

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative:

Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment (GODAE)

Expected date of initiation: 2003

Expected date of completion: 2007

Partners Involved:

Governments: Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Norway, UK, USA

Intergovernmental organizations: IOC/UNESCO, WMO

Major groups: the Global Ocean Observing System, and the Committee on Earth Observing Satellites.

Leading Partner:

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative:

To establish and sustain ocean data gathering, analysis and predictive systems for the marine environment, accessible to all nations, providing safer and more efficient ocean operations, improved safety and risk management in the marine environment and coastal seas, as well as an improved scientific and information basis for marine and ocean policy development.

Relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21, as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

Agenda 21 Chapter 17.8 requires coastal states to improve their capability to collect, analyse, assess and use information for sustainable use of resources, including environmental impacts of activities affecting the coastal and marine areas. Other sections (e.g. 17.35) also call for cooperation and collaboration in making the appropriate observations and developing the appropriate information management systems. GODAE will attempt to bring the benefits of high technology to bear on global marine environmental issues, with products that will benefit all coastal states.

Draft WSSD Plan of Implementation (12 June 2002)

Through its contribution to a global ocean observing infrastructure and development of data applications and services, this project will contribute to the negotiated outcomes of WSSD and the overall goals of sustainable development. GODAE has direct links with the Plan of Implementation – for example, through underpinning “improved scientific understanding and assessment...” (para 34); contributing to the activities identified in paras 29 b) “to achieve sustainable development of oceans, coastal areas and seas”; e) & g) “integrated multidisciplinary

and multi-sectoral coastal and ocean management”; and 31c) “development of diverse approaches and tools for better coastal and ocean management”. The project also links to other aspects of the Plan of Implementation (e.g. disaster management, sustainable development for small island states, and information for decision makers).

Expected results:

The Project will establish a practical and effective approach to providing routine ocean services, supported through the initiatives and technology of developed nations, but delivering products that are widely accessible and of benefit to all coastal states. Products for the open ocean and coastal regions will contribute to and benefit marine ecosystem management, coastal ocean services and warnings, and safety and risk management for the oceans. GODAE will demonstrate the benefits of a cooperative, integrated approach to development of sustained infrastructure that can be shared and exploited by all nations. Coastal states will have immediate access to data and model interpretations of ocean currents and ocean conditions, much as is the case for weather prediction. Through 2003-2005, GODAE will demonstrate the feasibility and benefits of an integrated approach to oceans issues and provide a framework for informed decision-making and policy development. Ongoing and timely access to relevant information will enable early detection of environmental changes and reduce the uncertainties associated with management of the marine environment.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

- 2003 - 2005: Intensive demonstration phase involving prototype analysis and prediction systems using data from an observational network greatly enhanced through the recent global deployment of 3000 autonomous ocean profiling instruments (the *Argo* project). Regional partnerships will also be developed to promote optimum use of products and specific projects will target marine ecosystem and coastal issues.
- 2006-2007: Consolidation of successful components in a long-term, international collaborative observing, processing and predictive system, with globally available ocean services and routine access to information relevant to the coastal and marine environments.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism:

GODAE is a Pilot Project of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and has strong links into both research and operational agencies. The International GODAE Steering Team, supported by the GODAE Office in Melbourne, Australia, will oversee implementation of the scientific and technical elements. A Patrons Group will coordinate agency sponsorship among the partner nations.

Arrangements for funding:

GODAE will be an autonomous self-supporting initiative funded principally through the agencies represented on the Patrons group. IOC/UNESCO and WMO are key intergovernmental sponsors and Patrons. Several GODAE Partners enjoy strong links with the private sector, and there are significant commercial prospects.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer:

GODAE will contribute to capacity enhancement of developing coastal states through the activities of the Global Ocean Observing System and via targeted regional partnerships that will allow coastal nations to draw benefit from sophisticated, but highly relevant, ocean products and services.

GODAE seeks to provide the “content” for a wide range of ocean value-adding activities. The technology transfer is principally in the form of ocean data and products, made widely available through the internet and advanced information technology. The key element for successful transfer will be the establishment of user interfaces that permit easy access to complex information, at minimal to no cost, but through partnerships that allow proper local interpretation and application of this knowledge.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any):

The principle link is through the Global Ocean Observing System that is sponsored by IOC/UNESCO and UNEP, among others. An ecosystem approach to sustainable development and management is a key platform of this initiative, and GODAE will contribute through provision of needed information on the physical state of the ocean and coastal regions. GOOS has strong links to the Regional Seas program and to GESAMP (among others).

Monitoring Arrangements:

GODAE will be developed according to a prescribed schedule and plan, approved by its Patrons and sponsoring groups. The Implementation Plan will be released around the time of WSSD. Progress reports will be available to Member States of IOC and through electronic publications and written reports. GODAE will provide regular reports to GOOS.

Other relevant information:

GODAE Web Page: <http://www.bom.gov.au/GODAE/>

Strategic Plan: http://www.bom.gov.au/GODAE/Planning/Strategic_Plan.pdf

Implementation Plan: <http://www.bom.gov.au/GODAE/IP/>

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