

**Joint IAMAS/IAPSO Liaison Report for the
SCOR Annual Executive Committee Meeting, Bergen, Norway
25-28 August 2007**

The SCOR Executive Committee (EC) meeting began on 25 August with a closed meeting, led by President Bjorn Sundby and SCOR Executive Director Edward Urban. As all substantive matters considered by the EC at its private meeting were then covered in much more detail in the three-day meeting with national members (of whom about a dozen had representatives attending in this year between full SCOR meetings), this presentation of the most important results of the SCOR EC meeting will be presented in the order in which they were listed in the agenda, although some reordering did occur during the meeting itself. Extensive details on many of these matters are available in meeting documents on the SCOR Web site).

1. A moment of silence was observed in honor of prominent oceanographers and SCOR participants and friends, including Dale Curtiss Krause, retired from UNESCO in Paris, and Grant Ingram, University of British Columbia.
2. Review of responses to the action items from the 2006 meeting indicated that virtually all were completed as planned, including the arrangements for the move of the SCOR Executive Office to the University of Delaware, where it will be hosted in an environment much more scientifically rich and interested in SCOR activities. That move is necessitating, however, arrangements for insurance of various types for SCOR and its officers to clear university requirements and recommendations of the auditors of SCOR accounts, etc.
3. The EC reviewed the status of SCOR's various WGs, which provide SCOR's leading contribution to advancing the science (typically, 2 new groups are started each year and each produces one or more published products over 3-4 years). Most of the 15 established groups are making good progress—a few were disbanded after completing their work and a few others need a bit more prodding (but no more money) to get their products done. Both of the new groups established last year (WG 129: Deep Ocean Exchanges with the Shelf; WG 130: Automatic Plankton Visual Identification) are off to strong starts (Mike MacCracken serves as SCOR liaison to WG 129 and attended the opening half-day of their initial meeting in Perugia in July during the IUGG General Assembly). In addition, SCOR is helping one of its earlier groups to publish a second volume (and edition) of a book on *Photosynthetic Pigments in Oceanography* that has previously sold out. It was agreed that SCOR would consider a range of publication options, including switching from UNESCO Press, which has limited flexibility, to an experienced publisher for at least those of the WG reports that do come out as books.
4. The EC and national representatives considered each of the three proposals for new WGs in considerable detail. These included:
 - a. WG on Land-Based Nutrient Pollution and the Relationship to Harmful Algal Blooms in Coastal Marine Systems: The topic was judged to be very important and timely. A number of questions arose, and resulted in a number of suggestions for strengthening the proposal so that it could be

considered for funding either later this year (if funds are available) or in next year's competition.

- b. WG on the Legacy of in situ Iron Enrichment: Data Compilation and Modeling: This was a revised proposal from 2006. Again, the topic was considered to be very important and there was agreement about the value of gathering together the data from the diverse set of previous experiments, especially given that new experiments are moving forward (that this is occurring, along with the statement issued by SOLAS, has prompted the SCOR EC to consider issuing a scientific statement regarding such experiments and the challenge of sequestering substantial amounts of carbon). It was finally agreed that this effort would be given some incentive money to get the data sets together, and if they could do this, then the further modeling and analysis efforts, which were not as well thought through as desired, would be considered. Suggestions and guidance on what needed to get accomplished was agreed on.
 - c. WG on the Coral Triangle: The Centre of Marine Diversity: This was a new proposal and there was also strong interest in this proposal, although there were concerns about whether it could be modified so as to look not only at current diversity but establish the baseline and indicators against which changes could be determined as the CO₂ concentration, climate, and sea level change. At the same time, there were comments that the terms of reference seemed too broad to be accomplished in the time provided, that there needed to be a broader mix of scientific disciplines involved, and that its focus on only the eastern tropical Pacific and Indonesia needed to be reconsidered, at least in terms of how to make sure findings would generalize to others. In the end, a number of refinements and linkages with other activities were suggested with encouragement to resubmit it for next year.
5. The SCOR EC and national members then turned to review of the large-scale ocean projects that SCOR cosponsors, including GLOBEC, GEOHAB, IMBER, GEOTRACES, and SOLAS. For each of these, one of SCOR's EC serves as liaison, and each provided an overview assessment of the projects, the progress of which was documented in written submissions. The most important issue to be resolved was to address the proposed process by which GLOBEC will end and become coupled in with IMBER; the SCOR EC reviewed the proposed transition task teams terms of reference and membership, and took some steps to encourage a bit faster process by asking to review progress earlier than had been called for.
 6. Review was also made of the research programs dealing with ocean carbon and related human influences, including particularly the joint SOLAS/International Nitrogen Initiative workshop on Anthropogenic Nitrogen Impacts on the Open Ocean, which expects to have papers appearing in the very near future in *Science* indicating that the increased nitrogen deposition to the world ocean does increase carbon uptake, but also counterbalance about two-thirds of the effect by causing increased emission of N₂O. Significant attention was also devoted to planning for the second SCOR/IOC (and now also IGBP and IAEA) Symposium on the Ocean in a High-CO₂ World, which is to be held in Monaco on 6-8 October 2008. The

