

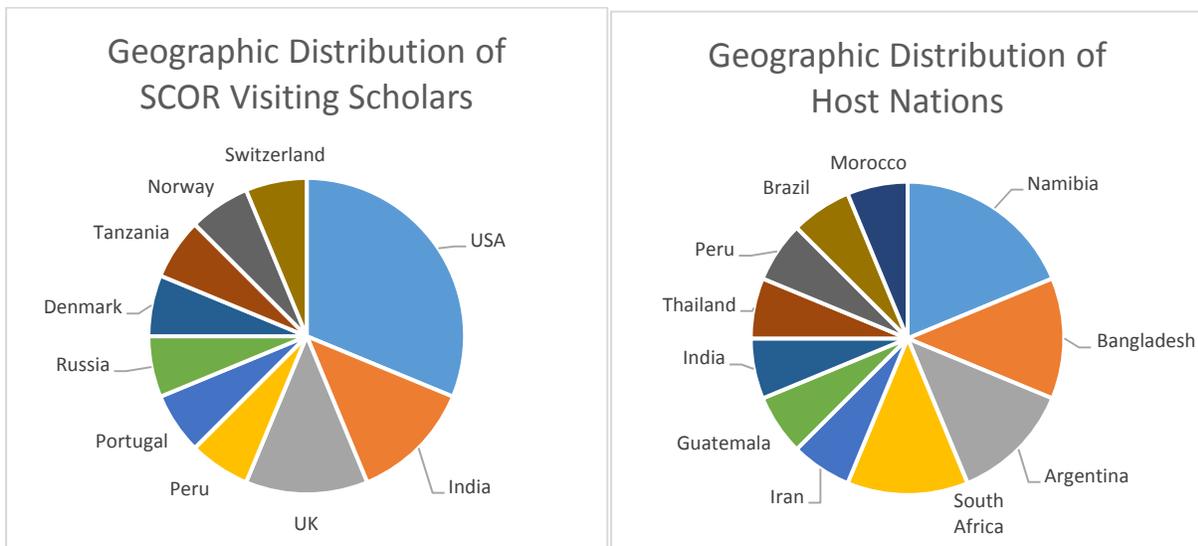
Analysis of Survey Results from SCOR Visiting Scholars

A SurveyMonkey questionnaire was sent to the 16 SCOR Visiting Scholars who served from 2009 to 2015. All 16 individuals answered the survey, after some reminders. Some scholars served twice, but submitted only one response. The results follow.

Geographic Spread of Scholars and Hosts

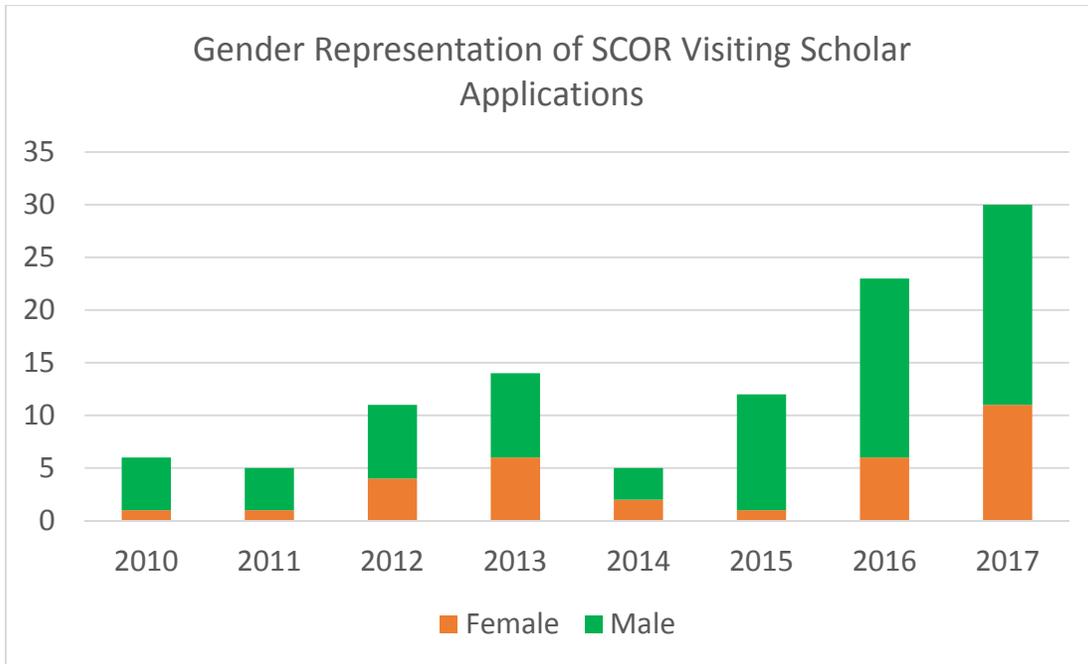
The 16 Visiting Scholars were from 10 countries; 4 of them were developing country scientists serving in other developing countries.

