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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of Unesco)

Thirteenth Session of the Executive Council
Unesco Headquarters, Paris, 23-28 June 1980

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION
OF THE INTER-SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE
ON SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES RELATING TO
OCEANOGRAPHY (ICSPRO)

The twentieth Session of ICSPRO
was held at the IMCO Headquarters,
London, 11-13 February 1980.

A copy of the Summary report of
the Session, together with
comments by the Chairman IOC,
is attached.

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London, 13 February 1980
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INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

INTER-SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE
ON SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES RELATING TO OCEANOGRAPHY

Twentieth session

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION
London, 11-13 February 1980

SUMMARY REPORT

Comments by the Chairman of IOC, Dr. Ayala-Castañares,
on the Twentieth Session of ICSPRO

The Twentieth Session of ICSPRO can be regarded as having been a useful meeting since it allowed consideration of some issues of special concern to the Commission at this stage. Unfortunately, the representatives of the Member Agencies were not at a sufficiently high level (ADG or equivalent) to allow certain decisions to be taken on some important issues, which were therefore left to the next (Twenty-first) Session of the Committee for which it was agreed that the Member Agencies should be represented at the decision-making level. Besides current affairs requiring concerted action by the Members, special attention was given to budgeting procedures and possible sources of funding of IOC's programmes and activities, as well as to the need to define in a more precise manner the contributions expected of the various Agencies.

Regarding TEMA there was a difference of opinion among the Members on the most effective approach (concerted action or bilateral arrangements between the Agencies concerned). Suggestions were made to discontinue the meeting of the ICSPRO/TEMA officers, but it was formally agreed not to take immediate action until EC-XIII considers the outcome of TEMA-III, when decisions would be taken on possible new structure and on future activities in this most important area of the work of the Commission.

Reference should be made to the agreement of the Member Agencies to study carefully document IOC/EC-XII/7 rev. and to come to the next session of ICSPRO prepared to take the necessary decisions on their participation in the programmes of special interest to them.

Recognizing that there are some problems affecting the functioning of ICSPRO and the degree of participation of some Agencies, the Committee agreed, pending further evaluation of the present agreement, that ways of improving the implementation of the present agreement should be found.

Bearing in mind the proposal to undertake this evaluation at the next session of the Committee (September 1980), it is advisable that the Commission prepare for this meeting by defining its own policy and position on the matter, which is of vital importance to the future of the Commission.

1. Opening of the Session

The session was opened by Mr. Y. Sasamura, Director of the Marine Environment Division of IMCO, who welcomed participants on behalf of the Secretary-General of IMCO.

Mr. B. Zupanov, of the UN Programme and Policy Co-ordination Office, Geneva, informed the Secretary of his regret that, owing to unforeseen obligations, he was unable to attend the session as a representative of the UN and wished the Committee every success in its work.

Mr. Sasamura was unanimously elected Chairman of the session, upon the proposal of Unesco.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Unesco suggested that the outcome of the Sixth ICS-PRO TEMA Officers Meeting should be considered under item 3.1. With that proviso the Provisional Agenda was adopted and is given in Annex I; the List of Participants is given in Annex II, a List of Documents is given in Annex III and a List of Acronyms, in Annex IV.

3. Consideration of Adopted Resolutions of the Eleventh Session of the IOC Assembly Pertinent to ICS-PRO (Res. XI-22, 26, 33)

Resolution XI-22 (Marine Environmental Data Information Referral System - MEDI)

The Secretary IOC, in introducing the Resolution, pointed out that its aim was to urge the ICS-PRO Agencies and other participating organizations to step up their contributions to MEDI by submitting Input Registration Forms so that as many data sources (files) as possible can appear in the MEDI Catalogue. He reminded the Committee that FAO, IAEA, ICES, IHO, IOC, Unesco, UNEP, WHO, WMO and IMCO had participated through the Joint Task Team on Interdisciplinary and Interorganizational Data and Information Management and Referral (IMAR) in the founding of MEDI. The Task Team recommended that IOC assume the co-ordinating function for the System (IOC Resolution IX-30). The System was later recognized as a sector focal point for marine environmental data for UNEP's INFOTERRA (formerly IRS, International Referral System). At present, besides IOC, FAO, IAEA, UNEP, WMO, and ICES, IHO and EUROCEAN participate in MEDI.

