Linking POGO with OceanTeacher
Global Academy

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Background: IODE

- IODE: International Oceanographic Data & Information Exchange of the IOC of UNESCO
- Established 1961
  "to enhance marine research, exploitation and development by facilitating the exchange of oceanographic data and information between participating Member States and by meeting the needs of users for data and information products"
- Global network
  - 80 National Oceanographic Data Centres
  - 50 Marine Information Centres
IODE and Capacity Development

• Capacity development has been a cornerstone of the IODE since the programme’s inception in 1961
• Objective is to assist IOC Member States to acquire the necessary capacity to manage marine data and information and become partners in the IODE network.
• Capacity development teaches the principles of data and information management and promotes the use of "standards" amongst all IODE centres and thus achieve interoperability between centres.

IOC Project Office for IODE

• Based in Oostende, Belgium
• International Training and Conference Centre
• 2005-2013: > 1300 students from 120 countries
• Host for IOC/IODE data and information services
• Support from Government of Flanders and cooperates with Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)
OceanTeacher

- IODE’s capacity development tool
- Web-based training resource for marine data and information management
- Audience:
  - Data/information managers
  - Researchers
  - University students
  - Continuous development

OceanTeacher Model

- Course Management System (Moodle): Courses on data and information management
  - >35 courses available
- Digital Library (wiki): Online content about marine data management and marine information management
OceanTeacher Academy

• 2009-13: funded by Government of Flanders
• **Objective**: establish a facility to provide an annual teaching programme of courses related to oceanographic data and information management and the development of related products and services that contribute to the sustainable management of oceans and coastal areas

Ref: http://fust.iode.org/oceans/oceanteacher/oceanteacher-academy

OTA: results

• 2009-2013:
  • Around 8 course/year
  • >700 students trained
  • Additional courses offsite
OTA Weakness

- Budget limitations resulting usually 1 student per country and maximum 20 students per course
  - Cannot ensure long-term sustainability in terms of national capacity
- Excessive travel time for students from some regions combined limited duration of the courses (usually 1 week)
  - Students cannot perform at their best
- Use of English as the working language remains an issue
  - English proficiency has been one of the selection criteria and has limited participation from some regions.
- To address local issues requires a local focus and local expertise.
  - Need to combine training with locally relevant issues
- Focus on data and information management
  - Need to link to relevant ocean and coastal management issues
  - Need to cover training requirements of all IOC programme areas

The next phase ...

- Move from centralized to distributed training model
- Establish regional training centres
- Promote regional cooperation and networking
- Bring together local and remote students with local and remote lecturers: “cloud teaching”

The OceanTeacher Global Academy
OceanTeacher Global Academy

- Establish **Regional Training Centres**
- Plan, organize and implement training courses
- Serve needs of regions
- Use local experts
- Promote collaboration between Regional Training Centres
- RTCs to be established in IOC-Africa, IOCaribe, IOC-INDIO, IOC-WESTPAC

OT Global Academy: Deliverables

- Project funded for 2014-2018
- Regional Training Centres to be established, operational and locally resourced
- Competent trainers available in all regions
- Training courses organized in topics related to all IOC programmes
  - IODE/OBIS, IODE/ICAN, HAB, GOOS, JCOMM, Tsunami
- Content provided through OceanTeacher Learning Management System
Benefits of OT Global Academy

- Increase the number of OceanTeacher Academy participants
- Reach more students with less money
  - Reduce costs and negatives of long-distance travel by trainers and trainees
- Increase focus on local issues while keeping a global perspective

IODE-POGO Cooperation

- OTA provided lecturer (Dr Murray Brown) for 3 training sessions at Nippon Foundation-POGO Centre of Excellence (CofE) in Bermuda (2009, 2010, 2011)
- 2-week course based on OT University Curriculum in Marine Data Management
  - Total 29 students
  - All training materials included in OceanTeacher
  - Project presentations online at OceanTeacher
IODE-POGO Cooperation - future

• Continued cooperation with CofE
• Cooperate on accreditation of courses
• IODE to provide training to POGO members through OT Global Academy
• POGO members to contribute content and lecturers to the OT Global Academy
• POGO members to share training programmes through OT Global Academy
• POGO members invited to participate in IODE activities: standards, data citation/publication

Thank you!

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