Visiting Scholars have served in 11 different countries. Comparing the countries of residence of SCOR Visiting Scholars and their host countries illustrates that some countries are both senders and hosts (Peru and India), indicating that some developing countries have enough expertise on some topics to send scientists to other developing countries, but may lack expertise on other topics.

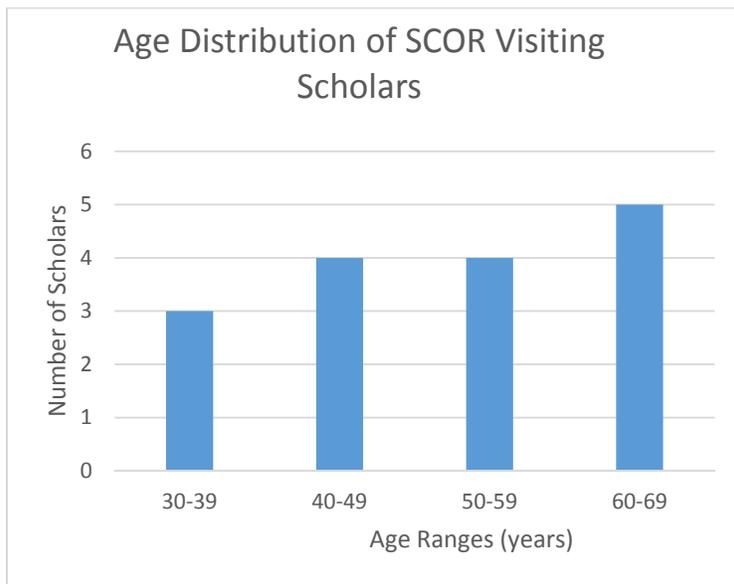


Gender of Visiting Scholars

Five of the 16 Visiting Scholars were female (31%). Over the period 2009-2015, 28% percent of applicants were female. The figure below shows that the number of applications is on an increasing trend. The low number of applications in 2014 was due to a short application period. Given that only three Visiting Scholars are approved each year, it is obvious that the increase in applications means that the success rate is decreasing.



Ages of SCOR Visiting Scholars



Although fewer SCOR Visiting Scholars were retired than expected, most Scholars were mid- to late-career scientists.

Current Position of Scholars

The survey allowed multiple answers to this question. 75% of the respondents classified themselves as researchers, 25% as teachers, and 25% as researcher/teacher, chief scientist, wildlife ecologist, and research scientist emeritus. 25% of the respondents classified themselves

as retired. This is notable because the original conception of the program was that it would primarily be aimed at retired scientists because they would have more time to devote, but it became apparent quickly that a high percentage of applications come from non-retired people who can spare time in their schedules to serve as SCOR Visiting Scholars.

Influence of SCOR Visiting Scholars

SCOR Visiting Scholars were asked to indicate a range of trainees they have been involved with at the host institution (1-5, 6-10, 11-20, and >20). Using this information, it was calculated that the 16 SCOR Visiting Scholars interacted with around 200 individual students and other trainees.

Contact with Trainees after the SCOR Visiting Scholar assignment

93.25% of the SCOR Visiting Scholars kept in touch with one or more trainees after their service in the host countries. Of those who have kept in contact with trainees, half did so once per year or less, 31.25% had contact once every 2 to 3 months, and 18.75% had contact monthly.

80% of the Visiting Scholars kept contact to continue research collaborations, 53% to provide continuing mentoring, 33% provided reference letters or helped with applications/proposals, 33% to plan a research visit or exchange, and smaller percentages to provide opportunities for field experience and career development, and to motivate their mentees to attend international courses in various fields.

Benefits to SCOR Visiting Scholars from their experiences

SCOR Visiting Scholars were asked to rank the relevance of a variety of statements about the benefits they gained from serving as a Visiting Scholar. The most common benefits cited were that the training provided personal satisfaction or enjoyment, the training broadened the Visiting Scholars' cultural horizons, and the training led to continued research collaborations.