The FAO representative asked for a clarification of the term "participation" and stressed that his Organization would continue to collaborate at its present level, but could not respond to requests for data on their files.

The Secretary pointed out that MEDI was not a supplier of data; FAO was a member of MEDI and had agreed to contribute to the MEDI Catalogue with options as to the mode of supplying any data to any given user. The participants were requested first to identify new national and international data bases - whether within the framework of their own activities or others they may become aware of - and then to assist with their inclusion in the Catalogue.

The IMCO and the UN (Ocean Economics and Technology Branch, OETB) representatives agreed to discuss their possible participation in MEDI, though their main interest at present would be as users.

The Secretary IOC asked that each participating organization, and especially the ICSPRO Agencies, do their best to provide the requested inputs; he informed IMCO and the UN that if the IOC staff member responsible for MEDI should be in London or New York on mission he would be instructed to contact IMCO and UN (OETB) to discuss with the officers concerned possible relations with MEDI, taking into account the particular situation and requirements of these two organizations.

Resolution XI-26 (Possible Sources of Funding for the IOC)

In introducing this Resolution, the Secretary IOC referred to relevant articles (1, paragraph 3, and 12) of the IOC Statutes concerning support for the Commission's programmes and activities by organizations members of ICSPRO and other organizations.

The representative of FAO expressed his misgivings over the various interpretations that could be placed on item (C) of the Resolution (XI-26) which endorses "the principle that the IOC should determine and submit budget and other resource requirements relevant to projects or programmes of common interest to the ICSPRO Agencies...". The FAO representative felt that such determination was, insofar as FAO was concerned, the prerogative of FAO's governing bodies rather than IOC's. There was no objection, however, to joint work between FAO and IOC and/or other ICSPRO Agencies, so long as budgets were not determined by IOC.

The IMCO representative shared the concern expressed by the FAO representative but believed that the wording of (C) would not constitute a real departure from present arrangements.

The Unesco representative agreed with the IOC role and noted that Resolution XI-26 expresses the wishes of the Member States that other Agencies should follow Unesco's example in providing IOC with resources with which to carry out work of value to the Agencies concerned. It was now possible, with the establishment of the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, that IOC would be called on to undertake large programmes and would implement them not only through Unesco but through the other ICSPRO Agencies also.

The Unesco representative encouraged the other ICSPRO Agencies to respond constructively, through the usual channels of approval, to new proposals from the IOC for co-operative projects.

The UN representative said that the Resolution implies an allocation of funds for joint activities with IOC; in principle, limited provision for this could be made in the UN (OETB) programme budget for 1982-1983, for which, proposals would be required by October 1980. This might present some difficulty, nevertheless, since the IOC budget cycle is out of phase with the UN's.

The UNEP representative explained that his Programme's support to IOC would continue to be on a project-by-project basis.

The Secretary IOC stressed the fact that the IOC has historically acted as a joint specialized mechanism, as reflected in the IOC's Statutes. The principle of inter-agency collaboration and joint action through the IOC via ICSPRO is well established, but recent developments in the field of

international ocean affairs require improvements in the application of this principle. The new initiatives by FAO in the development of fishery resources, especially within the Exclusive Economic Zones or equivalent areas of national jurisdiction, by WMO in climate variability and change, by the UN in sea-bed exploration and exploitation, and by UNEP in marine environmental assessment and management, for example, require improved marine science support. It is IOC's task to promote and to co-ordinate, in accordance with its terms of reference, scientific activities and ocean services, as well as the related transfer of technology, in collaboration with the relevant bodies of the UN system and others; there is not, nor has there ever been, any question of IOC making unilateral decisions or of not consulting with the organizations concerned. Nor has it ever been assumed that Agencies should enter into any joint programme without reference, where required, to their respective governing bodies.

