

Notes and Announcements of interest to PORSEC members

NEWS & UPDATES

First Expedition of IIOE-2 (Goa, India to Port Louis, Mauritius) completed

The first expedition, on board Research Vessel Sagar Nidhi conducted as a part of IIOE-2 has concluded at Mauritius after exploring the western Arabian Sea for 18 days. The voyage was flagged off by the Hon. Minister of State for Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences, Mr. Y. S. Choudhary at a function held at Mormugao, Goa on 4 December 2015.

The expedition was led by Prof. P. N. Vinayachandran of Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore and Dr. Satya Prakash of ESSO-Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (ESSO-INCOIS), Hyderabad. 12 Indian Scientists participated representing IISc, INCOIS, NIOT (Chennai), NCAOR (Goa), NRSC (Hyderabad) and Goa University. In addition to scientists from India, there were participants from Mauritius, Israel, Singapore, Australia and UK.

The major goal of this multi-disciplinary scientific expedition was to understand the structure of water masses in the western Indian Ocean along 67°E and assess the difference in their characteristics with respect to observations made in the past. The other objective of the cruise was to understand the physical-chemical-biological characteristics in the equatorial Indian Ocean and their inter-relationships. Underwater profiles of currents, temperature, salinity, oxygen, light and chlorophyll were measured during the cruise. In addition, samples have been collected to a depth of 1000 m for various chemical and biological analyses. Samples of zooplankton were collected using nets towed from the stern of the ship.

It is expected that the data collected during this expedition will elucidate the currents and water masses in the western Indian Ocean in detail and thus further our understanding of the oceanography of the Indian Ocean.

More details and related articles are in Issue-4, of The Indian Ocean Bubble-2 available at http://www.incois.gov.in/documents/IndianOceanBubble2_4th.pdf

IIOE India would also like to invite contributions for its next issue, which is planned for release around June 2016. Kindly send your contributions latest by 30th April 2016.

Perspectives and opinions along with short reports on cruises, workshops, programmes and studies related to Indian Ocean studies are welcome from researchers at all levels.

Articles up to 1500 words in length with suitable figures and photographs may be emailed to iioe at incois.gov.in (photos of contributing authors may also be provided).

*Reported by: IIOE India,
Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services,
Hyderabad, INDIA.*

Four new Chinese satellites to contribute for disaster prevention

Four satellites were launched for harvest assessment, geological disaster prevention and resource surveys. Jilin-1 is called the mission led by China, which used a Long March-2D vehicle from the 603 Launch Pad at the Jiuquan Satellite launch Center's LC43.

Jilin-1 includes four satellites to produce high-definition images that will contribute forecasting and mitigate geological disasters, among other purposes. The province aims to launch 60 satellites by 2020 and 138 until 2030. By 2019, 16 satellites are expected to be in orbit as a part of a network for remote sensing. This initiative will reach coverage on the entire globe, able to provide updated data every three to four hours.

The four satellites are: Jilin-1 to operate on a 656 km sun synchronous orbit; Lingqiao-A and Lingqiao-B meant to capture videos with a 4K ultra-clear video resolution; and the micro-satellite LQSat for technology demonstration designed by CIOMP.

Read full story:
NASA