



# **INTER-ISLAMIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON OCEANOGRAPHY (OF COMSTECH)**

## **Eleventh Executive Committee of INOC**

İzmir, Turkey, 16-17 September 2016

INOC/EC 11/11

Report of the Meeting

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Prof. OZEL delivered an opening speech and welcomed all the participants.

Prof. ERGÜN briefed about the agenda of the meeting. Further note the additional agenda items being International FABA Symposium and SWOT Analyses.

Prof. KHALAF commented that last two years events taking place in IRAN, Azerbaijan and Pakistan, but west of Mediterranean (eg. Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt) nor far east.

Prof. ERGÜN replied that there will be organizations in Malaysia and Indonesia. Tried got in contact with Oman with no success. Tunisia approached to organize the aquaculture training. To date, no response received. Nevertheless, Turkey can also be a good candidate for the training since it has the capacity and knowledge accumulated last 40 years. Dr. ÇİFTÇİ will organize a training course in the SEISMIC Lab.

Prof. ZAKER commented that aquaculture training is important and it should be organized. Investments on this sector during last years have accelerated in Iran. Therefore, if Tunisia cannot be a candidate venue why not hold the training in Turkey.

Prof. DOUABUL mentioned that there may not be enough research facilities in Tunisia. The reason for the north African countries being absent for last two years' events may be they are mainly French speaking. For example, in the training course about molecular taxonomy in Algeria could not be participated by Iraqi researchers due to visa problem. I would recommend to pay a visit for last time to discuss about the training course on aquaculture with Tunisian representatives.

Prof. ERGÜN., we will organize a personal visit to talk on this issue with Tunisians as the last intervention. However, they should also spare some funding for the organization. Thirty thousand USD was spent for the last workshop in IRAN.

Prof. ZAKER commented on the matter that the training course should not be postponed further. If not in Tunisia, it can be organized in Turkey.

Prof. ERGÜN asked to elaborate on the status of aquaculture sector in Turkey from Prof. CİHANGİR and Assoc Prof. GÜÇLÜSOY.

Prof. CİHANGİR briefed about the status of the aquaculture sector. He mentioned that sector commenced its operations in 1980s, Izmir province and its coasts is the center for the sector. Respective government bodies supported the sector to provide aquaculture products to the market which was not receiving enough fish from Turkish Seas to accommodate the costumers demand.

Prof. ERGÜN replied that INOC Secretariat will organize a mission to Tunisia to look for the possible partners to organize the intended training on aquaculture.

Prof. JAN stated that more members should be actively involved in INOC, and also more members should be invited; in particular, from far east and western Mediterranean countries. Islamic countries from Africa should also be involved. He added that a final effort should be made to convince Tunisian representatives about the aquaculture training, and they should be informed that INOC do not seek or full sponsorship, but a partial contribution.

Prof. ERGÜN mentioned that COMSTECH also provided contribution in the last training. For this event, not only COMSTECH, but IDB, INOC and country is looked for the contribution.

Prof. KHALAF: Which organization have you contacted in Tunisia?

Prof ERGÜN: Through the reference of the Tunisian delegate Prof.Dr. Cherif at the last IOC meeting in Paris. It will be better to pay a visit to Tunisia to decide about the location of the venue.

Prof. JAN I would like to remind that the training to be organized by the end of this year.

Prof. ERGÜN responded that this can be shifted latest to end of February in 2017.

Prof. JAN: When respective organizations will be contacted they should also be informed that majority of the cost incurred by the COMSTECH, INOC, IDB etc. This required funding should not prevent the willingness of the potential institutions of the organizing country.

Prof. ERGÜN briefed about agenda point regarding new proposals including study proposal on ocean mapping, Antarctica expedition and oceangoing research vessel.

