

WIOMSA – Proposal for special session on 3 November 2017

Title

Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (2015-2020)

Background

Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) is a major global scientific program which will engage the international scientific community in collaborative oceanographic and atmospheric research from coastal environments to the deep sea over the period 2015-2020, revealing new information on the Indian Ocean (i.e. its currents, its influence upon the climate, its marine ecosystems) which is fundamental for future sustainable development and expansion of the Indian Ocean's blue economy. The underpinning framework for IIOE-2 includes cruises (voyages of discovery) and complementary activities under the following six themes:

- (i) Human impacts
- (ii) Boundary current dynamics, upwelling variability and ecosystem impacts
- (iii) Monsoon variability and ecosystem response
- (iv) Circulation, climate variability and change
- (v) Extreme events and their impacts on ecosystems and human populations
- (vi) Unique geological, physical, biogeochemical and ecological features of the Indian Ocean

Other important issues considered during the planning include data and information management, capacity development, operational coordination, outreach and communication, and translating science for society.

The sponsors of IIOE-2 are IOGOOS, SCOR and UNESCO/IOC.

Several meetings have been organized to plan the participation of institutions and experts in the WIO region in IIOE-2. These have resulted in the preparation of National IIOE-2 work plans for most countries in the region, which form the basis of a WIO Regional Work Plan for IIOE-2.

Goal

The special session will review progress in planning and implementation of IIOE-2 activities, and in particular look at the following issues:

- The draft WIO Regional Work Plan for IIOE-2 and proposals to improve and finalize the plan.
- Expected cruises in the region during IIOE-2 (including deployment of national vessels and planned cruises of visiting vessels such as the RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen)
- Establishment of IIOE-2 Legacy centres for IIOE-2 for Operational Oceanography, Marine Biodiversity, Remote Sensing, and Ocean data and Information Management
- Regional collaboration in ocean surveys and cruise planning
- IIOE-2 data management policy and activities
- Modalities for formal endorsement of projects and cruises as IIOE-2 activities.

It is expected that a South African Research Vessel on its first IIOE-2 expedition will dock in Dar es Salaam during the symposium.

Convenors:

Mika ODIDO (UNESCO/IOC), Charles Magori (co-Chair IOCAFRICA Group of Experts on IIOE-2), Harrison Onganda (co-Chair IIOE-2 Data Management Committee), xx xx xx,