- first symposium held in Paris from 10-12 May 2004 was very successful and plans for the second conference are developing well.
7. Significant attention was devoted to the issue of enhancing SCOR's capacity-building activities. In response to a decision last year, a new SCOR Committee on Capacity Building has been formed, led by Venu Ittekkot of Germany, who was appointed to the SCOR EC as a co-opted member. The committee has been largely formed, a questionnaire was sent to national members, and discussion on many of the topics during the meeting considered the potential for enhancing capacity-building activities (e.g., one of the WGs expects to be meeting in South Africa and taking the opportunity to invite a number of African scientists to participate in their efforts). The committee will also be continuing the effort to promote regional graduate schools of oceanography and marine environmental sciences in developing country regions, to sustain the various fellowship programs for developing country scientists, to provide travel support grants, to send free copies of reports to developing nation libraries, etc. Gordon McBean, chair of the Canadian SCOR Committee and also of START, reported on START's outreach activities as well, and encouraged cooperative activities.
 8. SCOR's relations with various intergovernmental organizations were also considered, in particular with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. SCOR leadership participated in the recent IOC General Assembly, representing both SCOR and also serving as the representative of ICSU to IOC. In general, relationships and joint activities are going well.
 9. With regard to relationships with various non-governmental bodies, there were a number of reports:
 - a. Within the ICSU family, SCOR is active with IGBP, WCRP, SCAR, and SCOPE. Vladimir Ryabinin of the Joint Planning Staff for WCRP provided a detailed overview of WCRP and its two goals, which has been focused somewhat distinctly on climate variability and on human-induced change, but is now focusing more on the continuum of scales and is working in a more cross-cutting way to be looking at issues such as seasonal and decadal fluctuations, monsoons, human-induced changes to climate, chemistry and sea level, extreme events, IPY and more. Their intent is to become more focused on delivering useful products for society, both directly and through their links with ESSP (Earth System Science Partnership) the other major programmes (IGBP, IHDP, and Diversitas) participating in it. They are also encouraging stronger efforts in modeling, observations, and data synthesis. There was, during this presentation and then later, significant attention to the challenges of estimating future sea level rise and the limitations of the IPCC numerical range in the Fourth Assessment Report. With IGBP, SCOR held a joint workshop on paleo-aspects of ocean acidification and there is continued cooperation on major research projects, including GLOBEC, IMBER, and SOLAS. SCOR and SCAR co-sponsor a joint oceanography group to enhance collaborations, and SCOPE and SCOR are cooperating in preparing a book based on results of a workshop on the "Dynamics and Vulnerability of Semi-enclosed Marine Systems."

- b. Reports were presented by the three international associations that have liaisons to SCOR: IABO, IAMAS, and IAPSO. As part of the IAMAS report, Mike MacCracken reported on the climate change resolution passed at the IUGG General Assembly. As part of the IAPSO report, Lawrence Mysak reported on both IAPSO activities (including the award of the 2007 Prince Albert Medal to Prof. Russ Davis of Scripps, and IUGG's approval of the new International Association for Cryospheric Sciences (IACS). In addition, an invitation was offered to the SCOR community to participate in the joint IAMAS-IAPSO-IACS Scientific Assembly in Montreal from 19 to 29 July 2009.
 - c. Reports were also received from a number of affiliated programs and other organizations. An oral report was made by Harald Loeng (chair) and Sara Bowden (secretary) regarding current activities and planning for future research efforts of the Arctic Ocean Science Board.
10. A number of national members reported on their nation's activities. Of particular note, Dan Walker of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, reported on the development of a ten-year plan for ocean research activities in the United States, indicating that a unique and effective aspect of their approach was to organize the effort around user needs. He indicated he was hopeful this would help to gain additional budget resources for ocean research activities.
 11. There was considerable discussion of the plans for SCOR's 50th anniversary celebration in Woods Hole in October 2008. While there will be some historical reflections, the primary focus will be on future directions and needs in the ocean sciences and SCOR's role. The program will be made up of a few plenary talks, a couple of panels, and a high quality poster session of papers to be submitted by young scientists competitively selected by SCOR member nations. For this event, especially to cover costs of bringing in speakers and the young scientists, member nations have been asked to make some additional contributions.
 12. SCOR's finances and a recent audit were reviewed by a panel of national members, and found to be in good order. Considering the budget for the coming year, the panel suggested that SCOR resources would allow approval of one WG at present, and depending on how the budget develops through the year and for the 50th anniversary, consider starting up a second WG later in the fiscal year.

Submitted September 2007:

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