OceanTeacher Academy

Progress Report

Project Title OceanTeacher Academy

Target Country or Region Global

Budget code 513GLO2016

Contract number

Funding sources FUST

Total Budget approved US$ 1,540,000

Reporting Period June 2012- June 2013

Executing Agency IOC/IODE

Implementing partners

Project starting date 23/04/2009

Project completion date 31/12/2013

Responsible Sector  SC

Name of Person completing Report: Peter Pissierssens/ Claudia Delgado

1. Summary and Background (1 page)

The objective of the OceanTeacher Training Academy is to establish a facility that provides an annual teaching programme of courses related to oceanographic data and information management and the development of related products and services that will contribute to the sustainable management of oceans and coastal areas in Africa and other regions. The OceanTeacher Training Academy underpins all Ocean Data and Information Networks developed by IOC/IODE. The OceanTeacher Academy furthermore promotes the development of regional training nodes thereby providing a multiplier effect on the number of trainees as well as a contribution to the long-term sustained impact of the provided capacity building activities of IOC/IODE and other IOC programmes (e.g. GOOS, ICAM, JCOMM (IOC/WMO), Capacity Building…).

The OceanTeacher Academy project started on 24/04/2010 and ends on 31/12/2013. This report provides an overview of all activities undertaken in the framework of OceanTeacher Academy until between 1 June 2012 and 31 May 2013.

1. Description of project activities undertaken during the reporting period

OCEANTEACHER SOFTWARE SYSTEM and OCEANTEACHER WEBSITE

In order to better integrate the different elements of OceanTeacher it was decided to redevelop the OT website of which Moodle is now an integral component. The necessary regular updates of the OceanTeacher website were performed as needed; furthermore, the system was streamlined. Moodle system was upgraded to version 2.0 and subsequently to 2.4 and Semantic Media Wiki was upgraded to 1.16.5. New templates were redeveloped and implemented for both Modle and mediawiki so that there is uniformity in the system.

Together with the OT Lectures, new courses and DL content were added to the new system throughout 2010 to 2013.

COURSES

The following courses were organized during the reporting period June 2012 – May 2013: 7 courses in Oostende (Table 1) and 9 elsewhere (Table 2). Out of these 9 courses, 2 were University Accredited courses and 4 were from the IOC-HAB programme.

Each course is systematically followed by an evaluation by the students of the course organisation, contents and lecturers (online anonymous feedback survey). The student’s feedback has remained very positive with high ratings for the main parameters (course organisation and contents and lecturers).

Furthermore, the feedback on the distance learning sessions has been positive, with more than 50 % of the students willing to have more distance learning sessions in future training events.

Standardised templates for the powerpoints and other materials used during the courses have been implemented and are now systematically used (‘OTA branding’).

Many courses now include pre-assignments, namely reading assignments, quizzes or collection of information from their host institutions. This became a common tool to prepare the students for the work to be done in the classroom, and saves time that can be allocated for other activities while in the classroom. At the end of each course students are requested to present a ‘product’ related to the course thematic, which is used as a qualitative assessment of the student’s achievements by the end of the training course.

At the end of each course a “Certificate of Participation” is provided to each student. In the case of the UGent and UAlg courses these certificates are “accredited” by the host organization/University.

Theoretical lectures are systematically video-recorded and made available online (e.g. see <http://www.vimeo.com/iode>).

Overall, between 1 June 2012 and 31 May 2013 a total of 176 course participants were received in Oostende representing 852 person days of training. Further, over 165 course participants benefited of the OceanTeacher Learning Platform while attending classroom courses elsewhere other than Oostende.

By the end of May 2013 thirty-four (34) courses were available on the OceanTeacher Learning System. An updated list of OTA lecturers and their profiles is available at OceanTeacher website (<http://classroom.oceanteacher.org/mod/page/view.php?id=2036>).

