Mr. Mike Johnson, Director of the NOAA Office of Climate Observation and JCOMM Observations Programme Area Coordinator, added his welcome to DBCP-XXII on behalf of NOAA OCO as a co-sponsor of the meeting, along with NOAA NDBC. He noted with appreciation the work of Bill Burnett, NDBC, and Sid Thurston, OCO, as the sponsor organizing committee, and the work of Dana Dahlbo and Scripps Institution of Oceanography for providing the excellent local logistics.

Mr. Johnson presented a keynote address titled "Data Buoys, a Cornerstone System of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems." Dr. Richard Spinrad, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Research, and U.S. Representative to the IOC, was originally scheduled to provide a keynote address but due to a last minute schedule conflict, Dr. Spinrad was not able to travel to the DBCP meeting. He sent his regrets via Mike Johnson, and asked Mr. Johnson to convey three main sentiments to the Panel: 1) ocean observations are critical to NOAA's mission; NOAA cannot accomplish its scientific and forecast mission goals without a global ocean observing system; 2) international cooperation is crucial to success, and NOAA is committed to strengthening international partnerships; 3) ocean observations add value to society, and at least eight of the nine GOESS societal benefits depend directly on GOOS.

Mr. Johnson noted that the GOOS is a composite system depending on global coverage by the drifting and moored buoy arrays, profiling floats, tide gauge stations, and ship-based systems, plus continuous satellite missions, plus data and assimilation subsystems, plus system management and product delivery. The road map for global implementation that has been accepted by the JCOMM OPA is the GCOS-92 Implementation Plan; this plan has been endorsed internationally including endorsement of the ocean domain as the ocean baseline of GEOSS.

Six global in situ implementation programs are now linked through JCOMM coordination – the DBCP, the SOT, GLOSS, Argo, OceanSITES, and the International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project. This provides an excellent framework for organizing global implementation of GOOS in support of GEOSS.

Mr. Johnson complemented and congratulated the DBCP as being a leader and a model for GOOS implementation. The successful DBCP model includes: 1) shared benefits; the individual national contributions result in a global data set for use by all; 2) shared responsibility; the DBCP has always been a self-supporting panel with all members contributing to the necessary panel logistics and infrastructure according to their nation's ability to contribute; 3) the concept of the DBCP regional Action Groups has been a model for implementation bodies such as the GOOS Regional Alliances; 4) the Technical Coordinator and platform support center and JCOMMOPS are recognized as a successful and effective mechanism for coordinating national implementation efforts; 5) the DBCP actively promotes science, technology development and user feedback; and 6) the DBCP continues to look to the future to optimize the effectiveness of the panel.

It was reported that the present status of implementation of the Global Ocean Observing System overall is 56% of the global coverage targets identified in GCOS-92. A total of

5635 platforms are being maintained globally. Of this total, 1660 platforms are data buoys. Some individual system advancements were highlighted by Mr. Johnson, in particular the sustained global drifting buoy array of 1250 buoys, extensions of the topical moored buoys in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, ocean reference stations, the addition of met sensors to the Chilean tsunami buoy, and the addition of carbon sensors to coastal weather buoys. A new web-based observing system management tool that has been developed by NOAA was introduced; the tool – the Observing System Monitoring Center (OSMC) - is now available for test and evaluation by interested observing system managers, and will be accessible via the JCOMMOPS web site.