



1960–2010

The **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO** celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2010. Since its coordination of the International Indian Ocean Expedition in 1960, the IOC has worked to promote marine research, protection of the ocean, and international cooperation.

Today the Commission also monitors the ocean through its Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), coordinates regional inter-governmental groups for tsunami and other hazards warning systems (TWS), fosters the free and open-exchange of data through agreed protocols (IODE), and partners member states to identify and self-drive their capacity-development (CD) needs.

Recognized as the UN focal point and mechanism for global cooperation in the study of the ocean, a key climate driver, IOC is a key player in the study of climate change.

Through promoting international cooperation, the IOC assists Member States in their decisions towards improved management, sustainable development, and protection of the marine environment.

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One Planet, one Ocean



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

UNESCO/IOC

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UNESCO/IOC

PRINCIPLES & STRATEGY IN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



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Our Mission

to Assist Member States through international cooperative mechanisms to identify and address capacity-development needs that contribute to improved management and decision-making processes, sustainable development, and the protection of oceans and coasts.

Our Principles for engagement are:

1. Relevance

Embed projects in on-going regional projects that contribute directly to the larger IOC mandate: *to promote international cooperation on protection of the marine environment and preservation of human life and property in the ocean and coastal areas and work towards sustainable development.*

2. Ownership

Structure IOC CD programmes so that groups of regional scientists define and determine their own capacity-development programmes. Thus these groups:

- Find areas for regional cooperation
- Seek partners through clear enunciation of their requirements
- Seek funds in a business mode by delivering products for public good

3. Sustainability

Structure CD interventions to have enduring long-term impacts. This requires interventions both in “know-why” and “know-how. This ensures sustainability.

4. Research and operational capabilities

5. Holistic Approach

Involve the right actors, as appropriate: from decision-makers, to directors of institutes, technicians, and the public.

6. Interventions are investments

Treat costs of engagement as investments, dealing in a business mode, so that they deliver a product that contributes to public good. Appropriate active contact must be maintained with all key elements: strategic partners, collaborating institutions, key decision-makers, funding institutions, and thought leaders in relevant scientific disciplines.

7. Efficiency

Optimize limited resources and reduce/eliminate duplication and overlap with other partners in order to improve efficiency. This includes liaising closely with other agencies that provide CD services, to improve coordination and increase efficiency.

8. Level playing field

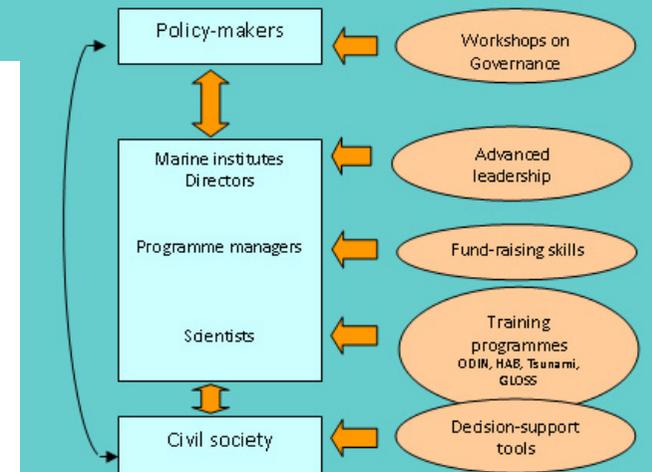
Focus a majority of CD initiatives in developing nations. Even within a developing region pay more attention to the least able.

9. Focus

Focus implementation and address prioritized needs of member countries within the regional/global framework.

Sources:

- a. 23rd Session of the Assembly, Paris 21-30 June 2005
- b. *IOC Principles and Strategy For Capacity Building.*, UNESCO 2005, TEMA Report N.1 (IOC/INF-1211)



Schema for Capacity-development at multiple levels

IOC collaborates with Member States based on these principles of engagement. We expect that in time the conditions for peer collaborations will be sparked adding value to the global programmes of IOC.

Implementation of the CD strategy has focused on institutional strengthening targeting advanced leadership for directors, fund-raising skills for project managers, and training tools in research and observations for scientists. This ensemble of initiatives has worked very well in regions where we concentrated our work clearly showing – improved performance and visibility of directors as leaders, improved funding flows to institutes and improved services of scientists to communities and policy makers.

IOC efforts to improve the capacities of Member States to address national priorities increases the interactions between scientists, decision-makers and civil society; it also increases the visibility of the importance and usefulness of marine science. IOC also ensures that all training activities for engagement in its global programmes are conducted consistent with these principles. We expect that these actions will result in higher levels of engagement by scientists from developing countries in IOC's global and regional programmes.