Table 1: Courses organised at IOC Project Office for IODE, Oostende, Belgium (June 2012 – May 2013):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Date | Course Subject | Lecturers | Number of participants | Comments |
| 2012 | July 2 - 6 | SeaDataNet-2 Training Course | Jean-Marie Beckers, Ouberdous Mohamed, Leen Vandepitte, Michele Fichaut, Anne Che-Bohnenstengel, Reiner Schlitzer, Sissy Iona, Angelos Lykiardopoulos,Peter Thijsse, Lesley Rickards | 51 | Contents and videos available on OTA website and Vimeo respectively.Attendance by invitation (SeaDataNet-2 network) |
| 2012 | Sep.10-14 | OceanTeacher Academy Training Course: Operational Oceanography | Greg Reed, Murray Brown | 22 | Contents available on OTA website; 5 students were co sponsored; 1 student (from South Africa) paid tuition fee |
| 2012 | Sep.17-21 | OceanTeacher Academy Training Course: Grant Writing for Digitisation Projects | Linda Pikula, Pauline Simpson | 12 | Contents and videos available on OTA website and Vimeo respectively; 3 students were co-sponsored |
| 2012 | Oct.22-25 | PEGASO Workshop: PEGASO Hands-on Training workshop: Introduction and implementation of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI’s)  | Karin Allenbach, Simon Claus, Nathalie De Hauwere, Emilia Guisado, Yassine Lassoued, Anthony Lehmann, Jorge Lopez Perez, Gonzalo Malvarez, Cesar Martinez Izquierdo, Juan Pedro Perez-Alcantara, Bart Vanhoorne | 28 | Attendance by invitation (PEGASO network)http://www.pegasoproject.eu/ |
| 2012 | Nov. 5-9 | OceanTeacher Academy Training Course: Marine and Coastal Atlas Development | Greg Reed, Murray Brown | 24 | Contents available on OTA website.5 students were co sponsored; 1 student (from Chile) paid tuition fee |
| 2013 | April 8-12 | OceanTeacher Academy Training Course: Development and Management of e-Repositories | Pauline Simpson, Marc Goovaerts,Christophe Dupriez, Aditya Kakodkar |  23 | Contents and videos available on OTA website and Vimeo respectively; 2 students (from Russian Federation) paid tuition fee |
| 2013 | May 27-31 | OceanTeacher Academy Training Course: Fundamentals of Ocean Data Management | Greg Reed, Murray Brown | 16 | Contents available on OTA website. |

Note: some of the above-mentioned courses included sessions from remote contributors, who joined the classroom in Oostende using Webex. Interaction between the lecturer(s) and the students was also possible.

Table 2: Courses organised elsewhere (June 2012 – May 2013):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Date | Venue | Course Subject | Lecturers | Number of participants | Comments |
| 2012 | June 4 - 15 | Vigo, Spain  | Curso Taxonomía de Fitoplancton Marino Nocivo: XIII Curso COI-AECID-IEO: Taxonomia de Fitoplancton Marino Nocivo | NA | 12 | HABContents available on OTA website. |
| 2012 | August 25 - 29 | Tuxpan, Mexico | OceanTeacher Academy course: Regional and Operational Oceanography for Coastal Resources Management  | Murray Brown | 19 | Contents available on OTA website. |
| 2012 | November 12 - 30  | Copenhagen K, Denmark | 10th Advanced Phytoplankton Course: Taxonomy and Systematics | NA |  | HABContents available on OTA website. |
| 2012 | December 2 - 4  | Copenhagen K, Denmark | BEQUALM-IOC Phytoplankton Intercalibration: BEQUALM-IOC Phytoplankton proficiency test in the abundance and composition of marine microalgae |  | NA | HABContents available on OTA website. |
| 2013 | 28 Jan - 8 Feb | Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences | University Curriculum in Marine Data Management (2013): University Curriculum in Marine Data Management (2013) | Murray Brown | 10 | Attendance limited to BIOS students. Contents available on OTA website. |
| 2013 | 25 Feb - 1 Mar | UAlg, Faro, Portugal | Introduction to Ocean Data Management: OTA Accredited Course: EMBC Introduction to Ocean Data Management | Murray Brown, Lilian Krug (Assistant) | 21 | Attendance limited to EMBC students; Accredited OTA Course in collaboration with the Erasmus Mundus MSc Program in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation. Contents available on OTA website. |
| 2013 | April 8 - 19 | Henties Bay, Namibia | IOC-SCOR-UNAM-BCC Workshop on Harmful Algae: IOC-SCOR-UNAM-BCC Workshop on Harmful Algae | Jacob Larsen | 12 | HAB; Contents available on OTA website. |
| 2013 | April 15 - 19 | Swakopmund, Namibia | ODINAFRICA ODV workshop for the Benguela Current LME region | Greg Reed | 12 | Contents available on OTA website. |
| 2013 | April 22 - 24  | Nairobi, Kenya | ODINAFRICA Coastal and Marine Atlases workshop | Greg Reed | 28 | Contents available on OTA website |
| 2013 | April 25 - 27  | Nairobi, Kenya | ODINAFRICA Websites development workshop | Aditya Kakodkar | 25 | Contents available on OTA website. |
| 2013 | 29 Apr - 3 May | UGent,Ghent, Belgium | OTA Accredited Course: EMBC Introduction to Ocean Data Management | Murray Brown | 26 | Attendance limited to EMBC students; Accredited OTA Course in collaboration with the Erasmus Mundus MSc Program in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation. Contents available on OTA website. |

STRATEGY AND PLANNING

The 3rd Session of the IODE Steering Group for the OceanTeacher Project was held in Oostende, Belgium, between 22-24 May 2013. The current composition of the OTA-SG can be found at <http://iode.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewGroupRecord&groupID=68&Itemid=100010>.

