

## Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project

### National Consultation on Mainstreaming Ocean Research for Ocean Management

#### The Programme

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project is a regional initiative driven by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and a number of other international organizations. The Project attempts to evolve a common strategy to the exploitation of shared marine resources of the Bay of Bengal (BoB) on a sustainable basis. Eight countries namely Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are participating in the Project. The Project aims at building a strategic action plan for sustainable use of the marine resources of the BoB by the member countries on the basis of a sound understanding of the ecosystem as well as the socio-economic environment.

Under Component 3 of the project, programmes are being implemented for *Improved Understanding and Predictability of the BOBLME Environment*. The project is aware of the significant research being undertaken in different institutions in India and the voluminous data being generated on various aspects. For various reasons, the involvement of the representatives of these institutions in various project activities was limited. Apart from the difficulties in changing priorities of work at short notice, there are some operational difficulties in roping in the appropriate people to various programmes. The National Unit of the project has encountered difficulties in generating the desired response from various institutions working in ocean sciences.

There are some systemic problems prohibiting the country from taking up the lead role in the marine affairs in this part of the world. Time has come for us to diagnose the problems and take appropriate

curative measures so that we could shine well and deliver the goods for the management of ocean related matters of the region. This could only be achieved by bringing together the major players in the country on a platform to tease out the issues haunting the system and formulate strategies for achieving full-fledged cooperation and synergy.

In this context a national consultation for *Mainstreaming Ocean Research for Ocean Management* is being proposed under the national banner of the BOBLME project for the current year. It is envisaged to bring the institutions generating data on various aspects of ocean under an umbrella for evolving suitable strategies and policies for mainstreaming their research towards addressing the challenges of ocean management in general and BOBLME in particular.

#### Target group

The programme basically targets the leaders of the institutions and senior researchers and administrators from various organizations and ministries. The Secretary, MoES has agreed to play a lead role in the programme. Apart from the representatives of the different ministries, participants are expected from CMLRE, CMFRI, CIFT, NIO, NCAOR and INCOIS, NPOL, NIOT, SAC etc. Representations from leading universities would also be invited to participate in the event.

#### Objective & Strategy

The major objective of the consultation would be to:

Take stock of the various research activities of the organizations and explore areas where collaborations can be strengthened.

Tease out the factors causing impediments in full-fledged cooperation among institutions and in addressing regional and global issues.

Formulate strategies for addressing the emerging requirements, specific short-term issues and long term needs of ocean management.

Examine the proposals for collaborations from various international agencies, prioritise the proposals, identify partners, define their roles and decide on the time line for the activities.

Come out with an action plan for fostering partnership and collaboration and synergise the outputs to facilitate India taking the lead role in ocean management.

The consultation strategy is as follows:

Provide an overview with presentations on the achievements and status of research activities and emerging priorities of various institutions.

Invite and circulate a set of themes and issues pertinent to ocean management among the participating institutions.

Select lead themes of national/regional importance, brainstorm in groups on the selected themes issues, discuss and consolidate a roadmap and plan of action to be submitted to the various organization and ministries.

#### **Date and venue**

The programme is proposed to be conducted in Kochi for two days around mid September 2012. The exact dates and venue shall be intimated by mid-August.

#### **Contacts**

##### **Dr K Vijayakumaran,**

*Director General,*

Fisheries Survey of India (FSI),

Botawala Chambers, Sir P M Road, Fort,

Mumbai-400 001, Maharashtra.

Fax: 022 22702270, Phone: 022 22617101,

Mobile: 09448312631,

E-mail: vijayettan@yahoo.com

**A Tiburtius,** FSI, Mumbai, Mob: 09969151162,

E-mail: tibufsi@yahoo.co.in