Prof JAN: COMSTECH helps all the networks including INOC operating under its umbrella. Unfortunately, the Summit and the General Assembly (GA) of COMSTECH had to be postponed twice. Science Report of the last GA recommends promotion of oceanography in OIC countries. Regarding the new proposals, we checked for the research vessels of the OIC countries and found out that there are 37 marine research vessels exist in OIC countries. Among these vessels, Qatar and Indonesia had oceangoing research vessels. The list of these vessels can be given as an appendix to this meeting's report. It should be checked by the member states of INOC. Concerning the Antarctica expedition, to date, Pakistan team organized two expeditions. Their experience may guide the joint Antarctic survey of the OIC/INOC member states. It is worth noting that unless there is sufficient finance good science will not be performed. It will be a good opportunity to highlight importance of these new proposals and seek for finance at the next OIC meeting to be organized in Astana, Kazakhstan in 2017. Another major issue is to communicate science to public at large. For this COMSTECH will organize a training course to the journalist on this matter in Pakistan.

Prof. ZAKER: informed that the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) organized its last meeting in Malaysia. Malaysia and Pakistan are the member states and Iran is associate member, Turkey also became an associate members. With the experiences of these countries, COMSTECH may organize a workshop on a common expedition.

Prof ERGÜN: This workshop may be organized in Karachi. INOC will request this with official letter from COMSTECH.

Prof. ÇİFTÇİ: Science team of this expedition should also be discussed as an agenda item at the feasibility workshop.

Prof. ERGÜN: This indeed should be one of the agenda items. Antarctic expedition is beyond the national interest. Even SCAR experience may be received.

Prof. ZAKER asked what will be the future actions regarding the ocean mapping.

Prof. ERGÜN: stated that INOC can easily organize a workshop on this with the DEU-IMST of which the capacity in terms of experienced personnel and infra-structure well set. For the last 7 years DEU-IMST involved in a European project for the European Seas on this front. Two more years will spend to map the European Seas.

Prof. JAN: Nevertheless, the political dimensions should also be taken into account; especially, the territorial waters issue. Moreover, International players may discourage this activity. The respective states should be informed and convinced that the information obtained on this will be the sole wrights of that country.

Prof. ERGÜN: Even the existing data is not known. This can be collated. Further briefed about the importance of the mapping in relation to civilizations in the middle east and elsewhere. Especially, coastal waters in particular deltas are of great concern.

Prof. KHALAF: River sedimentation can also be monitored.

Prof. ERGÜN: Why not. Information is also necessary for the predictions.

Prof. DOUABUL: I believe it is important to organize events such as trainings, workshops, symposia. It is as well very important to design and implement follow-up future projects afterwards. This is one of our main concerns.

Prof. ZAKIR: We believe each of the proposals are important. However, is it necessary to build an oceangoing R/V?

Prof. JAN: There are more than 37 R/Vs. These with their specifications should be made available at the INOC web site for all members of INOC and interested parties. This may be a good starting point for collaboration.

Prof. DOUABUL: Informed that Iran has a R/V of 50 m, will have another one 55 m in 2017. Qatar has 42 m R/V.

Prof ÇİFTÇİ: K. Piri Reis R/V of DEU-IMST is about 36-38 m. Turkey also have R/V of 85 m operating by TPAO, 90 m by MTA and 55 m by TUBITAK (Turkish Research Council).

Prof JAN: The most important matter is willing parties to work together.

Prof ZAKIR: South Africa, Indonesia, Japan, Iran and Pakistan are conducting a joint scientific research in the Indian Ocean.

Prof. DOAUBUL: This kind of cooperation will not be very easy in the Basra Gulf, though there is a good example between 2001-2006.

Prof ERGÜN: This should be tried again for Basra.

Prof. DOUBUL: Indeed, this should be proposed again at the OIC summit.

Prof ERGÜN: Azerbaijan may also talk about Caspian Sea cooperation.

Prof. DOUBUL: Iran may coordinate about Caspian Sea.

Prof ERGÜN: INOC will become member of REGIONAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE ON OCEANOGRAPHY FOR WEST ASIA (RCOWA), IRAN.

Prof. KHALAF: Lebanon also has a research vessel provide by Italian government, and this is missing from the R/Vs' list.

Prof. DOAUBUL: Iraq has an 82-m R/V which still under construction and amendments. I request to hold the next EC meeting to be organized in Basra.

Prof. ERGÜN: This will not be possible until the next GA meeting where this should also be decided upon. Moreover, prior to GA majority of the INOC members should fulfill their membership fee payment.

Prof KHALAF: How many countries are the members of INOC?

Prof ERGÜN: 22 out of 57 Islamic countries.

Prof. ZAKIR: At next meeting of COMSTECH its members should be encouraged to also become a member of INOC.

Prof. JAN: Every two-year GA represented by the Ministers of COMSTECH to convene. Executive Committee gathers every year. There are 57 member states of COMSTECH. Next OIC Summit should be participated and our demands should be shared and sought for support. Oceanography and space research areas are one of the main interests. IDB should also be encouraged on this regard.

Prof. DOAUBUL: Gave an example of the Gulf countries being member to many networks for example UNESCO / UNEP; however, with no, if not very little, outcomes. No tangible results and commitments.

Prof. JAN: Not enough implementation.

Prof ERGÜN & Prof. DOUBUL: We try our best with whatever we have in our hands.

Prof JAN: Though, I do not know if it will be right approach, common projects should be identified and prepared and carried out among interested members of INOC and

Prof. DOUABUL: At least we need to show one good example on this so as to motivate more countries.

Prof. ERGÜN: SOSMED project was a good example; however, it did not work out due to political unwillingness among the executing countries. COMSTECH and INOC should do something to keep these countries cooperating together. We must try and try.

Prof. ZAKIR: We support this.

Prof DOAUBUL: In the Strait of Hormuz, 9 countries including Kuwait, Iraq and Iran may work for a common project.

Prof ZAKER: This should be worked upon before the COMSTECH meeting.

Prof. ERGÜN: Seismic training may also be given.

Prof. ZAKER: R/V entitled "Researcher of the Persian Gulf" still under construction. It will be a multi-task R/V.

Prof. CIHANGIR: Delivered information about the coming FABA meeting on fisheries, and asked to organize this meeting in IRAN in 2018 with the cooperation of INOC.

Prof. ERGÜN: Do you have further cooperation like with JICA?

Prof. CIHANGIR: Not yet.

Prof ERGÜN: Fisheries organization of IRAN should also be involved. INOC can support it.

Prof. KHALAF: Is there a support for the students from INOC countries to participate FABA meetings? INOC may support it.

Prof. ERGÜN: Opened another agenda item on SWOT analysis of INOC. In order to understand what we are as the network this should be carried out. Then we can develop our future program.

Prof. JAN: This need to be for all the networks operating under the umbrella of COMSTECH. Some of these operating well, but some others.

Prof ERGÜN: This is the issue of COMJSTECH to see what all the networks are and what will be in the future.

Prof. JAN: COMSTECH will follow-up. Like INOC, some of the networks do their SWOT analysis by themselves. This process will closely be taken care by COMSTECH.

Prof. DOUABUL: If any network does not operate, will it be terminated.

Prof. JAN: COMSTECXH do not have rights on this matter. If one center is not functioning, it is their decision about future fate of the network. Basic requirements should be fulfilled for example organizing GAs, and participation etc.

Prof KHALAF: How many networks operates under the umbrella of COMSTECH?

Prof. JAN: There are thirteen COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Networks. Some are not functioning satisfactorily.

Prof. KHALAF: If we want to evaluate INOC, where is its place among other networks?

Prof. JAN: We do not compare networks. We just check whether satisfactory or not.

Prof. ZAKIR: Is this SWOT analysis will be about functioning of INOC or the partner states? I found out that in the SWOT analysis document you distributed there are questions regarding human resources, opportunities, euro-med association etc?

Prof. KHALAF: This was applied in Lebanon.

Prof. JAN: The questionnaire needs to be modified for the COMSTECH Networks.

Prof. ERGÜN: We will need COMSTECH help on this respect to elaborate and develop the SWOT analysis questions.

Prof. CİHANGİR: Won't they each country should apply SWOT to themselves?

Prof. ERGÜN: No. This is just for INOC.

Prof. JAN: We can only do the SWOT analysis for the Inter-Islamic Networks, but have no authority to conduct SWOT Analysis of the countries.

Prof. ERGÜN: Countries will evaluate how INOC functioning.

Prof. ZAKIR: Constitution of INOC will be checked.

Prof. ERGÜN: Yes.

Prof. JAN: We will invite an expert from management sciences to evaluate the formation of the SWOT analysis.

Prof. ERGÜN: commenced on the budget item. Informed that Turkish Government provides 50 thousand USD annually. In addition, about 20 thousand USD comes from the members. INOC received membership fees from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan in 2015, and Iran, Pakistan in 2016. We are expecting from Saudi Arabia and Iraq in 2016. INOC informs about these to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey.

Prof. DOUABUL: Why other countries do not comply about their membership fees?

Prof. JAN: If not indicated once formulate the constitution of any network, members cannot be excused from the network due to non-compliance of their membership fee.

Prof. DOUABUL: How can we convince other ministries about this complies when majority do not respect?

Prof. KHALAF: It would be easier if the country fees could be classified according to their economic power, Lebanon could then easily comply with this.

Prof. DOUABUL: Active / non-active membership is important to evaluate. This should be reevaluated at the GA.

Prof. ERGÜN: In kind contributions are also welcome as membership fee.

Prof. ÖZEL: Opened another matter on the presidency. The acting director of the DEU-IMST should be appointed as the INOC president to ease the bureaucratic operations.

Prof. JAN: Membership compliance issues can be taken to next OIC summit.

Prof. ERGÜN: Prior to concluding the meeting asked about the final remarks.

Prof. DOUABUL: Thanked about the organization.

Prof. KHALAF: If membership fee will be decreased it will be easier to comply for some member states of INOC. Thanked for the organization.

Prof. ERGÜN: This is a cooperation network; it should be done whatever necessary for its operation. Thanked for all the participants for their existing commitment.

Prof. JAN: Is it possible to organize a joint expedition to Antarctica in 1,5-year time?

Prof. ERGÜN: If feasibility workshop will be organized in 6-month time, why not.

Prof. JAN: Then, this mission can be discussed in detail and formulate its feasibility. Especially, countries, scientists and contribution should be the main discussion points.

Prof. ZAKER: Prior to sending scientists to Antarctica, scientists get their training in Himalayas.

Prof. JAN: We would definitely need some preparation. We can learn details from members of the Pakistan expeditions to Antarctica.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

### **IRAN**

Prof. Dr. Nasser Hadjizadeh ZAKER

### **IRAQ**

Prof. Dr. A.Z. DOUABUL

### **LEBANON**

Prof.Dr. Gaby KHALAF

### **PAKISTAN**

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***Draft minutes by Assoc. Prof. Harun GÜÇLÜSOY***



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**Decisions and Resolutions**

## **DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS TAKEN:**

1. Tunisian representatives will be visited for the last time whether the intended aquaculture training can be organized. If not possible, the event can be organized in Turkey where there is enough experience and capacity.
2. Possible finance will be sought at the Astana OIC Summit by COMSTECH/ INOC / and its EC states on the new proposals. In addition, specific cooperation among the interested members on oceanography should be presented. Moreover, non-INOC members of COMSTECH will be invited to become a member of INOC. And Member organization will be requested to fulfill their membership compliance.
3. COMSTECH will coordinate and organize a joint Antarctic expedition feasibility workshop in Pakistan.
4. The list of R/Vs' operating at the INOC member states will be given at the INOC web site.
5. INOC will become member of REGIONAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE ON OCEANOGRAPHY FOR WEST ASIA (RCOWA) coordinated by IRAN.
6. INOC will support FABA meeting to be held in IRAN in 2018.
7. INOC will conduct its SWOT analysis according to its constitution. COMSTECH will support this process.



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