

Editorial

THE 6TH IGOS PARTNERS MEETING

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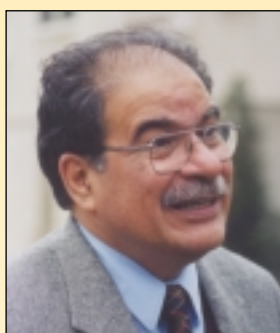
The 6th IGOS Partners Meeting took place in Rio de Janeiro, the 7 and 8 of November 2000. At one and a half years of the second World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (June 2002), Rio, that hosted UNCED in 1992, was an appropriate venue to review the progress achieved with the IGOS-P strategy. The partnership represents the most comprehensive effort to co-ordinate the development of the sustained observations called for UNCED.

The dialogue initiated with the Scientific and Technical Subsidiary Bodies of International Environmental Conventions is proof of this commitment. The Partnership will actively participate in the preparatory process for the 9th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and resources have been obtained to organize a dedicated IGOS presentation during the April 2001 CSD Plenary Session.

On the side of implementation the partnership has fully approved Ocean Theme, and adopted four other Theme prospects that are at different level of process. These are focused on the Carbon and Water Cycles, Geo-Hazards, and Atmospheric chemistry.

The final report of the Ocean Theme was approved and a prompt reaction from the Partnership as a whole is expected, in taking responsibility for its implementation. with the leadership of the Global Ocean Observing System and its sponsors.

The development of an integrated Carbon Theme entered a fast track stage. The early publication of a "prospectus" was encouraged as well as further



development of the Integrated Carbon Theme. It was emphasized that operational agencies need to put into effect components of the Carbon Cycle theme as much as they can because of the need for continuous measurements.

Prospects for a Water Cycle Theme were presented by WCRP, and complemented by a presentation of Coordinated Enhanced Observation Period, as a precursor of the Water Cycle Theme. The Partners reacted favorably to these two initiatives and tasked WCRP to develop a draft proposal to present at P7.

Additional partners in the lead group for the Water Cycle Theme include FAO, GCOS, IGBP and UNESCO. The CEOP team was asked to develop specific requirements and to direct them to the cognizant space agencies for their consideration.

The prospective for a Disaster Applications Theme has been narrowed to focus on geological/geophysical hazards. ICSU and UNESCO expressed interest in exploring within their respective organizations the development of such an IGOS theme.

A draft proposal for an Integrated Global Atmospheric Chemistry Observations

Theme (IGACO) was presented by WMO. Since there is obvious potential for overlaps with the Integrated Carbon Theme a strong need for cross-coordination was stressed. Finally UNEP informed on preliminary work in the definition of an initiative on Coral Reefs.

We look forward with optimism to IGOS-P 7. (June 2001- Paris). Progress achieved so far is significant and needs to be better reflected in the organization.

The diversity of the initiatives that the partnership is called to develop and sustain, touching on the several constituencies and user communities, certainly does not allow a simple and easy answer. However some streamlining of the process is needed. While acting as Chair of the partnership, I will conduct consultations exploring the ways and means to better integrate the several structures, and sessions into a more effective mechanism. ■

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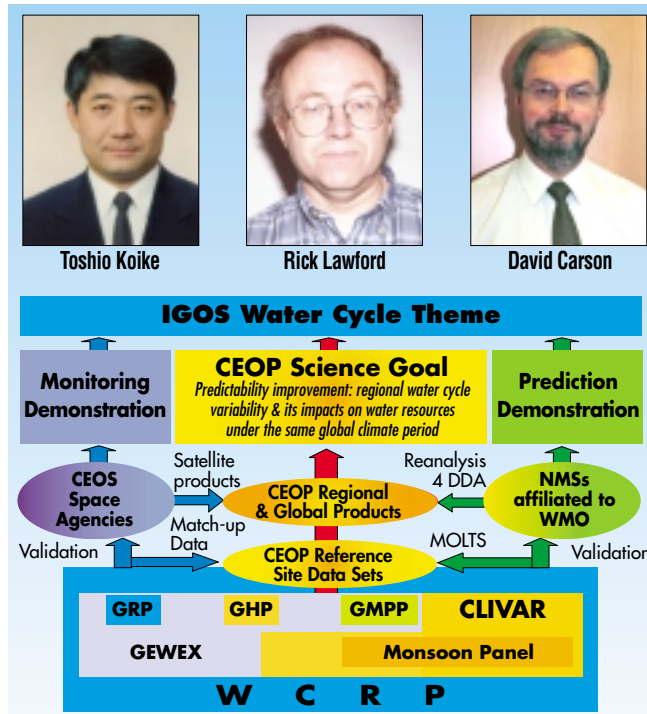
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WATER CYCLE & CEOP INITIATIVE

by Toshio Koike (University of Tokyo), Rick Lawford (NOAA Office of Global Programs), David Carson (World Climate Research Programme)

There is a growing concern about global and regional water issues and the need to address them in a more coordinated way. The Integrated Global Observing Strategy -Partners (IGOS-P) are taking action to develop an integrated approach to observing the water cycle. An integrated water cycle observational system would bring together the capabilities of both satellite based and ground based (remote and in situ) observing systems. These observing systems would support research activities dealing with the role of the atmospheric water cycle in climate, and prediction systems through the specification of initial and boundary conditions (e.g., soil moisture). In addition, networks and systems for monitoring surface and sub-surface water cycle components such as streamflow and soil moisture are needed to provide background information on the impacts of variability and trends in the global water cycle. More initiatives will likely be developed over the next few years. Key elements for a water cycle observing system will be comprehensive satellite measurements, a coordinated in situ observing program and a "state-of-the-art" data assimilation system that can effectively ingest these data sets and produce integrated products.



activities by WCRP, the satellite products provided by the CEOS space agencies and the 4-D data assimilation and reanalysis products provided by the numerical weather prediction centers of the National Meteorological Services affiliated to the WMO. CEOP received strong support from the IGOS-P and CEOS, as a much desired precursor to the IGOS Water Cycle Theme. Through CEOP, CEOS will be able to contribute greatly to the much-needed increased understanding and the prediction of the water cycle through integrated use of satellites of CEOS members in cooperation with IGOS-P. CEOS contributions to CEOP which were discussed at the meetings include:

- supporting the implementation of a CEOP Satellite Data Integration Center,
- establishing a CEOP Satellite Working Group, and
- providing field campaigns at reference sites with proper access to satellite observations.

