Increasing capacity in South and South East Asia
The OA-ICC supported an International Capacity Building Workshop on Ocean Acidification held in Kolkata, India from 26-29 January 2020, to strengthen the research capacity of scientists from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Participants from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand participated in lectures and training focused on key areas of carbonate chemistry, biological effects, experimental setup, monitoring approaches, modelling and socioecology. Participants’ research was presented at a poster session and discussed in plenary followed by national overviews of present OA capacity and ambition.

A field trip to the Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary of Sundarbans mangrove, an UNESCO World Heritage Site, enabled on-site discussions on sampling approaches and informal mentoring. A long-term outcome of this workshop will be the development of a regional hub for coordinated OA research across the regional seas and oceans in South and South East Asia. This workshop was hosted by the Centre for Climate and Environmental Studies (CCES) at IISER Kolkata and included expert contributions from Prof. Andrew Dickson, Dr Haimanti Biswas, Dr. Vengatesen Thiagarajan, Dr Sarma VVSS, Dr Suchana Apple Chavanich and Dr Vinu Valsala. #CAPACITYBUILDING

Participants of the ocean acidification workshop in Kolkata, India. (Photo credit: IISER Kolkata)
Special Issue on socio-economic impacts of ocean acidification on coral reefs

A Special Issue entitled “From Sciences to Solutions: Ocean acidification impacts on ecosystem services—Case studies on coral reefs” was published in the journal Regional Studies in Marine Science, found here. This compilation of eleven publications is an outcome of an international workshop co-organized by the IAEA and the Scientific Centre of Monaco (CSM) in October 2017 in Monaco on the economics of ocean acidification. The publications provide comprehensive overviews of socio-economic impacts on coral reefs around the world, as well as recommendations on research and actions needed to further understand these impacts and protect these ecosystems. Several OA-ICC experts were involved in the 2017 workshop and in the Special Issue.

#SCIENCE

Webinar series: Community of Ocean Action on Ocean Acidification

The UN Community of Ocean Action on Ocean Acidification (COA on OA) is an initiative comprised of stakeholders around the world working to address ocean acidification. The COA on OA, co-led by Peter Swarzenski, International Atomic Energy Agency, and Bronte Tilbrook (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network), organized its fifth webinar on 11 February 2020. This webinar included presentations from Mark Spalding and Alexis Valauri-Orton on The Ocean Foundation’s International Ocean Acidification Initiative (Voluntary Commitment #15877) and from Kim Currie (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) on New Zealand’s efforts to advance ocean acidification and build partnerships within the country to address the issue (Voluntary Commitments #18232, #18286). #COMMUNICATION

POSTPONED

• Third Regional Meeting of the Ocean Acidification International Reference User Group (OA-iRUG), Monaco, March 2020

NEXT ISSUE

• SOLAS-IMBeR Virtual Annual Meeting, 20-21 April 2020

OA-ICC online resources:

• OA-ICC news stream - recent publications, media coverage, meeting announcements, jobs etc.
• OA-ICC website – Information about activities and resources for different audiences / languages
• OA-ICC bibliographic database - over 6,100 references with citations, abstracts and keywords.
• OA-ICC portal for OA biological response data – access to over 1,000 data sets along with references.

The IAEA OA-ICC promotes global collaboration and activities to advance ocean acidification science, capacity building, and communication

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