The main objectives of the meeting were (i) to assess the current status of the Project and discuss its future directions; (ii) to discuss and agree on a new structure for the OT website and (iii) to discuss and draft the new proposal for funding to be submitted to FUST in September 2013.

As for objective (i) the SG members were informed about the visit of Dr Savithri Narayanan on March 4, 2013, hired by FUST as and external consultant in order to assess the project’s progress. Discussions on the use of the OT website and Digital Library also took place, as well as on how to increase OT audience. As for objective (ii) above, the following was decided: a) restructure the OT website (new look and feel) and for objective (iii) a draft working team was established for writing the proposal. Furthermore, the new proposal was named “OceanTeacher Global Academy”. Details on the new proposed structure and Regional Training Centres (RTC’s) were thoroughly discussed.

The full report of the 3rd Session of the IODE Steering Group for the OceanTeacher Project is available at <http://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewEventRecord&eventID=1233>.

IODE-OTA partnered with VLIZ and the University of Gent for the new POGO-Nippon Foundation Centre of Excellence (application submitted on 28 February 2013). Unfortunately, the consortium was not selected to host the new POGO-Nippon Foundation Centre of Excellence for the next 5 years.

The new application and selection procedure (as decided during the 2nd Session of the IODE Steering Group for the OceanTeacher Project), which includes a set of questions concerning the possibility of co-funding was further implemented. This new modality of co-sponsorship is still difficult to implement as applicants and their host institutions were not used to this modality. The call for applications is now open as early as possible and on average 6 months prior to the training course, so that both applicants and their host institutions have more time to seek extra funding. The number of participants on OTA courses using some form of co-sponsorship can be seen on Table 1. Between June 2012 and May 2013, 15% of the students (13 students out of a group of 84) were able to attend the training course while being co-sponsored, i.e., part of the funding support was provided by the IOC Project Office for IODE and another part by other sources (note that in the previous period only 8.7% were co-sponsored). During this same period 4.7% of the students were able to find funding to attend an OTA course (tuition fee included). i.e., 4 students out of 84.

One problem detected was that this modality might sometimes cause problems for the students to obtain their VISA’s to enter Belgium.

The free ferry-boat provided by the city of Oostende is now used as the default means of transportation between the city centre were the course participants are accommodated and the IOC Project office for IODE. This change was seen as positive according to the students’ feedback.

At the time of the SG meeting Dr Murray Brown informed the SG about his retirement (see III).

STAFF CHANGE

n/a

1. Difficulties and Problems encountered and measures taken, any changes in implementation.

After the implementation of the OTA Application Form since middle 2011, a more standardised selection of the applicants was made possible. Despite the rigorous selection process there are still cases when students do not sufficiently master the English language to fully benefit of courses, although their language skills self-evaluation would indicate otherwise. The new proposal ‘OceanTeacher Global Academy’, which will be submitted for FUST funding in September 2013, will address these language issues by using local staff at the Regional Training Centres.

The continued delays in arrival of funding (January-April) make that courses cannot be easily planned before April of each year. Adding the difficulty of organizing events during June-August and December due to tourism seasons this limits the months during which a course can be organized to 5 months/year.

In May 2013 Dr Murray Brown informed the OT SG about his retirement, as he is no longer available to travel long distances. He might however be available for sporadic contributions, namely for the OT Digital Library. Since the OT SG was informed about Dr Brown’s retirement, several efforts have been made in order to find potential new contributors/collaborators. One of the outputs is the upcoming course in November 2013 “Discovery and Use of Operational Ocean Products Services”. This course will be shared with contributors from the MyOcean Project [http://www.myocean.eu/], and it is expected to open new avenues for future collaborations in training.

1. Project Results achieved during the reporting period

SEE II

1. Lessons learned and Sustainability

Long-term sustainability will depend on the ability of OT and OTA to be recognized as an essential training system to acquire the necessary skills in DM and IM at the national level (data centres) and for marine degree programmes and post-graduates (international level), as well as a training tool for all IOC programmes. This is being addressed on the new project proposal.

