

Third SCOR Meeting on Coordination of International Marine Research Projects

Request for Background Information

Please submit the following written documentation by 15 March 2009. The availability of this information will help meeting participants prepare for the meeting.

Data Management/Publication Discussion

1. Please present the status of your project in terms of management of data and/or metadata.

The GEOTRACES International Data Assembly Center is being established in conjunction with the BODC in Liverpool <<http://www.bodc.ac.uk/geotraces/>>. Ed Mawji was hired in 2008 to establish the center. He is working with the GEOTRACES Data Management Committee to finalize protocols and policies for GEOTRACES data, while also implementing the necessary infrastructure. He is working closely with colleagues at national data centers to coordinate data submission. A workshop to develop methods to facilitate coordination is planned for late May, 2009. Funding is currently in hand for 2 years, shared jointly by UK NERC and US NSF.

2. Is your project keeping track of project cruises and collecting any information about the cruises?

Not yet, but tracking cruises is planned for the near future.

3. Are your project cruises included in the POGO research cruise database (see <http://www.pogo-oceancruises.org/cruises/>)?

Not yet.

4. Has your project discussed and/or encouraged data publication?

No.

Education and Capacity Building

1. What activities, plans, and ideas does your project have in relation to education and capacity building?

No formal plans for education. GEOTRACES sought funding to implement a training course to assist investigators learn about methods for sampling without contamination. Sample contamination is deemed to be the single greatest impediment to research on trace elements in the ocean for scientists throughout much of the world for. The

proposed training would cover both sampling infrastructure and sample handling techniques. Until now, attempts to secure funding have been unsuccessful.

2. How are you funding your education and capacity-building activities?

Funding has been sought from national funding agencies as well as from one international organization.

3. Are you, or would you like to, work with other projects on education and capacity building activities?

Other ocean programs (e.g., SOLAS, IMBER) interested in contamination-prone trace metals face similar problems. GEOTRACES would be interested in partnering with these programs in training scientists to use contamination-free techniques.

4. Would you be interested in jointly supporting a Web site that could be used to Webcast project events?

In principle, yes, but GEOTRACES lacks the resources to contribute to such an effort at this time.

Projects and Ocean Observations

1. Is your project cooperating with any existing time-series sites and/or establishing new ones?

This takes place at the level of individual national activities. For example, U.S. GEOTRACES has designed its first ocean section to pass through the location of the new time series station at the Cape Verde Islands.

2. Is your project cooperating with the Global Ocean Observing System?

No.

3. Will your project potentially contribute to global assessments, such as next IPCC, the next Millennium Assessment, or the Global Marine Assessment?

Nothing is planned.

Project Publicity/Visibility

1. What does your project do in terms of publicizing itself to the scientific community and the public?

GEOTRACES holds open town meetings at major international conferences to introduce GEOTRACES objectives to the broader oceanographic community. GEOTRACES typically sponsors 2 to 3 special sessions per year at major international conferences (e.g., AGU, EGU, ASLO, Goldschmidt) to further engage the community. Articles, editorials and news items have been published in general interest journals (e.g., Oceanography Magazine, Journal of Oceanography, Chemical and Engineering News).

2. What visibility do you gain from your project's publicity efforts?

Interest in GEOTRACES from the immediate oceanographic community has been high. Recently, other sub-communities in oceanography are adopting the GEOTRACES model to create new programs; e.g., BioGEOTRACES and “Organic GEOTRACES”.

3. Are you, or would you like to, work with other projects on publicity and visibility?

Yes.

Modelling

1. Is modelling a component of your project?

Absolutely essential.

2. If so, how are modelling, research, and data management linked?

At the highest level, these activities are coordinated through the SSC. As part of the implementation of GEOTRACES, the program holds a biennial “model-data synergy workshop” to bring together scientists from the different areas to work toward common scientific goals.

3. Would there be benefit in any cross-project modelling activities or agreements?

Yes.

Interactions with Intergovernmental Organizations

1. Do you regularly cooperate with any intergovernmental organizations (e.g., IOC, PICES, ICES, etc.)?

Not to this time.

2. If so, what have been the benefits of such cooperation, as well as the costs?

Use of Conference Manager System (SCOR leases this system for use by its projects)

1. Do you use the Conference Manager system to manage your events, and if so, what are its benefits?

No.

2. What would you like to change about Conference Manager?