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2008 IAPSO report to IUGG  
February 2009, Johan Rodhe, IAPSO Secretary General

## 1. Short introduction of IAPSO

IAPSO has the prime goal of "promoting the study of scientific problems relating to the oceans and the interactions taking places at the sea floor, coastal, and atmospheric boundaries insofar as such research is conducted by the use of mathematics, physics, and chemistry." IAPSO has addressed this goal through four fundamental objectives:

- a. Organize, sponsor, and co-sponsor formal and informal international forums permitting ready means of communication amongst ocean scientists throughout the world;
- b. Establish commissions, sub-committees, and organize commensurate workshops to encourage, stimulate, and coordinate new and advanced international research activities;
- c. Provide basic services significant to the conduct of physical oceanography, and
- d. Publish proceedings of symposia, meetings, and workshops, and fundamental references on the current state-of-the art and knowledge of physical oceanography.

IAPSO maintains formal liaison with other scientific commissions and committees. These include the ICSU's Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

For more information see [http://iapso.sweweb.net/\\_db/](http://iapso.sweweb.net/_db/)

## 2. Administration

The EC and the Bureau have not met during 2008, though several issues have been discussed by e-mail, e.g. questions arising from the IUGG EC meeting. Two informal planning meetings between the President and the Secretary General have taken place during 2008. The Secretary General participated in the IUGG EC meeting in Karlsruhe, Germany, in August.

A new SCOR/IAPSO WG OceanScope was set up in autumn 2008. The long-term goal of OceanScope is to help the Merchant Marine to put in place an observing system to regularly monitor the physical, chemical and biological properties of the global surface and subsurface ocean.

### 3. Activities

2008 was "a year in between Association Assemblies" and most of the administrative effort was related to the planning of the MOCA-09 Joint Assembly in Montreal, July 2009.

The SCOR/IAPSO WG 129 Deep Ocean Exchange with the Shelf (DOES) arranged a workshop in Cape Town from 6 to 9 October. 45 scientists from 18 countries attended the workshop, including several oceanographers from African countries.

19 to 24 October the President and the Secretary General participated in the SCOR 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Woods Hole, MA USA, and the SCOR annual meeting that followed the Conference.

The SCOR/IAPSO Working Group 127 Thermodynamics and Equation of State of Seawater has completed much of its work. The new thermodynamic description of seawater is now out for comment from the oceanographic community.

A SCOPE/SCOR/IAPSO publication "Watersheds, Bays, and Bounded Seas" was published. The former IAPSO President, Paola Malanotte-Rizzoli, was one of the editors.

Professor Harry L. Bryden FRS, University of Southampton, UK, has been awarded the 2009 Prince Albert I Medal of IAPSO, "...in recognition of his fundamental contributions to understanding the ocean's role in the global climate system."

### 4. Planned future activities/announcements

The main activity is the IAMAS-IAPSO-IACS Joint Assembly in Montreal, Canada, to be held July 20-24 (IAMAS 20-29) 2009. During the Assembly the Prince Albert I Medal will be presented to Professor Bryden whereupon he will give the Albert I Memorial Lecture.

At the Assembly there will be two IAPSO EC meetings and one GBM of IAPSO for all National Correspondents. In addition, the Lafond Medal will be awarded to a developing country scientist.

The new SCOR/IAPSO WG OceanScope will have a first meeting in connection with the MOCA-09 Joint Assembly.