EDUCATION AT SEA – EDUCATION FOR THE SEA:
MESSAGES FROM THE OSTEND «OCEAN SCHOOL 010»
MEETING
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The ‘Ocean School 010’ meeting convened in Oostende February
16-17, 2010 under the auspices of the Committee of Oceanology of the
Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium and with the
cooperation of VLIZ, the Flanders Marine Institute. Key questions
addressed were (1) are we providing the right marine scientists and
gineers, with the right profile, both to Science and Industry, and if not,
how can we take action, and (2) how can we further promote “education
at sea” and “education for the sea”.

In a first session, various delegates and stakeholders conveyed the
vision of Industry and of Academia on the competences expected from
young scientists graduating as MSc in Ocean Science programmes. The
second session provided an overview of graduate programmes in
particular in the “Hanse World” of NW Europe and hinterland,
bracketed by the venues of the two major international meetings in
ocean science, policy and education in 2010: the IOC50 conference in
St. Petersburg and the EurOcean 2010 conference in Oostende. The
overview, which was not meant to be comprehensive, already revealed a
rich spectrum of complementary opportunities. A particular attention
was paid to the consolidation and development of possibilities of
training at sea, a crucial component of any education towards Ocean
Science and Technology.
A full half day session was devoted to the discussion of the strategy and action plan, along different tracks: (1) enhancing cooperation between Ocean Schools, with a possible NW European pilot project in the “Hanse World” from Ostend to St. Petersburg and hinterland - from *Secondary School to Doctoral School*, (2) the learning of the Governance of the Sea, (3) the learning of Biodiversity, (4) integrating vocational and academic education for the Sea - *Academia-Industry Partnership* (5) European Coastal Stations - windows on the sea, (6) Floating University - *past and future*, (7) mining of Museum collections and Data centres for Ocean Science and Education, and (8) Ocean core science literacy – *towards a Core Science Academy*.

**CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH TRAINING AT SEA: HISTORY AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE LAST 20 YEARS**

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Shipboard training has always been on the IOC agenda. However throughout the years the approach has changed from occasional, non-systematic training provided mostly in the use of modern oceanographic equipment to long-term capacity development programs of training in marine science.

The Training-through-Research (TTR) endeavor started by UNESCO in 1991 at the initiative of Moscow State University and became an IOC program within TEMA in 1995 (Resolution XVIII-14). The founding group of researchers succeeded in combining the two seemingly (at that time) uncompromising needs for education and cutting-edge research, and formulated the concept that is reflected now in the program title. Twenty years ago this approach was innovative and challenging, and no other program of the same nature existed in Europe or elsewhere. Since that time the TTR approach has been accepted globally and applied, fully or partially, in some other endeavours (like the IOC/HAB program or even announced at the site of ‘Institut national de recherche en informatique et en automatique Paris-Rocquencourt’).

The annual TTR cycle as fully established by the year 1992, includes: (i) preparation of an international cruise by the TTR Executive