ECSN Workshop (Hybrid)

Date & Time: 20 March 2026, KST 14:30 - 17:00 Hrs
Venue: Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST), Busan, South Korea
Mode: Hybrid (In-person + Online)
Organized by: IIOE-2 Early Career Scientists Network (ECSN)

Workshop Theme: ***Expanding Horizons in Ocean Science Careers***

Tentative Schedule (01:30 Hours)

Chairs: Dr Sharanya JS, Dr. Minju Kim

Time	
14:30-14:40	**Opening and Welcome Remarks – Workshop Objectives** - Mr. Dennis Otieno, Core Committee Member, IIOE-2 ECSN
14:40-15:20	**Invited Talk:** Beyond the Bench: Leveraging Fellowships for Global Research Impact - *Dr. Ngozi Margaret Oguguah, Chief Research Officer, Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research, Lagos, Nigeria*
15:20-15:50	**Invited Talk:** From Field Measurements to Satellites: My Journey Through the IOCCG Fellowship in Advancing Ocean Colour Remote Sensing *- Mr. R. Chandra Sekhar Naik, Project Scientist, ESSO-INCOIS, India*
15:50-16:00	**Closing Remarks –** Ms. Padmashree Anandan, Core Committee Member, IIOE-2 ECSN

Click on the link to join the meetings virtually:

Microsoft Teams Meeting Join:
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/4251766116467?p=RP5HEdF4Jdl0FE7TaY

Meeting ID: 425 176 611 646 7

Passcode: 4sd77m4d

Beyond the Bench: Leveraging Fellowships for Global Research Impact

Ngozi Margaret Oguguah

Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research, Lagos, Nigeria

Abstract:

Transitioning to independent scientific leadership can be challenging for Early-Career Researchers (ECRs). Fellowships are crucial, providing intellectual independence, international mobility, and professional stability. This talk offers practical guidance on navigating global fellowship opportunities in 2026, from major international schemes like Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) and Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) to national awards such as UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Future Leaders and National Institutes of Health (NIH) K-Series grants. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies for identifying suitable fellowships, crafting competitive applications, and building lasting international collaborations. Drawing from personal experience, I will clarify the application process, emphasising host-mentor fit, innovation, and persistence. The session will showcase real-world examples of how networking through fellowships has led to successful collaborations and career advancements, exploring how fellowships foster scientific networking, enable impactful collaborations, and connect researchers to influential alumni networks. Ultimately, a timely fellowship can convert a focused project into a lasting, independent research career.

About the Speaker:

Ngozi Margaret Oguguah (PhD) is a passionate advocate for the blue economy, focusing on environmental justice and sustainable ocean stewardship. As an oceanographer at the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research, she conducts key studies that inform policies for marine ecosystem protection. Actively participating in global conferences and advocacy, Ngozi emphasises cooperation on ocean issues. She prioritises mentorship and education to empower future marine science leaders and raises awareness on ocean conservation through public outreach and online advocacy, addressing critical issues like mental health and microplastic pollution in her research.

From Field Measurements to Satellites: My Journey Through the IOCCG Fellowship in Advancing Ocean Colour Remote Sensing

R. Chandra Sekhar Naik

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Ministry of Earth Sciences, India.

Abstract

The IOCCG Trevor Platt Memorial Fellowship provides early-career scientists with opportunities for international training in ocean colour remote sensing and marine bio-optics. In this talk, I will share my experience as a 2025 IOCCG Platt Scholar and discuss how the fellowship contributed to my scientific development and research activities. During the fellowship, I undertook training at NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre, Maryland (Ocean Ecology Laboratory) under the guidance of Dr Antonio Mannino and at Lamont- Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, New York under Prof. Joaquim I. Goes. A major component of the training focused on the development and optimisation of high- performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) methods for phytoplankton pigment analysis, including pigment extraction protocols, solvent preparation, internal standards, calibration strategies, and quality control procedures. These methods are currently being implemented and adapted for the new U-HPLC system at INCOIS, with the aim of improving the accuracy and consistency of pigment measurements for bio-optical and phytoplankton community studies. The fellowship also included training in bio-optical algorithms such as the Quasi-Analytical Algorithm (QAA) and the Generalised Inherent Optical Properties (GIOP) model, together with the application of CHEMTAX for phytoplankton chemotaxonomic analysis, enabling improved interpretation of pigment datasets for identifying phytoplankton functional groups and supporting satellite ocean colour validation. This experience not only strengthened my technical expertise but also fostered international collaborations and provided new perspectives on integrating laboratory measurements, field observations, and satellite remote sensing for improved understanding of marine ecosystems.

About the Speaker

Mr R. Chandra Sekhar Naik is a marine optics and ocean colour remote sensing researcher, working as a Project Scientist at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Ministry of Earth Sciences, India. His research focuses on phytoplankton bio-optics, satellite ocean colour validation, and the integration of in-situ optical measurements with satellite observations to improve the assessment of marine biogeochemical processes. He is currently pursuing a PhD at the INCOIS-KUFOS Joint Research Centre under the supervision of Dr Aneesh Lotliker, focusing on the remote estimation of phytoplankton absorption and its variability across different oceanic water types. In 2025, he was awarded the prestigious IOCCG Trevor Platt Memorial Fellowship, through which he received advanced training at NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre and Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in marine bio-optics and satellite ocean colour research.