CALL FOR APPLICATION TO THE IOC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME
ON EROSION AND OTHER IMPACTS ON COASTAL ZONES
OF AFRICA

PURPOSE
This IOC fellowship opportunity is offered in the context of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission’s 50th Anniversary. The fellowships are meant to support visits of 4 young African oceanographers to a laboratory or conference of their choice and in their fields of research. Financial support for the fellowship program was provided by the United States.

The preferred, but not essential, area of research is in climate-change impacts on coastal processes of relevance to Africa. Candidates working in observational, marine meteorology or data management areas will have an advantage.

The aim of the fellowships is to encourage excellent young African scientists to take a greater leadership role in the development of ocean and coastal affairs in their countries.

BACKGROUND
The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO has the mandate to facilitate cooperation in ocean science, observations, capacity-development, and data exchange. In the context of climate-change, international and intergovernmental cooperation in ocean observing systems are expected to improve international capacities to participate in global and regional programs addressing climate change issues. These are issues of especial relevance for Africa.

The capacity-development needs identified by the selected fellows will allow the international community to channel resources in areas defined by the local communities themselves. Climate-change impacts on coastal zones will be an area in which fellowships will be encouraged.

THE FELLOWSHIPS
IOC will support each fellow to a ceiling of 5,000 US$ inclusive of travel, laboratory fees and stay. The fellows may spend time at a marine science laboratory of his/her choice for training or data analysis, or travel to an important conference to present research work.

Four awardees will be selected based on published work conducted in their institutes in any discipline of marine science. Preference will be given to applicants working in climate change science especially on impacts on coastal processes.

In meeting the broad fellowship objective, the selected fellows will:
(a) Report on their high national priorities in marine matters before proceeding on their fellowship. This information on national priorities will also allow them to learn more on what national capacities need development to address these priorities;
(b) Submit a mission report on their return highlighting the lessons learnt on their special topics as well as the broader Capacity-development needed in their countries; and
(c) Conduct and report on the outcomes of a national workshop that details the capacity-development trajectories needed to meet national priorities in a stated time-frame.

These reports will be a useful document that can be used by sponsors to target support within national priorities. Fellowships and all reports must be concluded by June 2011.

ELIGIBILITY
Applicants must be:
- Born after 8 June 1975;
- Holding an undergraduate degree related to marine sciences and three years experience;
- Employed at an institution involved in marine sciences; and
- Fluent in an official IOC language (English, French, Spanish, Russian).

APPLICATION PROCEDURE
Applications for the fellowships should be submitted before 30 July 2010. Please attach your detailed bio-data and a letter of support from your Head of Institution to your application. We will also need written commitment from the head of institute to host a national workshop to identify capacity-development needs. Please also include a proposal of 500 words on the relevance of your research area.

Names of successful applicants will be on the website http://www.ioc-cd.org/ on 1 September 2010.

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