The Committee recognized the importance of the problem and the need to improve present programming and budgetary co-ordination, and agreed that this matter be taken into account when discussing Agenda item 5 on how to enhance the work of ICSPRO.

Resolution XI-33 (Programme and Budget for the Biennium 1981-1982)

The Secretary IOC asked the Agencies present to provide the necessary corrections to the Summary of Operational Funds Required in 1981-1982 which appeared as an Annex to Resolution XI-33, so that correct figures can be presented to the Thirteenth Session of the Executive Council. He also reminded the Committee that the Executive Council, at its Thirteenth Session, is expected to elaborate the framework of the 1984-85 budget for IOC, and asked the Agencies to provide, if possible, in advance or at the session, inputs for that exercise.

The FAO representative was not clear as to how his Organization's contribution, given in the Annex to the Resolution, had been arrived at, and suggested that it was only indicative.

The WMO representative pointed out that the term "contribution" meant rather "budgetary provision" which covered various things such as services, and was not, normally, a cash contribution.

The UNEP representative believed the inclusion of an imaginary UNEP contribution alone in the relevant budget column could lead to serious misinterpretation of its role vis-à-vis the other Agencies.

The Unesco representative, referring to the question of disphased budget cycles, explained that it was now budgeting for a triennium (1981/83) as a first step towards removing the disphasing.

The Committee agreed that Agency contributions should be checked and, if necessary, corrected.

The Secretary noted that all the ICSPRO Agencies had been invited to comment on the IOC's draft programme and budget, and that, besides bilateral consultations, ICSPRO was expected to provide a forum for collective discussion, with a view to concerted action by the Members of the Committee.

The Committee agreed that the Agencies should provide the Secretary, at the earliest possible date, with careful estimates or agreed figures for Agencies' contributions to future IOC programmes and budgets.

3.1 TEMA Activities (Res. XI-24) and Inter-agency Co-operation in the Framework of ICS PRO

In introducing the subject, the Secretary IOC referred to the Recommendations of the Fifth and Sixth Meetings of ICSPPO TEMA Officers, the relevant IOC Resolution (XI-24) and to the status of preparation for the forthcoming Third Session of the IOC Working Committee for Training, Education and Mutual Assistance in the Marine Sciences (TEMA). The Agencies now have a clearer idea than in the past of how to deal with such a complex subject, in the light of the outcome of the UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development as a new element. Since the strengthening of national capabilities in marine science is a requirement for effective transfer of technology, as well as for marine resource development and management, the field of training, education and mutual assistance is expected to expand. The Third Session of the Working Committee on TEMA is expected to define a strategy and the mechanisms required. The Committee recognized that it would be extremely helpful if the ICS PRO Agencies could arrange for their TEMA officers to go to the Third Session of the Working Committee in Buenos Aires (April 1980).

The Committee noted the Recommendation of the Sixth Meeting of ICS PRO TEMA Officers that this mechanism be disbanded.

The Unesco representative declared himself against the discontinuation of the arrangements under which the ICS PRO TEMA Officers are working. He indicated that Unesco will participate actively in the Third Session of the Working Committee and urged the other Agencies Members of ICS PRO to do so as well. He stressed the need to determine thoroughly how ICS PRO could be made more productive in discharging its training and education responsibilities to Member States, particularly developing ones. The discontinuation of meetings of ICS PRO TEMA Officers should not be decided until a better TEMA management mechanism had been determined.

The Unesco representative reported on several TEMA activities in which various Agencies were co-operating including some activities in which nearly all the Agencies were engaged. He specifically requested urgent indication as to whether they could provide support to the International Workshop on Ocean Engineering and Marine Technology, as Unesco and the UN (OETB) had already done.

The FAO representative felt that ICS PRO TEMA Officers' meetings were not valuable since the majority of activities could, in his opinion, be handled on a bilateral basis. FAO was not prepared to commit itself at present to sending a representative to the next meeting of the Working Committee for TEMA.

