



WP

05b

Agenda Item:

2.1

Person Responsible:

Representative
from Iran

XXXIII SCAR Delegates Meeting

Auckland, New Zealand, 1-3rd September 2014

Application of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Associate Membership

Executive Summary

Title: Application of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Associate Membership

Authors: Iranian authorities

Important Issues or Factors: From the SCAR Rules of Procedure:

Applications for Associate Membership:

1.3.1 *are usually expected to precede application for full membership; and*

1.3.2 *shall be accompanied by a statement of what the applicant hopes to contribute to and/or gain from the Charity.*

Recommendations/Actions and Justification: Delegates are requested to consider the Iranian application for Associate Membership of SCAR.

Budget Implications: \$5,000 annual membership fee for Associate Membership.

In the Name of God

Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Science, Research and Technology
Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science



Application of Islamic Republic of Iran for Associate Membership of SCAR

February 2014

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UNIVERSITY OF TEHRAN

VICE-PRESIDENT
INTERNATIONAL

January 20, 2014

Prof. Jerónimo López-Martínez, President,
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

Dear Prof. López-Martínez,

It is our pleasure to state that University of Tehran, as a Member of the International Council for Science (ICSU) highly confirms the application of the Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (INIOAS) to represent I.R. of Iran as an Associate Member in the Scientific Committee of Antarctic Research (SCAR). The INIOAS is affiliated to the Ministry of Sciences, Research and Technology of Iran and coordinates all activities related to Antarctic research in our country.

We take this opportunity to send you all the best wishes.

Truly yours,

Mohammad A. Mousavi, Ph.D.

Vice-President, International





The Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (INIOAS) was established pursuant to an agreement between the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1992. INIOAS was established with the aims of performing fundamental studies and hypothesis creation in realm of oceanography, searching to develop nation's marine policies and long-term planning for protecting marine ecosystems and exploiting them, making all decision making and decision taking in the realm of marine and oceanographic issues based on research and balanced promotion and scientific progress of issues related to the sea and oceanography with an outlook for futuristic studies.

INIOAS proposed the establishment of the "Regional Education and Research Center on Oceanography for West Asia" to IOC-UNESCO in 2010. Its establishment was approved by UNESCO in 2013 and will be opened in Tehran by INIOAS.

Developing activities and cooperation at national and international levels have always been one of the main goals of the Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science and it has had many efforts to increase such cooperation. At the national level, INIOAS has become the main axis for establishing the "Union of Coastal and Marine Universities and Research Centers (UCMURC)" and the "Iranian Network to for Oceanographic Research and Technology (INORT)". Moreover, the institute has endeavored to promote the "Iranian National Committee for Oceanography" and the "Committee for Culture and Education, the National Supreme Council for Oceanography" in the decision making system of the country. The results of these endeavors lead to the level promotion of these Committees, and of course increased attention of decision-makers and society to oceanography as well as seas, and the admission of oceanography as one of the research and technology priorities in the comprehensive scientific map of the country. Furthermore, this has led to the authoring of a national document, namely

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the plan of development of higher education of the country in the field of marine and oceanographic sciences and expertise. At the international level, INIOAS currently has widespread exchanges with international institutes including the “Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)” – affiliated to UNESCO –, “International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE)”, “Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System (IOGOOS)”, “Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)” and “Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWS)”. INIOAS is the Operational Center of the “International Ocean Institute (IOI)” in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman regions and the focal point for the “Inter-Islamic Science and Technology Network on Oceanography (INOC)”.

Recently, INIOAS has established National Centre for Antarctic Research (NCAR) to expand scientific activities to Antarctica and Southern Ocean. Antarctic has been the focus of attraction for the world because of its global significance for influencing global weather, its unique position at the South Pole, its potential for huge non-living and living resources and its pristine environment to be used as natural laboratory for scientific research. Antarctic is now emerging as an important key in the understanding of global and environmental concerns. Its unique features have provided scientists with special opportunities over the last 50 years to investigate the origin of the continents, the pollution of the globe, and changes in world climate. Meteorology of Antarctic has provided the factors that are essential in forecasting the weather patterns of the southern hemisphere and the circulation pattern of the world ocean system. The ice cores retrieved from the continent act as a repository of information on the paleoclimate and environmental history of the earth. It is clear that Antarctic science will increasingly contribute to our understanding of mentioned issues and other global problems. It is therefore not surprising that, in accordance with the Iranian government focus on environmental issues, there is a new scientific goal on polar research.

INIOAS as the national coordinator of marine research organizations proposed a long term plan to establish a year-round research station to research on the Antarctica and its circum ocean and

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to organize the relevant scientific attempts in a systematic approach in agreement with the SCAR concerns for the development of international collaboration in Antarctic science. The program received acceptance of INIOAS's Board of Trustees and transferred to the authorities to ratify an act as well as providing the budget. As the first step of the long-term plan, National Centre for Antarctic Research (NCAR) has been established within INIOAS to co-ordinate all Antarctic related activities. NCAR is trying to select motivated young scientists in different scientific disciplines to develop an active new generation of polar scientists, engineers and leaders and to capture the interest of the public and decision-makers. For this reason, a workshop is being organized and sponsored by INIOAS for late spring 2014, "Iranian Antarctic Science Program Roadmap" which will gather national scientists, academics, decision-makers and students as well as invited international experts to draft a program giving the guidelines for I.R. of Iran's Antarctic research, which points out the different aspects of being a part of Antarctic Science Community.

A number of national universities and organizations are involved in Antarctic activities and are active participants of I.R. of Iran Antarctic program. The program could be started by getting involved in international collaborations, possibly on project fellowships for young scientist participation in the international Antarctic scientific body SCAR. The main objectives of Iranian Antarctic program are: To undertake multidisciplinary research and survey in Antarctic region particularly in the field of oceanography and environmental research; To participate in the international scientific programs in the Antarctic region and, to provide relevant technical information to the government of I.R. of Iran on Antarctic affairs at National and International level. The most important measures taken so far to establish a year-round research station in Antarctica are:

- Three months participation of Dr. M.R. Shokri, Iranian Scientist in the field of marine science, in the XVIII Antarctic Indian Scientific Expedition

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- Preparation of a plan to establish Iranian year-round research station in Antarctic
- Establishment of NCAR in INIOAS
- Consultation with decision makers at various levels to ratify an act as well as providing the budget
- Study of accession of I.R. of Iran to the Antarctic Treaty (1959)
- International consultations to find foreign partners for training Iranian scientists in Antarctica
- Applying to become associate member of Scientific Committee of Antarctic Research (SCAR)

SCAR associate membership will strongly benefit the national endeavors and provide the solid basis needed for I.R. of Iran to build essential links with Antarctic research.

We are available to any clarifications that may be required and look forward to a positive reply to our request to become an associate member of SCAR.


Dr. Vahid Chegini
Director of
Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science



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