



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

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Agenda Item: 5.

REPORT ON COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE IOC TRAINING, EDUCATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME
(TEMA)

At the 20th Session of the IOC Assembly, Member States got acquainted with a new secretarial mechanism to coordinate IOC/TEMA efforts. The Assembly proposed to use the Executive Council to evaluate the advancement of the agreed upon mechanism through a report submitted by the Secretariat on the advances in the implementation.

The present document reports on the TEMA activities carried on between July 1999 and May 2000 as well as on the subsequent planned activities.

Information on TEMA activities implemented since the last IOC Assembly (July 1999)

1. Between July 1999 and May 2000, the three Sections¹ of IOC organized or contributed to the implementation of 35 meetings with capacity-building impact (21 training activities and 14 other technical meetings), hosted by 26 Member States. An outreach campaign on marine debris for the Gulf of Guinea was also implemented. More than 20 people from developing countries benefited with individual travel or study grants. A large number of scientists, governmental experts and officers, particularly in the East Africa region, benefited from the provision of scientific and technical literature. This important Marine Information programme in Africa has been enabling institutional access to Internet, through the provision of communication/computer equipment, as well as from the development of training tools.
2. All these activities involved more than 800 participants from 92 Member States, including students, scientists and lecturers of which approximately the 70% were men and 30 % women. Detailed statistics are given in the TEMA section of the IOC Executive Secretary Report for 1999.
3. In the framework of the Training-Through-Research Programme a number of practical training activities (e.g. the "*Floating University*" cruises), involving more than 200 people from 26 Member States were implemented in the Mediterranean, NE Atlantic and West Mediterranean Seas, as well as several related seminars and courses. Details of these activities will be reported to the Council by Dr. Neil Kenyon, Chair of the Steering Group for the Training-Through-Research Programme.
4. For the period from June to December 2000, 11 training events plus 9 other scientific meetings with capacity-building impact are planned. Individual support to 5 participants in non-IOC training activities, plus support for travel of young scientists from developing countries to 3 major thematic conferences is also considered. The support of the UNESCO/IOC Chair in Coastal Oceanography will be continued for another year (Professor Jose Stuardo, University of Concepción, Chile, 1997-2000) and the co-sponsorship of the FishBase Project (<http://www.fishbase.org>, Dr. Daniel Pauly, University of British Columbia) will be established for supporting the extension of the regional coverage of FishBase. IOC support will help to enter into the system existing databases in South America. An ongoing programme on Marine Education for Central America, designed for primary and secondary school teachers, developed with the Education Sector of UNESCO, will also receive support from TEMA. Extending some activities pioneered during the 1998 *International Year of the Ocean*, IOC also promotes a series of marine educational and public awareness activities to be implemented in different places in Europe by the Surfrider Foundation Europe in the summer and autumn of 2000.
5. In order to coordinate support of training activities with the World Meteorological Organization, details on jointly planned activities for 2001 with the Voluntary Cooperation Programme were discussed in a mission to WMO Headquarters in May 2000.

Activities of the IOC/TEMA Management Group

6. The TEMA Management Group was established during 1999, chaired by the Executive Secretary and constituted by the Heads of the three Sections with the support of the Technical Secretary for TEMA. Depending on the agenda of the meetings, different members of the

¹ The Sections are Ocean Sciences Programmes (IOC/OSP), Operational Observing Systems (IOC/OOS) and Ocean Services (IOC/OCS)

Secretariat are invited to participate as appropriate. The Group met in four opportunities in which it considered three major policy items.

Definition of priorities for funding TEMA activities

7. The group established the internal guidelines for funding TEMA activities. The success and recognition of the IOC/TEMA Programme is based on the fact that it provides a focus to building capacity in Ocean Sciences. First and foremost, TEMA activities should be designed in support of the implementation of the IOC approved Programme. Functionally, formal training activities such as specialized courses and workshops have a high priority. The support of specific TEMA activities with IOC funds should be always considered as a counterpart to other extra-budgetary resources.

Definition of the content and policy to implement the survey recommended by the last IOC Assembly

8. The scope of the survey on "TEMA needs" recommended by the 20th IOC Assembly was analyzed. The survey should not only be targeted to identify the immediate needs and contributions of Member States to the TEMA programme, but also to identify other type of activities which are not being supported now. The survey could also be the base for the development of proposals to funding agencies. These could involve medium- to long-term capacity-building efforts at national, sub-regional and regional level. It is expected the evolution and geographical coverage of these activities would take place on the basis of the success of those already implemented. It was further suggested that the questionnaire should be designed to permit its adaptation to the diversity of situations in the different Member States and regions.

The IOC programme for travel and study grants, and attendance to courses and scientific meetings

9. IOC has a strong impact through granting of travel and study grants for attendance to regular courses and scientific meetings. Travel grants, should be granted on a **competitive basis** to scientists of developing countries to attend relevant scientific events in ocean sciences and marine affairs in general, giving priority to those related to the IOC Programme. Study and/or research grants will also be granted on a competitive basis to young scientists working in areas relevant to their countries needs. The quality of the credentials of the candidates as well as of the host institutions should be enabling requisites.

10. The specific requirements with the deadlines for applications to the different types of subsidies will be detailed in IOC circular letters, through the IOC home page and in a brochure describing the TEMA Programme. For each biennium and year, the number of grants available and amounts assigned to each (in USD) should be widely known. Selection for study grants will be made with special emphasis on proven academic performance.

11. Regarding support to capacity-building activities organized by other institutions, funds will be restricted to those activities jointly implemented with IOC. This creates an incentive to increase the amount of extra-budgetary resources for the implementation of TEMA activities in the IOC programmes. Priority will be given to activities conducted in developing countries. Support for 6 activities per year are envisaged, with strict adherence to established deadlines and criteria for submission of requests.

12. The Management Group emphasized that an evaluation of IOC/TEMA activities should be conducted shortly after implementation, in order to identify the shortfalls of the programme as well as the corrective strategies.

Improvement of the TEMA home page

13. Preliminary discussions have been carried out within the IOC Secretariat concerning the development of “virtual” training packages in the marine sciences, to be made available through the TEMA home page (<http://ioc.unesco.org/tema/>). Such packages (some of them already existing) could be elaborated on the basis of contributions from scientists willing to collaborate with this initiative and whose contributions would respond to regional specificities in terms of content and language. Themes of regional significance based on conceptual and methodological approaches, as well as related case studies will be assembled and linked. Further definition of the scope and breadth of this initiative is required.

TEMA External Advisory Group

14. Concerning the implementation of a TEMA External Advisory Group, as discussed in the past IOC Assembly, it was considered convenient to consolidate the actual internal management group to better define the composition and function of such a group.

15. Considering the cost of convening and financing the meeting of such a group, it seems appropriate to explore other means to obtain such advise, using current means of communication, such as a closed forum throughout the IOC web page.

16. Moreover, the sessions of the major governing bodies of IOC could provide an opportunity to seek advise on TEMA issues from *ad hoc* groups representative of regions and/or professional skills.