

FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to present the twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Data Buoy Co-operation Panel.

We have used the possibilities afforded by the CD-ROM format to include as much documentation as possible on the meeting of the Panel, its task teams, national reports and the associated science and technical workshop.

The Panel continues to support new initiatives to serve both its immediate needs and those of the wider community. Key amongst those are: workshops, to engage with the users of buoy data and establish their current priorities and future needs, and where appropriate to establish pilot projects; and, training programmes, to engage new countries in the work of the Panel, both by increasing awareness and competence in the use of buoy data, and by fostering collaborative activities and deployment opportunities in critical and data-sparse areas: the first of these, directed at key personnel from the African region, was held at Ostend in June 2007, and plans were laid for an in-region workshop on the Western Indian Ocean in 2010.

Pilot projects, to rigorously evaluate new technologies that might ultimately enhance both the research and operational capabilities of data buoys: the first example, the DBCP Iridium Pilot Project, continues to evaluate the global performance of the Iridium satellite system in drifting buoys and will continue to seek opportunities in southern oceans, while three new Pilot Projects have been created to evaluate the new Argos 2-way satellite system and the recovery of two-dimensional wave spectral data from both moored and drifting buoys;

Provision of interim technical support to new observing systems as part of a move to a more inclusive JCOMMOPS organization: the first system to benefit from this outreach will be the OceanSITES network of ocean reference platforms, but we hope that others may follow. The Panel's Technical Coordinator is now supporting Ocean SITES.

At its recent sessions in Paris (September 2009) the Panel affirmed its support from previous meetings (La Jolla (October 2006), Jeju (October 2007) Cape Town (October 2008) to continue these contributions to the global community and identified the necessary funds.

As regards organizational matters, the search to identify a possible new home for JCOMMOPS, the technical support function within JCOMM that is presently staffed by the DBCP/SOOP-IP and Argo technical co-ordinators, has come to a conclusion. CLS/IFREMER in France has been selected as the successful candidate, and discussions are underway regarding the arrangements. It is hoped that the outcome will place JCOMMOPS and its staff on a much more secure footing for the years ahead.

Overall, I am confident that the Panel is both well placed and enthusiastic to continue its pivotal role in ensuring the smooth flow of observations and other data from the oceans to a wide user community, and in addressing new observational and organizational challenges. We look forward to welcoming participants at DBCP XXVI in Scotland in September, 2010.

Al Wallace