

# Capacity Building in Ocean Sciences Through the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)



# Introduction

- SCOR was established in 1957 by the International Council of Scientific Unions to “promote international cooperation in marine science”, in the midst of the International Geophysical Year (IGY)
- SCOR has been involved in capacity building for ocean science since 1960, when SCOR started the International Indian Ocean Expedition, which had a significant capacity building component.

## From ICSU Review of SCOR

“Well known is the reputation of SCOR for its extensive outreach to scientists, laboratories, and research organizations in the developing world. Over the last 45 years, many developed country oceanographers made their first contacts with developing country scientists through SCOR meetings and reports....SCOR, more than any other organization, is responsible for the widespread international cooperation that is characteristic of modern ocean science. SCOR sponsorship remains still the best way to bring oceanographers of all disciplines to the table.”

**--From Report of the ICSU/CSPR Assessment Panel on Environment and its Relation to Sustainable Development (2003)**

# SCOR Capacity-Building Activities

- SCOR Committee on Capacity Building
- Membership of developing country scientists on SCOR groups
- Travel Grants
- SCOR Visiting Scholars
- POGO-SCOR Visiting Fellowships for Oceanographic Observations
- Regional Graduate Networks of Oceanography
- Provision of free copies of selected SCOR reports to libraries in developing nations

## **Membership of SCOR WGs, Committees, Panels, etc.**

- The most important way that SCOR promotes capacity building is to involve developing countries in SCOR activities.
- 29% of countries with national SCOR committees are developing countries and another 6% are from countries with economies in transition. All dues-paying countries have the same rights in SCOR activities.
- SCOR ensures that there are scientists from developing countries on all its groups.

# SCOR Committee on Capacity Building

**Chair:** Venu Ittekkot (Germany)

## **Terms of Reference:**

- Provide direction for all of SCOR's existing capacity-building activities:
- Guide and assist SCOR Executive Director in development of new capacity-building activities, particularly the Regional Graduate Networks of Oceanography activity.
- Assist SCOR-sponsored projects in developing their capacity-building activities.
- Help SCOR arrange funding for existing and new capacity-building activities.
- Assist SCOR in interacting with regional and international groups related to capacity building in ocean sciences, such as the ICSU regional centers, START, IOC regional programs, etc.

# Travel Grants

- SCOR has received funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation since 1984 to provide travel grants.
- Approximately \$75,000 is awarded each year to 60-70 recipients from developing countries and countries with economies in transition (CIS, Eastern Europe).
- The SCOR Executive Committee responds to requests from meeting organizers, who nominate recipients of the travel grants. Preference is given to individuals who are making presentations at the meeting or who provide expertise or geographic representation that otherwise would not be available.

# Examples of Travel Grants in 2010-2011

- Joint Meeting of SOLAS/IMBER subgroups on ocean carbon
- SCOR-related sessions at PICES meeting
- SOLAS, IMBER, and LOICZ Open Science Meetings (Barcelona, Greece, China)
- SOLAS and IMBER Summer Schools (France and Turkey)
- GEOTRACES Asia and Med. Sea Cruise and Process Study Planning Meetings (China and France)
- World Conference on Marine Biodiversity
- Zooplankton Production Symposium (Chile)
- IGBP Fast-Track Initiative Meetings
- Workshop on the Impacts of the Benguela Current in the Global Climate System (Mauritius)
- 14<sup>th</sup> International HAB Conference (Greece)

SCOR requires meeting organizers to develop a mentoring system for the meetings it supports, and provides guidance to meeting organizers about how to conduct such systems, based on discussions at the Bremen Meeting.

# SCOR Visiting Scholars

- Program started in 2009, as a scaled-down version of a successful POGO program.
- The purpose of the program is for recipients to serve in a developing country for a few weeks to a few months, to teach classes and do training and mentoring.
- Seven SCOR Visiting Scholars appointed so far, including four in 2011.
- The program is intended to provide airfare, a small honorarium, and subsistence, if needed, but intention is for local hosts to provide most or all of local lodging and meals.

# SCOR Visiting Scholars

Year	Name	Home Country	Host Country	Dates	Purpose
2009	Paulo Relvas	Portugal	Guatemala	2-16 July	Teach a course on Physical Oceanography
2010	Vadim Mokievsky	Russia	India	Sept. 20- Oct. 20	Conduct field and lab training on Meiobenthos
2010	Kurt Hanselmann	Switzerland	Namibia	Oct. 8- Nov. 7	See presentation by K. Hanselmann
2011	Ali Pourmand	USA	Iran		Help with paleo-oceanography workshop
2011	Alice Newton	Norway/Portugal	Morocco		Teaching on coastal lagoons
2011	Kurt Hanselmann	Switzerland	Namibia		See presentation by K. Hanselmann
2011	Scott Fowler	France	TBD		Teaching on ocean chemistry

# **POGO-IOC-SCOR Visiting Fellowships for Oceanographic Observations**

See POGO presentation

# Regional Graduate Networks of Oceanography

- The idea was developed through a Team Residency at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center in 1998.
- The goal is to develop a networks of institutions within developing regions that would cooperate on education of graduate students in ocean sciences.
- Cooperation would take the form of shared faculty, physical resources, summer schools, etc., in a way that all participating institutions would consider fair.
- An advantage of this approach is that the training can focus on regional ocean science needs and capabilities and reduce the "brain drain" that occurs when students are trained in developing countries.
- A challenge and opportunity is the presence in each region of one or two dominant institutions that do not want to reduce their status in the region.

Help of SCOR Visiting Scholars to stimulate Regional  
Graduate Networks

# Provision of Free Copies of Selected SCOR Reports to Libraries in Developing Nations

- SCOR reports are often produced by commercial publishers, so they are expensive to purchase, and beyond reasonable cost for scientists in developing countries.
- SCOR distributes free copies of its reports to 43 libraries in 33 developing nations.
- SCOR's ability to continue such distributions will rely on arranging new funding from private foundations or other donors.
- We have also asked WG chairs to explore the idea of publishers producing paperback or CD versions of reports for use in developing countries.



# Ocean Summer Schools



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## Ocean Summer Schools Information

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### Most recently added courses

#### Young LOICZ Forum - 8-15 Sept. 2011 - Yantai, China

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**Last Date:** 01/06/2011

**Requirements:** We specifically target and invite early-career scientists and young managers and practitioners from local authorities. A relationship to coastal management is required and the maximum age is 35 years. The selection of YLF



**SCOR Web site: [www.scor-int.org](http://www.scor-int.org)**