

Final Report: IOC 50th Anniversary

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| Target Country or Region: | GLOBAL |
| Budget code : | 513GLO2018 |
| Contract number | |
| Funding sources | FUST |
| Total Budget approved | US\$ 35,000 |
| Reporting Period | 27/07/2009- 31/05/2010 |
| Executing Agency | UNESCO/IOC |
| Implementing partners | Russian State Hydrometeorological University |
| Project starting date : | 27/07/2009 |
| Project completion date : | 11/05/2010 |
| Responsible Sector : | SC/IOC |
| Name of Person completing Report: | Iouri Oliounine/ Peter Pissierssens |

I. Summary and Background (1 page)

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) was established in 1960 by Resolution 2.31 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its eleventh session. At the 24th session of the IOC Assembly in 2007 (Resolution XXIV-4) Member States of the IOC decided to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Commission.

The IOC Executive Council at its 41st Session adopted an outline of the indicative IOC Plan of Action for the organization of the commemorative events. The Council emphasized that the anniversary will give an opportunity to express profound gratitude to all those who have associated over the last 50 years with the development of the IOC; to enhance public awareness of the IOC and its achievements in the past and present as well as IOC visibility in the UN system, and in particular at UNESCO; to look into the future and obtain commitments from governments to take action, provide adequate resources and give the priority to the oceans and coastal areas which they deserve as finite economical assets and as providers of basic ecological services that make life possible on Earth.

This Small scale project has been carried out in response to specific requests from Member States to develop an anniversary webpage which will be an important resource tool containing information on the past IOC activities and the Member States plans to contribute to the anniversary.

The project also made it possible to invite experts from developing countries to take part in the international Conference “50 Years of Education and Awareness Raising for Shaping the Future of the Oceans and Coasts” the objectives of which are to establish a platform for the exchange of views on sustainable education and training methods in marine related areas; to develop ways for meeting new challenges and increasing awareness of the results; and to stimulate and examine practical opportunities for cooperation.

II. Description of project activities undertaken during the contract period

The International Conference '50 Years of Education and Awareness Raising for shaping the Future of the Oceans and Coasts'

The International Conference '50 Years of Education and Awareness Raising for shaping the Future of the Oceans and Coasts' was held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation from 27th to 30th of April, 2010 with the objective to establish a forum for the exchange of views on sustainable education and training methods in marine and coasts related areas and develop ways for meeting new challenges and increasing effectiveness of the results.

The Conference was organized by the Russian State Hydrometeorological University on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the IOC and was considered as an input to the MDGs and the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

In addition to Russian sponsors, such as Roshydromet, Administration of St. Petersburg, VTB and others, the Conference received financial contribution from Flanders Government, IOC and WMO.

The Conference was attended by more than 200 participants from 26 countries. The programme of the Conference included plenary sessions as well as five panels to discuss in detail: (i) the role of international organizations in fostering and improving education and training services to society;
(ii) present and future of education and training development in the area of marine sciences;
(iii) educational technology and methods of education;
(iv) management and funding of educational and training processes;
(v) awareness raising of the importance of marine research and protection of marine environment.

More than 60 scientific papers were presented and discussed at the panels. A volume of abstracts was issued in two languages: Russian and English, and distributed among the participants of the Conference.

Participants of the panels formulated recommendations which have been discussed and accepted by the plenary. A final version of the Conference statement and recommendations will be available at the coming session of the IOC Executive Council for information and discussion. The Proceedings of the Conference in two languages, containing full texts of presentations and papers presented at poster sessions is planned to be published by September 2010 in two formats: hard cover copy and on CDs.

The organizers of the Conference were successful in organizing several side events, such as Underwater Films Festival, children artwork exhibition, students' round table and others, as well as a wide promotional campaign. Information about the Conference was on the TV and in newspapers and magazines.

General opinion of the participants about the Conference was that it was successful and timely. It was recommended that the Conferences on the education in marine related areas should become a regular event.

Web page dedicated to the 50th Anniversary

The anniversary web-page has become operational and accessible to users from February, 2010.

<http://oceanunited.net/IOC50thWebPage/IOC50thMain.html>

The webpage is a part of the IOC web site and contains two big sets of information: on 50 years of the IOC activities (from 1956 till 2008); and on contributions of the IOC Member States, partners and IOC programmes to the celebration of the 50th anniversary. Plain text information is accompanied by photos, maps and tables presenting conferences, publications, research vessels and areas of their activities, etc.

In addition to these big sets the page includes the description of the objectives of the Conference, some quotes of the distinguished personalities on the place and role of the IOC within the UN family and on the IOC mission.

The page is regularly updated with new submissions and the work on the improvement of the format continues.

III. Difficulties and Problems encountered and measures taken, changes in implementation.

The volcanic eruption in Iceland resulted in a large number of cancellations for the Conference. Unfortunately little could be done about this.

IV. Project Results achieved and indicators in accordance with the log frame (please also complete the attached matrix table)

n/a

V. Lessons learned and Sustainability

n/a

VI. Evaluation recommendations when applicable

n/a

VII. Visibility: describe the visibility actions implemented during the contract period in order to disseminate the project activities and results as well as the cooperation between UNESCO and the Donor(s) (*logo in the publications, display the donor support, participation of the donor to the events, joint press conference, Internet*)

The Conference was given high visibility in Russia (TV) as well as on the IODE web site.

VIII. Annexes

none