



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
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COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

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To: IOC National Official Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with IOC
IOC Capacity Development National Focal Points

cc. : Permanent Delegates / Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States

**Subject: Launch of the second IOC Capacity Development Needs
Assessment Survey**

This letter is pursuant to [decision IOC-XXX/11.1](#) of the IOC Assembly in June 2019 to invite the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development to continue its work on regularly assessing the capacity development requirements of Member States.

Launched in October 2018 through [Circular Letter 2738](#), the first survey developed by the Group of Experts focussed largely on regional needs and those of Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. The results of the survey (Annex VI of [IOC/GE-CD-1/3](#)) also assessed the functional needs of a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) as a tool 'to provide interested users in Member States with direct and rapid access to relevant sources of information, practical expertise in the Transfer of Marine Technology (TMT), as well as to facilitate scientific, technical and financial cooperation to that end'. This finding materialized in April 2020 as the IOC Ocean InfoHub Project that focusses on the development of the CHM/TMT in Latin America and Caribbean region, Africa and Pacific SIDS (see Executive Council document [IOC/EC-53/4.3.Doc](#) for detail).

Through the revised 2020 survey, the IOC also reiterates its call on all Member States to designate a national CD focal point (only [32](#) of them are recorded to date) and wishes to expand overall the scope of CD stakeholder groups as follows:

1. IOC contacts (IOC focal points, IOC CD focal points)
2. Ocean researchers and research service providers (including heads of institution, data centre staff)
3. Academic staff (Higher Education Institution lecturers as well as Learning Services Provider staff)
4. Students (at Higher Education Institution)
5. Local government official (including councils, national park authorities)

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6. National government officials
7. Policy-makers (senior government officials)
8. Industry (using, extracting and/or developing ocean resources)
9. Private sector operating in coastal zone (e.g. hoteliers, developers)
10. NGOs (e.g. environmental)

While the Secretariat is collecting as much contact information as possible for the various stakeholder groups, we will greatly appreciate your assistance in: (i) sending us email lists of national stakeholders for the various groups; and (ii) disseminating information within your country on the survey to the various groups, inviting them to fill it in. Respondents can fill the survey independently as their own response in their personal capacity, or on behalf of an institution/organization/company (they will indicate in what capacity when filling the survey).

Widening the scope of stakeholders will provide additional information on the expertise available in the countries – especially in relation to the IOC-UNESCO *Global Ocean Science Report*, and on capacity gaps (human, infrastructure, coordination, communication and policy). It is anticipated that the second survey will enhance opportunities for closer coordination and cooperation between the various stakeholder communities, with the aim of reinforcing and optimizing national and regional capacities.

The online survey is now open at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KN885MK> until the 1st February 2021. It can be completed in about 20-30 minutes.

For ease of discussion with all relevant stakeholders in your country, a PDF version in English and Spanish of the survey can be provided upon request. Questions and requests for guidance should be directed to Mr Peter Pissierssens (p.pissierssens@unesco.org) or Ms Johanna Diwa (jp.diwa@unesco.org).

I would greatly appreciate if you could complete the questionnaire and send the list of CD stakeholders you have identified in your country to Peter and Johanna as early as possible in September so that a first preliminary analysis can be produced on 15 October 2020 for review by the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development. In any other case, the deadline for completing the survey is the 1st February 2021.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary