

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

SCS 2012
SHARING KNOWLEDGE,
RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGIES
FOR A SUSTAINABLE
SOUTH CHINA SEA

**Second Conference
for Regional Cooperation in
Ocean and Earth Science Research
In the South China Sea**

Date: 22-26 October 2012

Venue: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Organisers:
Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences,
University of Malaya.
National Oceanography Directorate,
Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation.



Background:

2012 is the Year of Science and it is timely that the Institute of Ocean & Earth Sciences (IOES) and National Ocean Directorate (NOD) convene the second South China Sea Conference to review the achievements in research and other activities during the last 3 years and set new directions for research collaboration in the South China Sea (SCS). In conjunction with this event, the IOES will launch its new Bachok Marine Research Station in Kelantan, attesting its strong commitment to ocean research in the country and region.

The NOD and IOES with its EU partner have just concluded a successful EU-SHIVA Campaign in the South China Sea. This campaign which involved more than 130 international scientists successfully completed a month-long cruise and flight within the region to collect data on atmospheric and oceanic parameters related to halocarbon gases in the environment. EU-SHIVA will report its results in a session of the conference.

This international conference will benefit all scientists, environmentalists, lawyers policy-makers and other stake-holders of the SCS. The participation of major governmental personnel of countries bordering the SCS will contribute to greater success of the conference which will stress on international collaboration for the sustainability of the SCS and its resources.

The conference includes the following 10 sessions that will deliberate on key findings and issues in the South China Sea.

1. Oceanic and Coastal Bioproductivity

Marine biological productivity is an essential element constraining the economic value of ocean and coastal ecosystems. Assessments of primary and secondary productivity from micro- to macro-organisms (including fish stocks) are important to the understanding of marine food webs and carbon fluxes. This session provides a forum to discuss productivity of marine organisms including fisheries, contributions linking marine productivity measurements to environmental variables, and carbon and energy flows in marine food webs.

2. Biodiversity, Conservation and Marine Protected Areas

Habitat destruction, overfishing, pollution, and climate change will affect the various ecosystems in the SCS. Effective management can only be designed based on accurate knowledge of the biodiversity and the ecological interactions. This session will discuss the current status of the biodiversity and ecology of the SCS and identifies the knowledge gaps.

3. Marine Pollution and Biogeochemistry

This session discusses the current and future sources of marine pollution, indicators and consequences of pollution on the functioning and diversity of marine habitats. Topics on marine chemistry changes, impacts of short- and long term pollution on the biogeochemical cycle will also be discussed here.

4. Physical, Eco-engineering and Renewable Energy Technologies

This session covers topics on methodological advancement in human-dominated coastal ecology such as coastal zone ecological planning and management, coastal ecology and ecological engineering for coastal protection and ecosystem vitalization, capacity building for eco-culture, and renewable energy technologies.

5. Marine aquaculture, biotechnology and product applications

Aquaculture industries in the SCS region currently produce >5 million tonnes of marine fish, prawns, molluscs and plants. This session provides the forum to discuss the current knowledge and application technologies in the production of marine organisms and their products, including aquaculture practices and production, genetics and stock enhancement, aquaculture technology and engineering, threats to aquaculture, environmental effects of aquaculture, aquaculture disease control, biotechnology and marine products applications, and seafood safety standards and quality.

6. Ocean-Earth-Atmospheric Interactions

As the SCS is subject to the vagaries of weather and sea thermal conditions, the seasonal monsoon-related air-sea interactions and the longer term ENSO cycle are the most important aspects to be investigated in order to fully understand their influence on primary productivity and human interests. Strong wind stress during the northeast monsoon can cause upwelling, enhancing surface nutrient supply and primary production. On the other hand, warmer sea surface temperature and weaker surface wind as occurring in a strong El Nino event, can inhibit vertical mixing and reduce nutrient supply, hence lowering primary productivity. River discharge into the open sea can affect primary productivity in addition to the complex interlinked issues related to coastal water turbidity and pollution. This session will address such issues and other related topics of air-sea interactions and how climate change may influence the geo-physical and biological state of the SCS.

7. Maritime and Coastal Societies, Geopolitics, Culture and Economy

The SCS flanks a region of high cultural value, fast growing and competing economies, and is itself a geopolitical zone of ongoing and possibly other future contestations. This session provides a forum for discussion on issues of overlapping boundary claims and sovereignty, methods toward minimizing, resolving and avoiding conflicts, sustainability of coastal agrarian and maritime exploitation, impacts of ports and fisheries on the livelihoods and lifestyles of coastal communities, other multiple-use conflicts, coastal people participation in maritime economies, performing and ritual arts practices, etc.

8. Maritime Security

This session looks at the international, regional and national legal aspects of the various scientific issues as discussed in this conference. Every scientific issue will be matched by a legal equivalent where possible, and these translate to issues on laws for an Integrated Coastal Zone Management, ship-based atmospheric pollution, marine biodiversity, conservation, marine protected areas, maritime security, biotechnology, aquaculture, coastal engineering, rights of coastal communities, etc., and development of a code of conduct for SCS.

9. The Coral Triangle Initiatives

This CTI session will serve as a platform for discussions on its success and application in inter-country governance and cooperation, as well as improvements for any setbacks. This session will also examine how all stakeholders may use the CTI framework as a role model for similar large-scale conservation-based initiatives in the South China Sea.

10. Biogenic emissions from the Western Pacific

Marine emissions of so called halogenated very short lived species (VSLs) are known to considerably contribute to the ozone destroying halogen loading of the stratosphere. In this context most crucial are VSLs emissions in regions of large vertical transport, i.e. the tropics and in particular in the warm pool of the Western Pacific during the rainy seasons (November to March).

Contributions addressing these issues are welcome, such as for example from the OPC3 field campaign, the TransBrom RV Sonne cruise, the European project SHIVA beside others. Theoretical studies, such as arising from post campaign data analysis including process, chemical transport models and as well as climate models are also highly welcome.

Tentative Programme:

Date	21 Oct 2012	22 Oct 2012 (Day 1)	23 Oct 2012 (Day 2)	24 Oct 2012 (Day 3)	25 -26 Oct 2012 (Day 4 & 5)
Morning	Registration	Opening Ceremony <i>Keynote Lecture</i>	Scientific Sessions	Scientific Sessions	Field-Trip
Afternoon		Scientific Sessions	Scientific Sessions	Scientific Sessions	
Evening	Welcome Reception		Dinner		

Organising Committee:

Chairperson: Prof. Dr. Phang Siew Moi

Co-Chairpersons: Prof. Dr. Noraieni Mokhtar, Prof. Dr. Roslan Hashim

Secretariat: Dr. Stefano Draisma, Dr. Louisa Shobhini Ponnampalam

Finance: Dr. Lim Phaik Eem, Dr. Sim Kae Shin

Social: Assoc Prof. Dr. Hanafi Hussin, Assoc Prof. Dr Siti Aisah Alias

Scientific: Prof. Dr. Chong Ving Ching, Prof. Dato' Dr. Azizan Abu Samah, Prof. Dr. Roslan Hashim, Assoc. Prof. Datin Dr. Mary George, Assoc Prof. Dr. Hanafi Hussin, Assoc Prof. Dr. Lee Choon Weng, Dr. Bong Chui Wei, Dr. Louisa Shobhini Ponnampalam, Dr. Yuen Yeong Shyan, Prof. Dr. Klaus Pteilsticker (IUP-Heidelberg), Dr. Aazani Mujahid (UMS), Dr. Anita Talib (USM)

Exhibition, Posters & Audio-Visuals:

Assoc Prof. Dr. Rozainah Zakaria, Dr. Mohamed Rizman Iddid, Dr. Yuen Yeong Shyan

Transport, Fieldtrips & Logistics:

Dr. Yeong Hui Yin, Dr. Loh Kar Hoe

REGISTRATION FORM

Please type or print clearly

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Tel No.: _____ Fax No.: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration Fee:

- Malaysian RM600/550*
- Foreigner USD300/250*
- Student registered in Malaysia RM250
- Foreign Student USD150

Presentation: Oral Poster

Title: _____

I would like to join the Post-Conference Tours/Field Trips on 25 & 26 Oct 2012 (Perhentian Islands, SCS); please provide me further information.

Abstract Deadline before 20 July 2012

Kindly send your registration form via e-mail or fax to:

SCS2012 Secretariat

Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences

University of Malaya

50603 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: 603 – 7967 4640 Fax: 603 – 79676994

Email: scs2012ioes@um.edu.my

*Deadline for Early Bird Registration: **5 June 2012**

Registration with full payment before 1 September 2012