The UN representative said full consideration would be given to the question of UN (OETB) representation at the Third Session of the TEMA Working Committee in April 1980. He also informed the Committee of a

national training workshop on coastal area management that OETB was organizing for Ecuador, which would be the subject of a letter to the ICSPRO Agencies in the near future.

The Chairman of IOC stated that, from the Commission's point of view, the activities of the ICSPRO TEMA Officers have been very useful. As a consequence of the comments made during the Fifth Meeting of ICSPRO TEMA Officers, the Eleventh Session of the IOC Executive Council will take a decision during its Thirteenth Session, based on the Recommendations of the Third Session of the Working Committee for TEMA. Some of the representatives believed that consultations amongst ICSPRO TEMA Officers between the two afore-mentioned meetings might be helpful in providing technical input to the Executive Council.

The Committee recognized the need to make the best possible use of its Members' limited resources for TEMA. It was noted that, although specific TEMA activities might be dealt with on a bi- or tri-lateral basis, the general policy, planning and co-ordination of measures, and their adaptation to the rapidly evolving requirements of the Member States, could not be properly dealt with on a bilateral basis.

The Committee agreed not to take any decision on the question of ICSPRO TEMA Officers meetings, but to await developments such as the Third Session of the TEMA Working Committee. Members agreed to make an effort to attend that meeting and to take advantage of the participating TEMA Officers to analyze, if possible in loco, the results of the Session so as to be able to provide a timely input into the Thirteenth Session of the IOC Executive Committee.

In relation to the proposal of the ICSPRO TEMA Officers, at their Sixth Session, that the IOC should develop a register of existing scientific and/or technical skills, training and research institutions and facilities, nationally and regionally, the Committee looked to IOC and Unesco to take the lead in this project, and called for appropriate collaboration and assistance of the other ICSPRO Agencies and of UNEP.

3.2 Joint Oceanographic Assembly (Res. XI-38)

The Secretary IOC noted that the JOA is now becoming a classical venture and had been supported by various ICSPRO Agencies. SCOR and other advisory and scientific intergovernmental bodies are responsible for the development of the scientific programme, whereas the IOC and the Agencies provide logistical support. The Secretary IOC has been Chairman of the Logistics Committee in the past, and the Agencies have nominated members. The Agencies may also propose topics for consideration by the Steering Committee for the Scientific Programme of the JOA; this Committee will be named at the SCOR Executive Committee meeting in September 1980. He noted that FAO had, for the previous Assemblies, pre-printed abstracts of the contributions, and he called upon the Agencies to confirm their contributions to the next Joint Oceanographic Assembly (Canada, 1982). Funding for the attendance of scientists from developing countries is one of the main forms of contribution.

The IMCO representative recalled that an ICSPRO exhibit was arranged at the last JOA, and suggested that the Logistics Committee might consider the organization of a similar venture at the next JOA.

The representative of FAO said his Organization was prepared to provide a contribution in kind, and would nominate Mr. E. Akyuz or Mr. G. Sharpe to the Logistics Committee. He informed the Committee that FAO was preparing a major conference on fisheries development and management for 1982; since this is going to draw heavily on his Organization's resources, it might limit FAO's contribution to the JOA.

The Unesco representative informed the Committee his Organization had already committed \$ 30,000 and had nominated Mr. D.C. Krause to the Logistics Committee. He believed that the Logistics Committee must meet soon and should take up the question of an ICSPRO exhibit at its first meeting.

The UNEP representative declared his Programme's interest in supporting the JOA in kind rather than in cash. He said UNEP wished to be on the Logistics Committee and stated that UNEP is prepared to support the travel of scientists from developing countries, film presentations, displays, etc.

The UN representative said his Organization might be able to contribute but might not be able to participate in the Logistics Committee.

The Committee recognized that every Agency has some difficulty in providing support to JOA, but was also aware of the value of the JOA as a contribution to the transfer of knowledge and the evaluation of progress in marine sciences, and thus to the enhancement of the Agencies' own programmes. It also offers a good opportunity to the Agencies to strengthen their contact with the international scientific community.

