

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Regional Committee for Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

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Subject: IOCINDIO Officers Communiqué No.3: IOCINDIO Information and Collaborative side Session on Tuesday, 20 March 2018 in the context of the International Indian Ocean Science Conference at the Grand Mercure, Kemayoran, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Excellences, Heads of Permanent Delegations at UNESCO,
Member States of IOCINDIO,
Heads of national and regional partner Organisations and Institutions,
IOC Focal Points in IOCINDIO Member States,
Esteemed Colleagues,

On behalf of the IOCINDIO Officers, in my capacity as the Chairman of the Regional Committee, I am happy to update you on the ongoing progress with a number of ocean and climate related programmes and institutions in the Indian Ocean basin region with the way forward for a sustained reinforced IOCINDIO.

As you may be well aware, the **Government of Indonesia** will host the **International Indian Ocean Science Conference'2018 at the Grand Mercure, Kemayoran, Jakarta, Indonesia, from 18 to 23 March 2018**. This important Conference is jointly organised by the Perth Programme Office of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in collaboration with the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), the Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG) with the support of the Scientific Committee for Oceanic Research (SCOR) as a major sponsor. Subsequently, in close cooperation with the organisers of the Conference, the IOCINDIO officers with the support of

the UNESCO-IOC Secretariat and the local host arranged **IOCINDIO Information and Collaborative side Session scheduled for Tuesday, 20 March 2018** in the context of this **International Indian Ocean Science Conference'2018** at the **Grand Mercure, Kemayoran, Jakarta, Indonesia**. More details of the Agenda are available at: <http://www.iioe-2.incois.gov.in/IIOE-2/IIOESC2018.jsp>.

We happily noted from the provisional list of participants that representatives of several IOCINDIO countries would attend the Conference. Thus, the purpose of this Communique is to invite all the potential participants from your respective countries to attend the proposed IOCINDIO Information and Collaborative Session on Tuesday, 20 March 2018. We would be most grateful to you if you could forward this information to your national relevant institutions, focal points and potential participants of the Conference.

I am pleased to confirm that as a follow up to the 29th Session of the Assembly of IOC (UNESCO, Paris, 21–29 June 2017) which endorsed the executive summary report of the IOCINDIO-VI Session together with the recommendations and project proposals for an enhanced cooperation in our Indian Ocean basin region in the fields of ocean governance and sciences, technology, innovation and climate change (annexed herewith), the IOCINDIO officers with the support of the IOC Secretariat are actively reactivating cooperation, linkages and communication with ongoing ocean and climate related programmes and institutions in the region, notably the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2), the Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System Regional Alliance (IOGOOS); the Indian Ocean Region Panel (IORP); the Indian Ocean Observing System (IndOOS); the Sustained Indian Ocean Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research (SIBER) and the intergovernmental Bay of Bengal Programme, etc.

In fact, the **International Indian Ocean Science Conference'2018** will bring together all the above programmes with their respective key stakeholders to review progress with the view to identify ways and means for a further mutual reinforcement.

As officers, we consider that IOCINDIO, as a relevant regional intergovernmental Committee should join hands with those partners implementing programmes in our Indian Ocean basin region with the view to foster capacity empowerment of existing ocean and climate related institutions and networks in the region, now that the Committee has been revitalised, thanks to the support of Member States, especially India and Kuwait. The scoping workshop held in Kuwait in May 2017 was a game changer since IOCINDIO national experts and representatives had formulated sustained projects for implementation at national and regional levels. Thanks to the 29th Session of the Assembly of IOC, a seed fund from the UNESCO-IOC Regular Budget of this biennium is provided to start the activities.

The importance of an increased regional cooperation among Member States in our region is as important as it is well known that the Indian Ocean presents both untapped benefits, but also environmental challenges. Thus, it is essential that we join forces and pool our resources together with relevant regional and international partners to solve common challenges including climate change with the resulting sea level rise; ocean induced natural disasters such as storm surges, cyclones, monsoons, tsunamis, etc.

We thank you in advance for every effort that you may deem appropriate to undertake for the effective participation of your national representatives towards a successful IOCINDIO side meeting at the International Indian Ocean Science Conference'2018 at the Grand Mercure, Kemayoran on the 20 March 2018.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all Member States with our governmental and intergovernmental partners, the Regional Organization of the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), the intergovernmental Bay of Bengal Programme, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), the National Institute of Ocean Technology of India and a number of overseas academic institutions including the World Maritime University (WMU) and the Portsmouth University for their commitments and support enabling the vibrant reactivation of IOCINDIO. Our profound gratitude to Member States and partners who attended the IOCINDIO side meeting on the 21st June 2017 during the 29th Session of the Assembly of IOC at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

Finally, the officers are also pleased to renew appreciation and gratitude to the Governments of India and Kuwait, which generously hosted the IOCINDIO-V and IOCINDIO-VI Sessions.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

[signed]

[signed]

Dr M. A. Atmanand

Dr Faiza Al Yamani

Dr Nasser H. Zaker

Enclosures:

- 1- IOCINDIO-VI Executive Summary Report including the recommendations and project proposals endorsed by the Assembly at its 29th Session (UNESCO, Paris, 21–29 June 2017)
— http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=19596.
- 2- Provisional schedule of the International Indian Ocean Science Conference 2018, 18-23 March, 2018 at the Grand Mercure, Kemayoran, Jakarta, Indonesia
<http://www.iioe-2.incois.gov.in/IIOE-2/IIOESC2018.jsp>