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اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

UNESCO – 7 Place de Fontenoy - 75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP, France
http://ioc.unesco.org - contact phone: +33 (0)1 45 68 03 18
E-mail: v.ryabinin@unesco.org

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- To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC
(IOC Member States for the Pacific Islands region)
- cc. : Permanent Delegates/Observers Missions to UNESCO and
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States (for the Pacific Islands region)
Chair and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC
Officers of Major Subsidiary Bodies
Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Pacific Community (SPC)

**Subject: Call for Expressions of Interest to host the Pacific Islands – Global
Ocean Observing System Regional Alliance (PI-GOOS) Secretariat/Office**

This Circular Letter is an open call to all relevant organizations and institutions in the Pacific Islands region for Expressions of Interest to host the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Regional Alliance (GRA) for the Pacific Islands (PI-GOOS) Secretariat/Office (cf the note in annex to this letter).

The Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) previously hosted the PI-GOOS Secretariat/Office until the departure of the responsible officer in 2019. PI-GOOS has not been active since. The GOOS Office at IOC-UNESCO is therefore calling for Expressions of Interest to host and rejuvenate PI-GOOS.

The ocean, seas, and coastal regions are critical to life on Earth and a rapidly expanding sustainable ocean economy. The cumulative impacts of climate change, development, pollution, and overfishing are placing considerable stress on marine environment. The Pacific Island nations are at the frontline when it comes to the effects of environmental and climate change and ongoing natural disasters. Achieving sustainability at global, regional, and local scales requires a comprehensive quantitative understanding of the current and projected state of the ocean, seas, and coasts.

The GOOS vision is a global ocean observing system that delivers essential information for sustainable development, safety, wellbeing, and prosperity. Ocean observations are vital to addressing sustainable development for coastal and island communities. The GOOS Regional Alliances play a crucial coordination role, ensuring that the GOOS is fit-for-purpose at all scales (see [GOOS Regional Policy](#).) The GRAs play a leading role in the facilitation of regional collaboration

Chairperson

Mr Ariel Hernan TROISI
Technical Secretary
Navy Hydrographic Service
Av. Montes de Oca 2124
C1270ABV Buenos Aires
ARGENTINA

Executive Secretary

Dr Vladimir RYABININ
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons

Dr Marie-Alexandrine SICRE
Directrice de Recherche
Centre national de la recherche scientifique
(CNRS)
3 rue Michel Ange
75016 Paris
FRANCE

Dr Alexander FROLOV
Assistant to the President
National Research Center "Kurchatov Institute"
Academika Kurchatova pl., 1
123182 Moscow
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr Frederico Antonio SARAIVA NOGUEIRA
Navy Captain (Ret) Directorate
of Hydrography and Navigation
Rua Barao de Jaceguai S/N
24048-900 Niterói
BRAZIL

Dr Srinivasa Kumar TUMMALA
Director
Indian National Centre for Ocean
Information Services (INCOIS)
Pragathi Nagar (BO), Nizampet (SO)
Hyderabad 500090
INDIA

Dr Karim HILMI
Directeur de Recherche
Institut National de Recherche
Halieutique (INRH)
02, Boulevard Sidi Abderrahmane
Ain Diab
20180 Casablanca
MOROCCO

within the global ocean observing system, which strengthens the activities of all countries. This collaboration gives regional needs visibility, supports capacity development, and highlights efficiencies.

The work of the PI-GOOS GRA is vital in ensuring that this fit-for-purpose system also meets the needs of Pacific Islands countries. Additionally, PI-GOOS will have a central role in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development—in particular, the three GOOS Ocean Decade programmes: [Ocean Observing Co-Design](#), [CoastPredict](#), and [Observing Together](#), addressing a common challenge with many partners and supporters.

Given this critical importance of regional observations, I strongly encourage institutions or coalitions to consider taking a leading role in lifting ocean observing capability by hosting the PI-GOOS Secretariat/Office.

Expressions of Interest to host the Secretariat/Office are expected to demonstrate:

- i. Organization/institution mandate and capacity in the ocean, oceanography, ocean observation and its coordination role in the Pacific Islands States;
- ii. Alignment of host organization/institution to the [Global Ocean Observing System 2030 Strategy](#) and the Ocean Decade;
- iii. Infrastructure and resources to support a PI-GOOS Secretariat/Office;
- v. Proposed initial focus and priorities for the PI community.

The selection of PI-GOOS host will follow a review of the Expressions of Interest by the GOOS Secretariat in consultation with the GOOS Steering Committee. We will consult with all interested parties in the region to establish an inter-organization or inter-governmental agreement that governs PI-GOOS. Appropriate institutional arrangements will be pursued then as required.

The announcement of the selected host of the PI-GOOS Secretariat/Office will be made in the first half of 2023. Expressions of Interest are to be addressed to Mr Denis Chang Seng (d.chang-seng@unesco.org) and Ms Forest Collins (f.collins@unesco.org), if possible not later than by 28 February 2023.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: (1): Note about GOOS, GRAs and PI-GOOS

Note about Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), GOOS Regional Alliances and Pacific Islands GOOS

PI-GOOS is a network of regional organizations established in 1998 consisting of 21 Pacific Island Countries and Territories and 5 Metropolitan Members. PI-GOOS aims to raise awareness of, and support ocean observing systems in the Pacific Islands region. It aims to identify and address gaps in the Pacific Ocean observing network. PI-GOOS is one of the 15 GOOS Regional Alliances ([GRAs](#)). GOOS unifies national observing systems to meet national needs, strengthen connections through learning and sharing, and make a greater set of ocean observations available to a global community. The Regional Alliances (GRAs) integrate these national needs into regional systems and deliver the benefits of GOOS's strategy, structure, and programmes at a regional, national and finally global level. GRAs are coalitions of nations and/or institutions that share GOOS principles and goals but are mostly concerned with local priorities and organized around ocean basins or coastal environments. GRAs interact with each other to learn and share best practices in implementing observing systems.

Current PI-GOOS Governance

An Advisory Committee comprising of donors and partners from across the Pacific region.

Current PI-GOOS Goals

- Provide and improve seasonal predictions of weather and climate, and their impact on Pacific Island Communities.
- Provide base data for longer-term predictions of weather and climate influenced by climate change.
- Raise awareness and use of the ocean observing system in the Pacific Ocean.
- Coordinate between other ocean and climate projects in the Pacific Ocean.
- Facilitate support of the ocean observing system and the deployments of associated devices from Pacific Island Countries and Territories.