions. The number of scientists placed each year will depend on the number of applications received and funding available. Criteria for selection will include the following (based on POGO's experience):

- Quality and relevance of the proposal
- Experience of the candidate and fit with the program (language skills, teaching experience, subject areas requested by the institution)
- Needs of the host institution
- Plans by the host institution to build on the training received

SCOR will provide airfares and funds for meals for the visiting scientists, and for insurance costs for those that do not have insurance.

SCOR will serve as a broker of the partnerships, but the individual and institution will be responsible to ensure a successful outcome. SCOR will monitor the results of each partnership with a questionnaire to the visiting scientist and the host institution after the visit, to determine the effectiveness of the program and ways to make it more useful. SCOR will make every effort to create a sustainable program.

SCOR is developing the concept of Regional Graduate Education Networks for Ocean Science (see http://www.scor-int.org/RGSO_Design_Principles.pdf) and it is anticipated that retired oceanographers could serve as integral parts of education teams in these networks, together with active scientists from both developed and developing countries.

Applications are due by **31 May 2009** and selections for placement in 2009 made by **30 June 2009**.