Support from SCOR and Local Hosts

Most of the Visiting Scholars felt that the US\$2,500 award to each Scholar was adequate in terms of financial support and that the SCOR Secretariat provided adequate logistical support. SCOR support is used primarily for airfares and local subsistence, whereas the local hosts are required to provide lodging. 87.5% of the respondents recommended sending another SCOR Visiting Scholar to the same host institution, indicating basic satisfaction with the arrangements.¹

Achievements of SCOR Visiting Scholars

An important outcome of SCOR Visiting Scholarships are the continuing relationships that develop between some of the Visiting Scholars and the institutions in which they taught and

¹ SCOR will be soon be providing a questionnaire to hosts to determine their perspectives on the Visiting Scholar visits.

mentored. The following are some examples of the relationship building aspects of the Visiting Scholar program.

Development of University of Namibia's Henties Bay Campus as a national center for ocean science with potential to attract international scientists—Kurt Hanselmann, a microbial geocologist from ETH Zurich (Switzerland) was first sent by SCOR to the University of Namibia in 2010. As well as teaching in Switzerland, Hanselmann had taught before in countries such as Chile, Germany, and the United States, but not in Africa. The University of Namibia asked for someone to teach biological and chemical oceanography. SCOR matched the needs of the University of Namibia with expertise on its Scholars list and found Hanselmann's experience fit the request. During his engagement as a SCOR Visiting Scholar in 2010, Hanselmann recognized the potential of developing an academic program in oceanography at the University of Namibia. Hanselmann applied to serve again in 2011 and was sent back to the University of Namibia. As an outcome of these assignments he later gathered used laboratory equipment in Europe and had it sent to the University of Namibia on German research vessels to help equip the laboratories at Henties Bay. Hanselmann was awarded a grant from the Agouron Institute and got support from his home institution to create a Regional Graduate Network for Oceanography (RGNO). Together with instructors from Namibia and South Africa, and with colleagues from universities worldwide, Hanselmann was able to initiate annual Ocean Research Discovery Camps at the University of Namibia's Coastal and Ocean Research Center (SANUMARC) in Henties Bay. The RGNO courses are offered internationally and close to 50 research students and instructors from 16 different countries have participated in the 4½ week courses so far. From the onset, the partnership also included the National Marine Information and Research Center (NatMIRC) of the Ministry for Fisheries and Marine Resources, which contributes to the RGNO by offering a few days of experience on its research vessel *Mirabilis*. The RGNO steering group is presently preparing the 4th African Ocean Research Discovery Camp, which will take place at the Sam Nujoma Campus in Henties Bay between April 8 and May 12, 2017. This partnership between the University of Namibia and NatMIRC has been further encouraged through two Visiting Scholar visits by Jacob Larsen (see below) to NatMIRC.

Boosting skills in physical oceanography at the University of Cape Town (South Africa) in support of observations of the Agulhas Current—Boosting skills in physical oceanography in South Africa in support of sustained observations of the Agulhas Current as part of the Global Ocean Observing System, Lisa Beal, a professor from the University of Miami, served as a SCOR Visiting Scholar at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in 2013. Beal's visit to UCT built on previous capacity building activities in southern Africa resulting from her co-chairing of a SCOR working group that reviewed the role of the Agulhas Current in global climate and past climate change. In turn, Beal's SCOR Visiting Scholarship has led to an ongoing teaching and mentoring relationship with UCT students, in which Beal returned to teach in 2016 and will do again in 2018.

Increasing abilities at the Namibian National Marine Institute and Research Centre (NatMIRC) to identify the specific algae causing local harmful algal blooms—Jacob Larsen, an associate professor and trainer at the University of Copenhagen, has served twice as a SCOR Visiting Scholar at NatMIRC to help train national agency staff on identification of harmful algal bloom organisms. Larsen also conducted training at the University of Namibia during his visits to Namibia, which helped strengthen the relationship between the agency and the university.

Increased cooperation between the Indian National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and the University of Dhaka—SCOR has sent three NIO scientists (Prasanna Kumar, Nagappa Ramaiah, and Baban Ingole) as Visiting Scholars to the University of Dhaka for at least one month each to teach graduate students in Bangladesh. NIO has complemented these visits by hosting Bangladeshi students at NIO for studies there.

In summary, the SCOR Visiting Scholars program has been effective at getting mostly non-retired scientists to teach and mentor students in developing countries in Africa, Asia, and South America. About 200 students have benefited from the program since 2009. The support provided by SCOR (\$2500 per Visiting Scholar) and from host institutions is adequate.

A major recommendation from the past Visiting Scholars was that the number of Visiting Scholars funded per year be increased from three to some larger number. Based on the success of the program, its cost-effectiveness, and the increasing demand for Visiting Scholars, SCOR is seeking funding to increase the number.