It will be necessary to continue focus on cooperation agreements between other organisations (external to IOC) e.g. training programmes of other organizations (e.g. POGO, EMBC network) and IODE/OT whereby these will cover the cost of the courses (as is the case for e.g. SeaDataNet). In addition a cost-recovery based fee system will need to be investigated for the fully-distance learning courses, which should be implemented in the future.

1. Evaluation recommendations when applicable

n/a

1. Visibility: describe any visibility action implemented during the reporting period

The following activities were developed where IODE’s OceanTeacher was promoted:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event title | Venue | Number of participants | Comments |
| 2012 |  |
| 18 – 21 September | SeaDataNet meeting | Rhodes, Greece | Claudia Delgado | Report on SeaDataNet2 training course (hosted at IODE PO) |
| 12 October | Ocean Literacy Conference | Brugges, Belgium | Claudia Delgado | Presentation of poster on OceanTeacher |
| 5-7 November | SCOR-IODE-POGO Capacity Building Meeting | Henties Bay, Namibia | Claudia Delgado | Discussion of joint CB activities in Southern Africa |
| 10 December | Joint Capacity Building Coordination Meeting: IHO-IMO-IOC-WMO-IALA-IAEA | Oostende, Belgium | Representatives of all organisations | Discussion of joint CB activities |
| 2013 |  |
| 22-24 January | POGO-14 meeting | Cape Town, South Africa | Claudia Delgado | Presentation on IODE-OTA CB activities and future plans |
| 15 February | Young Marine Scientist Day | Brugges, Belgium | Claudia Delgado | poster on OTA and stand with PC’s displaying OT Learning Paltform, leaflets, banner, etc |
| 22 March  | World Water Day | Brussels, Belgium | Claudia Delgado | poster on OTA and stand with PC’s, leaflets, banner, etc |

Planned Activities:

* September 23-25, 2013: Presentation of a poster on the new submitted project for funding: OceanTeacher Global Academy at ‘IMDIS 2013: International Conference on Marine Data and Information Systems’ (San Romano - Lucca, Italy).
1. Work plan for the following period (please complete the attached table and when applicable add an eventual budget revision)

See II + table.

1. Annexes (publications, reports and other project outputs, when applicable)

n/a

#### Annual Workplan

Project Code and Title 513GLO2016: OceanTeacher Academy

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Planned Activity | Expected Output | Timeframe | Venue | Responsible Party |
| IOC Qualifications in Identification and Enumeration of Harmful Microalgae | 50 students trained | 12-24 August 2013 | Copenhagen K, Denmark | HAB and IODE-OTA |
| OceanTeacher Academy Training Course: Digital Asset Management  | 15 students trained; videoconferencing between Mombasa and Ostend tested (in preparation for the OT Global Academy) | 30 Sep - 4 Oct 2012 | Mombasa, Kenya | IODE-OTA, IOC Africa and KMFRI (Kenya) |
| Presentation on OTA by Barbara Butler (University of Oregon) at IAMSLIC Annual Meeting | Outreach | 20-24 October 2013 | Dania Beach, Florida, US | Barbara Butler  |
| OceanTeacher Academy & MyOcean Training Course: Discovery and Use of Operational Ocean Data Products and Services | 20 students trained;provide the foundations for a future collaboration with MyOcean | 4 – 8 November 2013 | Oostende, Belgium  | IODE/OTA and MyOcean |
| SPINCAM Training Course: e-Repositories  | Train ~ 15 pax | November 2013 (TBD) | Colombia | SPINCAM and IODE-OTA |
| Development of a new course/workshop on Biodiversity Data Management (OBIS) | OBIS National Nodes reprentatives trained; Contents and videos (if available) added to OTA website and Vimeo respectively | First trimester 2014 | IODE Project Office | IODE-OTA and OBIS |
| Further development of content for OceanTeacher | More contents added for DM & IM but also for other disciplines and IOC programes that have a data and information management component |  |  | IODE-OTA |
| Further development of the OceanTeacher training software platform | System up to date and at maximum performance |  |  | IODE-OTA |
| Hosting and organisation of the SeaDataNet 2 training course | Contents and videos added to OTA website and Vimeo respectively | May/14 | IODE Project Office | IODE-OTA and SeaDataNet 2 |
| Further support to the HAB courses using the OTA platform | 2 – 3 new courses made available through/using OTA platform |  |  | IODE-OTA and the IOC- HAB program |
| Accredited Courses (2 -3 courses) | Gent University and Algarve University and POGO |  |  | IODE-OTA in collaboration with the corresponding universities |
| GTSPP Course | TBD | 9-13 June 2013 | IODE Project Office | GTSPP and IODE-OTA |
| GOOS /JCOMM Course | TBD | TBD |  | GOOS /JCOMM in collaboration with IODE-OTA |