

THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN CARBON COORDINATION PROJECT (IOCCP)

A joint project of SCOR and IOC and an affiliate program of the Global Carbon Project.

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IOCCP expands its mandate and establishes a Scientific Steering Group

The IOCCP began in January of 2003 as a pilot project of the Global Carbon Project and the IOC-SCOR CO₂ Panel, with a mandate to provide coordination services for large-scale CO₂ field programs that will form the basis of a sustained observing system- a system that will extend beyond the lifetime of any single research program. In its first two years, the IOCCP has worked to develop an international communications and coordination network for scientists and their national, regional, and global research programs, and to bring these groups together through targeted workshops to harmonize implementation plans, methods and standards, data management, and data synthesis activities that contribute to the development of the sustained observing system. After the December 2004 Stakeholders' Meeting at UNESCO, Paris, the sponsors of the IOCCP agreed to formalize this pilot project to make it a standing project, and to expand its mandate to include coordination services for the full range of ocean carbon activities (not just large-scale CO₂ field programs) as requested by research programs. As part of this process, the IOCCP has developed new Terms of Reference and has established a Scientific Steering Group with specific expertise to address new issues:

Chair - Chris Sabine (USA)
Repeat Hydrography - Masao Fukasawa (Japan)
Underway pCO₂ - Bronte Tilbrook (Australia)
Time Series Networks - Nick Bates (Bermuda)
Remote Sensing / Modeling - Cyril Moulin (France)
Data Set Development - Dorothee Bakker (UK)
Coastal Carbon Observations - Helmuth Thomas (Canada)
Process Studies - Cindy Lee (USA)
SOLAS representative - Truls Johannessen (Norway)
IMBER representative - Dennis Hansell (USA)

The expansion of these activities is made possible through the participation of the new SSG members and the continued generous support of the US National Science Foundation, which has agreed to support a post-doc to work at the Project Office in Paris. An announcement for this post will be circulated soon.

The SCOR Executive Council has approved the new TORs and they have been submitted for approval by the 23rd Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, to be held this June. The first meeting of the SSG, to be held jointly with the SOLAS-IMBER carbon

coordination group, is being planned in conjunction with the International CO2 Conference in late September.

Further Reading:

IOCCP Progress Report - January 2003-October 2004.

International Stakeholders' Meeting Report - December 2004

IOCCP draft Terms of Reference

IOCCP draft 2005-2006 Activities

The "Ocean Carbon Directory" developed as part of new IOCCP mandate

As part of the new mandate and activities of the IOCCP developed at the December Stakeholders' meeting, the IOCCP has developed a new community web-site, called the "Ocean Carbon Directory". This site is meant to provide "one-stop shopping" information on ocean carbon activities and programs, including news, observation program information, quick links, a community calendar, jobs and funding bulletin board, an image gallery, and a community powerpoint collection. Additions to the site will soon include the new IOCCP subject areas - a remote sensing / modeling information page in collaboration with the IOCCG, a more detailed focus on time series networks in collaboration with the OceanSITES project, a coastal carbon observation compilation / information base in collaboration with LOICZ, and a compilation and synthesis of on-going and planned process studies from research programs. The IOCCP will maintain its quarterly e-news bulletin, but news items will also be posted on the front page of the Directory as they arrive, and time-sensitive announcements will be sent to the community via the ioccp mailing list.

Please take a virtual stroll through the new Directory and send us your comments, photos, powerpoints, web-links, calendar and news items, etc., and help us to make this a useful resource for the international ocean carbon community.

European Space Agency launches GlobCOLOUR Project

Dr. Cyril Moulin, on behalf of the IOCCP and in collaboration with the International Ocean-Colour Coordination Group (IOCCG), has agreed to serve as the point of contact for the global ocean carbon-cycle research community in the ESA Data User Element GlobCOLOUR project, which will define, develop and demonstrate an earth observation service for global ocean colour research. GlobCOLOUR has been developed by ESA with the primary objective of fulfilling the User Requirements of the global ocean colour and carbon-cycle research community. Cyril, from the Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement (LSCE) in France, is currently responsible for the remote sensing applications and for the operation ocean color algorithms for the French POLDER sensors. The project is scheduled to start in the third quarter of 2005 and will last for two years. By directly participating in this project, ESA will provide the global ocean carbon-cycle research community with free access to the geo-information products of the project.

Cyril will act as a focal point for the ocean carbon cycle community and will seek broad input and participation for:

1. Providing advice in the formulation of the User Requirements Document, and ad-hoc consultations during the progress of the project, to ensure that the project really does address the requirements of ocean carbon cycle research;

2. Providing help in accessing any available calibration/validation data sets, such as in-situ observations;
3. Providing an assessment of the final products, to let ESA know whether the project was successful or not; and,
4. Helping to disseminate the products to the carbon-cycle research community.

The IOCCP will develop a special site on the Ocean Carbon Directory to keep the community informed about this project and develop a mailing list to directly seek input from interested members of the community.