Detailed, specific requirements will be prepared by CEOP and directed to the cognizant space agencies for their consideration at the CEOS Plenary to be held in Kyoto, Japan in 2001.

At the 6th IGOS-P meeting and the 14th Plenary meeting of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil during the week of November 6, 2000, the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) presented a proposal on the Coordinated Enhanced Observing Period (CEOP) Project. CEOP (illustrated schematically in Figure), represents a unique opportunity to improve the scientific basis needed to achieve overall water cycle documentation and prediction goals, based on the reference site data collection

IGOS-P has asked WCRP to organize a process for developing a water cycle theme proposal. A presentation on the development of an IGOS water cycle theme was also made by WCRP at the IGOS-P meeting in Rio. The first step in the preparation of a water cycle theme was a successful planning workshop, held in Irvine, California, USA in January 2001. This workshop will be followed by the production of a progress report and preliminary draft of the water cycle theme proposal for comment and for submission to IGOS-P at their next session, in Paris in June 2001. ■

News

Commission for Sustainable Development New-York - April 2001

As a result of the meeting of the CSD9 Working group on Information for Decision-making and Participation held in March, elements were sent to CSD9. These elements concern, among others, Earth observation considerations which can be summarised as follows:

- 1.1. The multilateral system could be improved through
 - the strengthening of the cooperation and of the

coordination of global observations systems and research programmes taking account the need for sharing valuable data such as satellite remote sensing data and ground based observation data and the effective integration of information systems on a global scale,

- the encouragement to develop, at national or international levels, information systems allowing to share valuable data obtained by remote sensing
- the promotion of the development of innovative technologies such as global mapping, geographical

information systems....,

- the undertaking of training and capacity building, particularly in developing countries,

- 2.2. The countries could be recommended to give assistance to other countries, particularly developing countries, in their efforts to collect high quality environmental data using satellite remote sensing observations and technologies and improved ground-based observations.



INCREASING THE VISIBILITY OF THE IGOS PARTNERSHIP

by Dr. Yoji Furuhashi, CEOS Chairman



In 2002, a UN Earth Summit will take place in South Africa, as Rio+10. This means that 2001 is the period when the IGOS Partnership must achieve tangible results. At the same time, our achievements should be made more visible to the international community through various fora, particularly conferences of environmental conventions. I would like to outline the following recent progress in that effort:

Role of the IGOS Partnership recognized at SBSTA 13

On 17 November 2000, the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 13) adopted a Chairman's Conclusion regarding the co-operation with relevant international organizations. This stated that: "The SBSTA recognized the importance of the IGOS Partnership in developing the global observing systems for the oceans and terrestrial carbon sources and sinks in the global carbon cycle, and in promoting systematic observation."

I was very pleased that the importance of the IGOS Partnership was clearly recognized by SBSTA13/COP6. In this regard, I highly appreciate the efforts of GCOS in reporting to SBSTA on the progress in IGOS Partnership activities, thus enabling the Parties to discuss the essential role of the partnership in promoting research and systematic observation.

I believe this recognition by SBSTA 13 will contribute greatly to raising the profile of IGOS-P, thereby also giving partners a fresh incentive to support IGOS activities.

IPCC Third Assessment Report

The Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC WG1 Third Assessment Report (TAR) was approved at the session of the IPCC Working Group1 at Shanghai (17-20 January 2001). The approved summary indicates the further actions needed to address remaining gaps in information and understanding. Among these, the following actions were identified in relation to systematic observation:

- Sustain and expand the observational foundation for climate change studies by providing accurate, long-term, consistent

data, including implementation of a strategy for integrated global observations.

- Improve the observations of the spatial distribution of greenhouse gases and aerosols.

The IPCC Plenary meeting will be convened from 4 to 6 April at Nairobi for the final review of the Summary for Policymakers. With its acceptance at that meeting, the summary will be formally included in the IPCC Third Assessment Report.

This will be a significant step forward in achieving the support of policymakers around world for the essential work of the IGOS Partnership.

Creating Links to contribute Results

As well as achieving higher visibility for the IGOS Partnership, the partners must seek ways to link our efforts with those of SBSTA/COP, IPCC and CSD.

I firmly believe that collaboration with those organizations will create valuable opportunities for the IGOS Partnership to contribute the important results of Theme activities to policymakers and scientists worldwide. ■

Meeting Calendar

	2001									
	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
IGOS partners G3OS sponsors			G3OS sponsors Paris	▲ ▲ Igos P-7					▲ Igos P-8 Kyoto	
IGOS Themes Teams				▲ GOFC Frascati ▲ IGCO Tokyo ▲ GEO ▲ Hazards Paris						
CEOS/SIT			Sit-9 Paris	▲					▲ CEOS-15 Plenary Kyoto ▲ SIT-10 Kyoto (TBC)	
Others	▲ GOOS/SC Chile ▲ WCRP Boulder	▲ CSD New York	▲ SBSTA- COP-6 Bonn		▲ Open science conference IGBP Amsterdam				▲ SBSTA- COP-7	