

Global Oceanographic Data

Archaeology & Rescue project for WESTPAC



*to locate and rescue oceanographic data
faced the risk of being lost forever, and promote their utilization.*

GODAR-WESTPAC

promoted by IOC



BACKGROUND

The ocean accounts for 70% of the earth's surface. It not only greatly affects the global climate, but also provides humankind with many benefits such as fisheries resources, mineral resources and places for recreation. It is crucial that we understand the ocean in order to live on the earth.

However, the ocean is vast and full of mysteries, and its environment is so harsh that it makes ocean research activities time consuming and expensive. Cooperation among ocean research organizations and researchers is therefore indispensable.

Moreover, unlike an experiment at a laboratory, the ocean observation under the same condition cannot be carried out again, so it is important to promote secondary and tertiary uses of the observation data, in addition to primary uses by researchers who observed.

Based on the recommendation of the First Session of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) under UNESCO, the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) system was established in 1961 to "enhance marine research, exploration, and development by facilitating the exchange of oceanographic data and information between participating Member States." The First Session of IOC also recommended that the Member States establish National Oceanographic Data Centers (NODCs).

Since its establishment, the IODE system has endeavored to collect, manage and distribute oceanographic data and information, by cooperating with the related organizations and international projects, in order to support oceanographic research activities. Such endeavors have produced tremendous results. Nevertheless, large quantities of oceanographic data and information remain buried, without being managed appropriately.

Oceanographic data and information always **face the risk of being lost** due to the **degradation of recording media, natural and human disasters and accidents** including war damages, and **transfer and retirement of researchers**.

For these reasons, the IOC launched the Global Oceanographic Data Archaeology & Rescue (GODAR) project in 1993 to locate and rescue analog oceanographic data and information as well as digital data which are not being utilized, and to make such data available to researchers in general. The Project has now found and rescued more than two million sets of oceanographic data and information, and these are being made public through the IODE system.

However, in the Western Pacific Region, much oceanographic observation data remains buried and unused. For this reason, the 16th Session of the IODE held in Lisbon in November 2000 recommended that GODAR activities be carried out in the Western Pacific Region. On this basis, in March 2002, persons concerned with NODCs of the region met in Tokyo, discussed methods to promote the GODAR activities in the region, and formulated the five-year GODAR-WESTPAC project plan.

We hope that this project will locate and rescue much oceanographic data and information, which will contribute to the oceanographic research activities of various countries.

GODAR-WESTPAC

TARGET DATA

This Project covers all oceanographic observation data. There are no restrictions as to the type of observation, such as water sampling observation, CTD, XBT, marine meteorological observations, tidal observations, or ocean current observations.

If you have data that might contribute toward the project, please provide an outline (data type, media, quantity, and your contact details (see Form 1)) for the project office.

AREAS COVERED

This Project covers oceanographic observation data and information acquired in the **Western Pacific Region**. For the details on the areas covered, see the back cover.

PROCESSING OF COLLECTED DATA

The collected oceanographic data are digitized and quality-controlled with the assistance of the respective NODCs, and then made public. The state of data collection and processing is made public on the project web site.

DATA POLICY

The collected data are handled according to the IODE/IOC data policy of "**Full and Open Sharing**". They are available for anyone through the IODE system.

PROJECT OFFICE

The Project Office has been set up inside Japan Oceanographic Data Center (JODC). For inquiries on the Project, and provision of information and data, please contact the respective NODCs or the IODE National Coordinator. For details, see the back cover.

SURVEY OF OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

In order to advance the project, it is required to share the information on the situation of oceanographic research in this region. From this point of view, the project is collecting the following information related to marine research activities. The collected information and data will be available on the project web site. The relevant forms are explained below.

Your cooperation in this regard will be very much appreciated.

■ **Inventory of Oceanographic Research Data (Form 1)**

This form is used to supply information on what kind of data are held at the organizations and researchers in this region. The requirements for using such data are also supplied by this form.

■ **Information on Oceanographic Research Organizations (Form 2)**

Names and addresses of oceanographic research organizations, outlines of their activities, etc.

■ **Ocean Research Vessels (Form 3)**

Information on ocean research vessels owned or operated by oceanographic research organizations.

■ **Regular Observation Lines (Form 4)**

Information on oceanographic regular observation lines on which oceanographic research organizations carry out observations routinely by the research vessels.

■ **Oceanographic Observation Stations (Form 5)**

Information on oceanographic observation stations installed by oceanographic research organizations (e.g. tide observation stations, monitoring buoys, observation towers, etc.).

ADDRESSES for GODAR-WESTPAC

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THAILAND

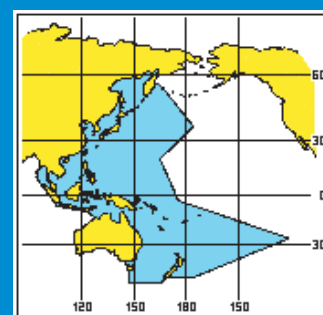
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Target Area of GODAR-WESTPAC