

The CREAMS/PICES Advisory Panel meets in Qingdao, China

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The Advisory Panel for a CREAMS/PICES Program in East Asian marginal seas (CREAMS-AP) was established in 2005, and met twice during 2006. The first meeting was convened on April 11–12, in Seoul, Korea, hosted by the Seoul National University. The second meeting was held on October 15 at PICES XV in Yokohama, Japan. Recommendations from these meetings were:

- R1 To support continuation and development of existing national observational programs and, when possible, their coordination, including exchange information on cruise schedules, and data, samples, personnel and equipment sharing;
- R2 To continue Russian–Korean observations along the repeated north–south sections in the Japan/East Sea (JES), and to start (beginning 2007) Korean–Japanese observations along the repeated west–east sections in the southern part of JES; more ecological parameters should be added to the observational programs;
- R3 To implement a comprehensive international basin-scale survey of JES and adjacent areas in summer 2009; the survey should include hydrographic, chemical and biological observations, sampling for trace elements (as a part of the Asian GEOTRACERS program), and observations carried out under regional national programs;
- R4 To develop a CREAMS/PICES Capacity Building Program that will provide on-site training through international research at educational laboratories, training camps, inter-calibration centers, *etc.*, and to organize summer and winter schools for students and young researchers;
- R5 To collaborate with NEAR-GOOS on the development of an observing system, expansion of observational parameters and data sources (*e.g.*, more satellite data), and improvement of international data exchange in the region;
- R6 To strongly support PICES activities related to the development of the GOOS component for the North Pacific;
- R7 To provide frequent updates on progress of the CREAMS/PICES Program via the PICES website, and to publish in 2006 brief information on the program in a special issue of *Oceanography* (by TOS).

The third CREAMS-AP meeting was held on May 18, 2007, in Qingdao, China, hosted by the First Institute of Oceanography of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA). Six members of the Advisory Panel, representing China, Japan, Korea and Russia, and three observers, were in attendance. National reports on activities and plans related to the CREAMS/PICES Program were presented, followed by discussion focused on the implementation of the above recommendations. The following is a brief summary of the outcomes from the meeting.

- The participants agreed on the need to carry out the cooperative physical–biological coupled study related to the recruitment process of pelagic fish and squid in the East China Sea, Yellow Sea, Bohai Sea and JES under the CREAMS/PICES Program. [R1]
- A joint Russian–Korean survey along 132°E will be organized by the Pacific Oceanological Institute and Seoul National University from May 4–22, 2007, aboard the R/V *Professor Gagarinsky*. [R2]
- Three joint Japanese–Korean cruises with sampling for trace elements (as a part of the Asian GEOTRACERS program), aboard the R/Vs *Hakuho Maru*, *Tansei Maru* and *Nagasaki Maru*, will cover the major part of JES and the East China Sea in 2008/2009. [R1–R3]
- A joint Chinese–Korean study of the water circulation dynamics and its effects on the marine environment of the Yellow Sea will be proposed to advance our knowledge on this Large Marine Ecosystem and to further cooperative research between the two countries. [R1]
- The first PICES summer school on “*Ocean circulation and ecosystem modeling*” (co-sponsored by the Seoul National University, the Korean Ocean and Research Development Institute, the Korean Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, and the Brain Korea 21 (BK 21) Program of the Korean Ministry of Education and Human Resources) was held in August 2006, in Busan, Korea, in conjunction with the CREAMS/PICES workshop on “*Model-data inter-comparison for the Japan/East Sea*”. Following this very successful endeavor, Japan will organize a second PICES summer school on “*Ecosystem-based management and ecosystem approach*” to be held in late August or early September 2008, at Hokkaido University, in Hakodate. Potential sponsors include: the Hokkaido University Sustainable Government Project, the Japanese Society for Promotion of Science and the Asia Pacific Network. [R4]
- In order to get financial support for the CREAMS/PICES international research and the CREAMS/PICES Capacity Building Program, a joint Japanese–Korean–Chinese project entitled “*Marine ecosystem response related to climate change in East Asian marginal seas*” will be proposed under the A3 Foresight Program (August 2007–July 2010) to the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science, the Korean Science and Engineering Foundation and the National Science Foundation of China. [R1–R4]

The next CREAMS-AP meeting will be held in October 2007 at PICES XVI in Victoria, Canada. The 2008 inter-sessional meeting is planned for spring, in Vladivostok, Russia.