

OCCASION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF UNESCO/IOC

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In 2010, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary as a UN Specialized Agency dealing with Ocean Science and Services. This presentation is a personal look at the evolution of that organization from its original mandate, to provide intergovernmental support and direction to multinational ocean research expeditions, into a broader and more proactive role in the provision of operational ocean information and products. In particular, the development of the interagency cooperation between the UNESCO/IOC and the WMO is explored. Although the obvious relationship and mutual dependence of meteorological and oceanographic sciences in the understanding of ocean/atmospheric processes has dictated close involvement between the UNESCO/IOC and the WMO from the beginning, the path from the early years to the establishment of the Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology has not always been smooth.