The Committee agreed that each Agency should try to nominate its representative to the Logistics Committee within a month. It was also agreed that the Logistics Committee would meet as soon as possible, under the Chairmanship of the Secretary IOC, preferably in the first half of 1980, after the Agenda and other preparations had been worked out by correspondence. Agency indications of their contributions should also be determined by then, and the Secretary IOC informed accordingly.

3.3 Major Directions for the Commission's Programme (Res. XI-28) and Related Arrangements

The subject was introduced by the Chairman of IOC who explained that Res. XI-28 had its origin in the activities of the Working Group on the Future Role and Functions of the Commission. He mentioned that during the activities of that Working Group special attention was given to the future directions of the IOC Programme. Document IOC/FUROF-II/12 Rev.2 was an outcome of that exercise. Pursuant to a decision of the Eleventh Session of the Executive Council of the IOC, the above-mentioned document was distributed to the IOC Member States and ICSPRO Agencies for comments.

An ad hoc Task Team was formed to discuss the comments received and, as a consequence, the Secretary of IOC produced the document IOC/EC-XII/7 entitled "The Purpose and Functions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and Directions in its Future Programme" which was the basis for the discussion during the Eleventh Session of the IOC Assembly. He stressed the fact that this document was the result of two years of work by the Commission.

In view of the importance of document IOC/EC-XII/7, the Committee agreed that its Members should bring the document and the relevant resolution (XI-28), when appropriate, to the attention of their own governing bodies and regional and other subsidiary bodies, as well as to their scientific advisory bodies.

The Committee also agreed that the member Agencies would study the document carefully and come to the next session of ICSPRO prepared to have an in-depth discussion of the document and to decide upon co-operative activities which would give full effect to the proposals in the document. Advance comments in writing to the Secretary IOC were encouraged, since this would allow better preparation for the session.

4. Consultant's Report on "Regional Co-operation in Marine Sciences"

Consideration of this Report at the present session was called for by the Committee at its Nineteenth Session. The Secretary IOC explained that the comments received from the Committee Members had been incorporated in the document (IOC/INF-407 rev) submitted to the Eleventh Session of the IOC Assembly. The document was revised in the light of comments and corrections provided by Member States at the Assembly, and is now being translated; it will be sent to Member States in April 1980 and would be considered by the IOC Executive Council at its Fourteenth Session, after which the definite report would be issued.

The Secretary recalled that the present document comprised only the first four chapters of the original study. The fifth chapter, dealing with trends in regional co-operation, was not accepted by the Committee at its Nineteenth Session, for two reasons: between the setting up of the consultant study and its completion, FAO initiated a study of its own on regionalization with respect to fisheries; and in UN (OETB)'s view, shared by other Agencies, it was premature to refer so extensively to the Informal Composite Negotiating Text (UNCLOS). A third phase (a sixth chapter) of the study -proposed solutions to the problems- has not yet been touched upon.

The FAO representative believed that the present document was useful within the UN system as an information paper, but no further development of the study should be envisaged for the time being.

The UNEP representative still had some reservations on the present document.

Some exchanges of views took place on how far the Agencies Members of ICSPRO had gone in evolving their concept of regional co-operation, and whether it was timely to take any forward step in preparing the section reporting on trends.

A summary of the present developments in regionalization in dealing with marine affairs within ICSPRO Agencies and other UN organizations would facilitate an appraisal of present trends by Member States, particularly as they apply to marine research.

The Committee noted that the report of the Secretary General of the UN on "Uses of the Sea" partially covers the matter that was to have been taken in the fifth chapter of the IOC consultant's study.

5. Functioning of ICSPRO and Enhancement of its Work

In introducing the subject, the Secretary of IOC recalled views expressed by Members of the Committee on the need to improve the effectiveness of ICSPRO and to provide a concerted approach to IOC programmes and activities.

The FAO representative believed that it would be helpful to re-evaluate the present agreement in the light of recent developments.

The UNESCO representative agreed that an evaluation of the way the present agreement is implemented would be useful. He emphasized that the co-ordination of marine scientific research taking place within the context of ICSPRO is effective, which has been especially necessary since the disbanding of the ACC sub-Committee on Marine Affairs in 1979 as a standing body.

The question of UNEP's pending response to the invitation to the Executive Director of UNEP by the Director General of UNESCO to join the Committee was raised. The UNEP representative said it was fully prepared to join in any evaluation of the ICSPRO agreement, but it would not consider joining the Committee prior to any such evaluation.

The Committee agreed that, pending further evaluation of the present agreement, ways of improving the implementation of the present agreement should be found. The ground should be prepared for a future ICSPRO meeting attended by high-level Agency representatives (preferably at the level of ADGs/ASGs), to evaluate the present agreement in the light of recent developments such as the UN Conferences on the Law of the Sea, and on Science and Technology for Development. The Committee recognized that above-mentioned external developments, as well as internal changes within the Agencies Members of ICSPRO pertinent to the work of ICSPRO and the IOC, should be taken into account in the proposed evaluation.

6. Other Matters

UN Secretary General's Report on "Uses of the Sea"

The representative of the UN (OETB) noted the excellent contributions of the ICSPRO Agencies to the Report, for which only the Conclusions remained to be done. The final draft of the report will be sent to Agencies for comments, which are required by 15 March 1980. Advantage should be taken of the presence of ICSPRO Agency representatives at UNCLOS to assist the UN (OETB) in the completion of this report.

Proposals of the UN Secretary General for promoting training in
sea-bed mining

The Committee recognized that proposals under consideration were relevant to TEMA in general but did not consider it appropriate to take the matter further at the present session.

7. Date and Place of Next Session

UNESCO offered to host the Twenty-first Session of the Committee in Paris. The preferred dates were 15 to 17 September 1980, subject to confirmation by Unesco.

8. Closing of the Session

The Committee having approved the Summary Report, the Twentieth Session was closed by the Chairman at 1200 hrs. on 13 February 1980.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Consideration of Adopted Resolutions of the Eleventh Session of the IOC Assembly Pertinent to ICSPRO (Res. XI-22, 26, 33)
 - 3.1 TEMA Activities (Res. XI-24) and Inter-agency Co-operation in the Framework of ICSPRO
 - 3.2 Joint Oceanography Assembly (Res. XI-38)
 - 3.3 Major Directions for the Commissions's Programme (Res. XI-28) and Related Arrangements
4. Consultant's Report on "Regional Co-operation in Marine Sciences"
5. Functioning of ICSPRO and Enhancement of its Work
6. Other Matters
7. Date and Place of Next Session
8. Closing of the Session

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ICSPRO-XX/1 prov.	Provisional Agenda
ICSPRO-XX/2 prov.	Annotated Provisional Agenda
ICSPRO-XX/3	Report of the Twentieth Session of ICSPRO (to be prepared during the session)
ICSPRO-XX/4	List of Documents
ICSPRO-XIX/3	Report of the Nineteenth Session of ICSPRO
SC/MD/65 Annex II	Adopted Resolutions of the Eleventh Session of the IOC Assembly
IOC/TEMA-III/6	Report of the Secretary IOC on the Intersessional Activities under TEMA
IOC/TEMA-III/7	Concept of TEMA within the IOC (prepared by the IOC Secretariat)
IOC/TEMA-III/8	Reports of the ICSPRO Agencies to the Working Committee (if available)
IOC/TEMA-III/10	Structure for the TEMA Activities of the Commission
IOC/EC-XII/7	The Purpose and Functions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and Directions for its Future Programme

LIST OF ACRONYMS

EUROCEAN	Association Européenne Océanique
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICSPRO	Inter-secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography
IHO	International Hydrographic Organization
IMAR	Information Management and Referral
IMCO	Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization
INFOTERRA	International Referral System (formerly IRS)
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IRS	International Referral System
MEDI	Marine Environmental Data Information Referral System
OETB	Ocean Economics and Technology Branch
TEMA	Training, Education and Mutual Assistance in the marine sciences
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	UN Conference on the Law of the Sea
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization