

OPENING SPEECH OF MUSTAFA ERGUN
(COMSTECH GENERAL ASSEMBLY; 1 JUNE 2016)

Bismilahirrahmanirrahim, Merhaba,

His Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Purpose of INOC:

The majority of member countries of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) are maritime states bordering the Atlantic coast of North-West Africa, the east and east coasts of Mediterranean, South coast of Black Sea, the Red Sea, the North Arabian Sea including the Gulf and parts of South East Asia. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982, the marine jurisdiction of these nations have been extended to about 10 Million square kilometers Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) over which these countries have *sovereign rights on its resources*.

Scope of INOC:

Economic exploitation of ocean space and its resources is beset with numerous scientific and technological problems in the majority of these countries. Therefore these countries need “Advanced Marine Science and Technologies” for maximum utilization of marine affairs, protection of marine environment and balancing the multiple uses of ocean space. The saying in OCEANOGRAPHY:

“Think Global Act Regional”

Aspects of INOC:

There are five major OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH areas which should be looked after by the Network:

- Oceanographic research in relation to living resources which leads to a better understanding of the relationship between fish stocks and ocean environmental variability and to provide scientific basis for development of fisheries.
- Ocean research in relation to non-living resources is aimed at the study of regional geological and geophysical problems so as to provide the scientific basis for mineral and hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation.
- Ocean mapping covering general bathymetric charts and geophysical atlases etc. which are essential for planning and conducting oceanographic investigations and also for conservation of marine resources.
- Pollution in the marine environment includes base line studies and development of marine pollution monitoring system, with a view to provide a sound scientific basis for regulatory action to protect the marine environment.
- Network will coordinate the ocean component of the atmosphere and climate research to understanding of the ocean's role in climate change and variability. In this respect the Network shall try to get concerted action towards the arctic studies including the Antarctica.
- Network should support the efforts towards the developments in all aspects of marine technologies.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS SUBMITTED TO COMSTECH:

- **COMSTECH OCEAN MAPPING OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF OIC MEMBER STATES (*OCEAN MAPPING*)**
- **ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION AND INVESTIGATION UNDER THE GUIDANCES OF COMSTECH**
- **COMSTECH OCEANGOING RESEARCH VESSEL**

INOC HAS BEEN ORGANIZED 17 CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING COURSES SINCE ITS FOUNDATION OF 1987 WITH THE HELP OF COMSTECH, IDB, TURKISH GOVERNMENT AND THE HOSTING COUNTRIES.

LAST WORKSHOP/TRAINING:

THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CASPIAN SEA WORKSHOP/TRAINING HELD IN TEHRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN) DURING 7-13 MAY 2016 SUPPORTED BY COMSTECH, INOC AND IRANIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND OCEANOGRAPHIC SCIENCES.

FORTHCOMING ONE:

DEVELOPMENT OF AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION AND TECHNOLOGIES, HOPEFULLY WOULD BE ORGANIZED IN TUNISIA DURING THE FALL OF 2016.

THE NEXT ONE:

MARINE SONAR AND SEISMIC SURVEYS AND APPLICATIONS; IZMIR, TURKEY (SPRING 2017)

***Seas connect people do
not divide***