

## **IIOE-2 Steering Committee No 5**

**21-22 March 2022**

**Background note for:**

**Agenda Item 3, 21 March 2022**

***IIOE-2 Joint Project Office Report – Australia JPO Node (up to its closure on 30 Sep 2021)***

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### **Admin status**

The Australian IIOE-2 JPO Node operated up to 30 September 2021, in partnership with the Indian Node of the IIOE-2 JPO (hosted at INCOIS Hyderabad India). Major activities of the Australian Node included general coordination of IIOE-2, support of the Steering Committee, management, and co-hosting of the IIOE-2 SC4 meeting 12-15 April 2021 and facilitation of preparations for the IIOE-2 SC5 meeting of 21-22 March 2022.

The UNESCO IOC Perth Programme Office (IOC PPO) hosted the Australian IIOE-2 JPO Node. That Node ceased operation on 30 Sep 2021, following the cessation of underpinning sponsorship to PPO. By association, the PPO’s head of office post was closed. Dr D’Adamo was the IOC IIOE-2 Coordinator, including leadership of the Australia IIOE-2 JPO Node.

The Australia Node of the IIOE-2 Joint Project Office worked since its inception in 2015 with its partner IIOE-2 JPO Node at INCOIS India. The India Node was led since 2015 by Dr Satya Prakash, who passed away in mid-2021. I again express sadness and loss at my friend Satya’s passing and was privileged to have worked with Satya for many years.

The running of the IIOE-2 has been taken up by INCOIS, which supports the JPO Node at INCOIS. Dr Nagaraja Kumar has led the office since mid-June 2021 and Dr Aneesh Lotliker is to take over as permanent head of the IIOE-2 JPO at INCOIS.

I wish Drs Kumar and Lotliker well in furthering the mission of IIOE-2 in respect to the JPO function and note how fortunate IIOE-2 is to have the continued support of India in this regard, through the INCOIS Director Dr Srinivasa Kumar and, relatedly, through Dr M Ravichandran, Secretary to the Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences under which INCOIS is based. The same applies to the support that continues to be given to IIOE-2 by its principal sponsors in IOC, SCOR and IOGOOS through IIOE-2’s co-chairs deriving from IOC (Dr Vladimir Ryabinin), SCOR (Dr Marie-Alexandrine Sicre) and IOGOOS (Dr Satheesh Shenoi).

### **IOGOOS sponsorship of IIOE-2 deriving from IOC budgetary contributions to IOGOOS**

Historically, IOGOOS’s annual financial sponsorship to IIOE-2 had derived from an annual IOC budgetary allocation to IOGOOS managed via the IOC PPO. The change in IOC PPO as outlined above may motivate consideration across IOC/IOGOOS regarding ongoing IOGOOS sponsorship of IIOE-2.

### **IIOE-2 Steering Committee No 4, 12-15 April 2021 (IIOE-2 SC4) – Draft Minutes as of 22 April 2021**

The draft minutes of IIOE-2 SC4 as of 22 April 2021 were circulated prior to the IIOE-2 SC5 and require ratification, or last-minute changes if sought at IIOE-2 SC5 by IIOE-2 SC4 delegates.

### **Action Items**

Management of Action Items from SC4 and previous meetings are under the purview of the Indian IIOE-2 JPO.

### **Next meeting – hosting offer**

The Oceans Institute of the University of Western Australia offers to host the IIOE-2 SC6 and annual meetings of IOGOOS, IRF, SIBER and IORP at the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre and would suggest the meeting period week be during early February 2023. <https://www.uwa.edu.au/Facilities/Indian-Ocean-Marine-Research-Centre>