

WHY THE CONFERENCE?

If the peoples of the World are to enjoy a high quality of life and prosperity, they must move toward a sustainable future through capacity development.

The capacity development programme, which includes development, fostering of and support for infrastructure and resources for the benefit of Member States, is central to the overall roles of all governmental and non-governmental organisations dealing with marine related issues. It is linked to existing and planned scientific, monitoring and management programmes and helps to support and sustain them. Pursuing progress in capacity development is a common objective.

During the past 50 years we gained the knowledge, which is revealing the need for increasing effectiveness of capacity development methods. There is clear consensus that education and training are key elements in the capacity development process. The knowledge, skill and enthusiasm of the oceanographic community is needed if we want to see our oceans and coasts safe and sustainably used in the future. Capacity development process will help to build abilities for critical thinking and problem solving and bring in new generations of scientists and practitioners who will be able to work in a multidisciplinary way in the ocean and coasts areas using novel measurement and data collection techniques.

The Conference will help to promote sustainable ecological teaching and training practices at all levels built upon existing experiences with enduring long-term impacts, addressing both the «know-why» and the «know-how». The Conference will discuss the ways of maximizing the effect of investing to the education and training processes as Part of the response to the world financial crisis, and of ensuring complementarity and funding.

PARTICIPANTS

The Conference programme will be designed for, but not limited to, various organisations, individuals and groups. They will include international governmental and non-governmental organisations, donors and funding agencies, policy makers including public officials, scientists, planners, researchers and academicians, practitioners and teachers, students and citizens to discuss and take home new ideas and best practices that will benefit all of them.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS?

Overarching objectives of the Conference will be to establish a platform for the exchange of views on sustainable education and training methods in marine related areas in order to ensure that the gains made in capacity development in the last 50 years are not lost.

The Conference will help to develop ways for meeting new challenges and increasing effectiveness of the results. The Conference will identify new policies in education and training which are needed to target the development goals facing the humankind such as shortage of fresh water and food, unemployment and poverty, and will identify ways for strengthening the capacity of educational institutions to lead programmes focused on ocean's protection and research and on sustainable development issues.

Finally, the Conference will stimulate and examine practical opportunities for cooperation based on common competencies and interests, make recommendations for putting into practices the ideas formulated by the participants and propose methods and ways of implementation based on the last 50 years of experience and with a clear vision of the future.

HOW WILL THE CONFERENCE BE ORGANISED?

The Conference will provide an open international forum.

The Conference will be implemented through convening plenary sessions, round table discussions and thematic seminars. The programme of the Conference will be circulated to all with the second announcement. The plenary speakers and chairs of the seminars will be selected from key personalities known for their competence in capacity development not only in the areas related to the ocean and coasts but also in other areas of knowledge which may be of interest to the participants and correspond to the Conference' objectives.

Abstracts of the selected presentations and posters will be compiled in a booklet and made available to attendees at the beginning of the Conference.

Space will be available for posters' presentations during the Conference.



THE CONFERENCE WILL LOOK FOR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

- What is the education and training in marine science about?
- Who are those to be educated and trained and for what?
- What is the role of relevant international organization in promoting and fostering the education and training policy?
- Can new methods of education with the use of modern technological achievements in the area of communication and information exchange be a panacea for solving problems of capacity development?
- How much funding is needed to support the training programme?
- What are the obstacles to progress in the field of education and training in marine science?

LANGUAGES

The Conference will be conducted in English and Russian. Interpretation will be available for oral presentations from English to Russian and from Russian to English.

Texts of presentations and abstracts as well as posters should be provided in English with a sole responsibility of authors for proofreading/editing.

VISA

Visitors to Russia generally need entry visas. If you need visa, please submit a duly filled in participant form and a copy of the main page of your passport with the photo to the Local Organizing Committee of the Conference at least three months in advance of the official opening of the Conference. This information will be needed to send you an official invitation letter to the Conference which you will provide with other necessary papers to the Russian Embassy or Consulate in your country while making an official visa application.

At the homepage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia (http://www.mid.ru/zu_r.nsf/straconsweb) you can find a link to your country's Embassy or Consulate to download and print the visa application form and know more about the application procedures.

For further enquiries on visa application feel free to contact the Local Organizing Committee of the Conference. Ms Svetlana Kononova (e-mail: kononova@rshu.ru, тел.7 812 4445636, факс.7 812 4446090) will help you receiving visa. Feel free to contact her if you have any relevant questions.

HOTELS

St.Petersburg has a wide network of hotels of different prices. You will find more information about accommodations in St.Petersburg during the Conference in the second announcement.

Dear Colleagues,
Greetings from St.Petersburg!

I am pleased to announce that the International Conference on 50 Years of Education and Awareness Raising for Shaping the Future of the Oceans and Coasts will be held in St.Petersburg on the banks of the Neva River under the auspices of the Russian State Hydrometeorological University (RSHU) from 27-30 April, 2010. As a Rector of the University I am honored to be an official host of this important event.

Russian State Hydrometeorological University was formed 80 years ago in 1930. It is considered today as one of the best universities in Russia. During the last years we have started educational and training programmes where such disciplines as meteorology, operational hydrology and oceanography are integrated to meet the need for professionals who can address research and management questions as well as socio-economic aspects.

The University is a Regional Meteorological Training Center (RMTTC) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). More than 500 students from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America graduated from WMO RMTTC and are now working as top managers in their countries. Among the University graduates there are heads of research institutes, ministers, academics, and top managers. The University maintains contacts with its graduates, international organizations and educational and research centers from all over the world.

Research work has always been among the priorities of RSHU. World famous scientific schools have been created and large-scale international projects have been carried out under the aegis of UNESCO and WMO.

The 2010 Conference is expected to be a landmark event for the capacity development and a valuable contribution to the 50th anniversary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). The prospects for effective capacity development through education and training will be considered and proposals made for putting into practice new ideas, methods, institutions and measures of implementation.

We look forward to your registration for the Conference and your contribution to its objectives. With your presence, I am confident that we will be able achieve further progress with the development and nurturing of human resources through the concerted action of all participants.

Lev Karlin

FOR MORE INFORMATION

In October 2009 you will receive the second announcement which will contain information on the composition of Local and International Organizing Committees, programme of the Conference, names of key speakers, themes of thematic sessions, registration forms, formats for your presentations and more information on local arrangements. More information on the registration procedure will also be available on the Conference website: <http://www.rshu.ru/IOC50>.

Meanwhile we will keep you regularly informed of all new developments through the Conference contact points in the Local Organizing Committee: Dr.Vitaly Sychev, IOC-UNESCO/RSHU Chairholder; e-mail: ioc50@rshu.ru, tel.: 7 812 244 21 55; fax: 7 812 444 60 90, and in the IOC Secretariat: Dr.Ehrlich Desa, Head Capacity-Building Section; 1,rue Miollis; 75732 Paris Cedex 15; France; tel:33 (0)14568 4016; fax: 33 (0) 14568 5812/10; e-mail: E.Des@unesco.org

INFORMATION FOR SPONSORS

The Organizers of the Conference will be thankful to all who will be able to support the Conference financially and promote its objectives. You are welcome to finance the Conference as a whole or fund different activities within the programme of the Conference or support the participation of experts from developing countries.

At the same time each sponsor will have certain benefits and opportunities in supporting the Conference. They will receive complementary guest packages, permission to use the conference logo. Their logos will be used on all Conference materials. Input of sponsors will be specially acknowledged in welcome addresses of the representatives of the St.Petersburg Administration and of the Organizers of the Conference. Sponsors will have an opportunity to demonstrate their products and publications relevant to the theme of the Conference, in the area allocated for the demonstration of posters and the exhibition.



NOTE THE DATES

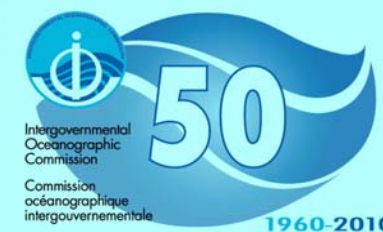
Second Announcement	October 2009
Beginning of the Registration, Submission of Abstracts	January 2010
Hotels Booking	March 2010

PLACE OF THE CONFERENCE

Russian State Hydrometeorological University (RSHU)
98,Maloochtinskii prospect, 195196, St.Petersburg, Russia
Telephone: 7 812 444 41 63, Fax: 7 812 444 60 90

SAVE the DATE!

27 – 30 APRIL, 2010 St.PETERSBURG, RUSSIA
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
50 YEARS OF EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING FOR
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE OCEANS AND COASTS



International Conference 50 Years of Education and Awareness Raising for Shaping the Future of the Oceans and Coasts

Sharing lessons learned and
proposing long-term projections

*(input to the Millennium Development Goals and
UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development)*



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

27 – 30 APRIL, 2010

ST.PETERSBURG, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

