

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF THE SEA  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015**

---

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, have pleasure in presenting their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015. In preparing this report the Trustees have complied with the Companies Act 2006, the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (revised 2005) and applicable accounting standards.

**OBJECTS, PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ORGANISATION**

The charity is a registered charity, number 290776. The charity's object and principal activity continues to be that of encouraging the prevention of marine pollution and promoting and conducting research into its causes and effects.

Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (“ACOPS”) is broadly concerned with environmental policies and scientific issues. It also hosts, conducts and contributes to high-level seminars, meetings and lectures on critical marine policy issues, such as those held with Globe in the Houses of Parliament.

The charity continues to monitor marine pollution and collaborates with other national and international organisations concerned with environmental policies.

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers. The Trustees believe that the Charity’s mission of encouraging the prevention of marine pollution and promoting research is of huge benefit to the public.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, company number 01867863, and is therefore governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees may be appointed under the terms of the Articles of Association only with the power to co-opt until subsequent general meetings to fill casual vacancies as and when they may arise are held. Newly appointed trustees are given sufficient training and instruction in order to enable them to complete their necessary duties.

The charity is administered by its Executive Committee, which includes the Trustees.

The charity was saddened by the sudden death on 13 August 2014 of our warmly and highly regarded colleague Professor Dr. Laurence Mee, Director of the Scottish Association of Marine Science, Chairman of ACOPS and long-time eminent researcher and esteemed policy activist on every aspect of the ocean environment. He had been sailing with his son the day before he had a stroke from which he did not recover consciousness. His career was focussed on engaging government and the public on critical issues, especially with regard to the oceans, by making use of the best research in the UK, Europe and internationally, and integrating this wide range of information in communications and advice on these issues that was both scholarly and accessible. He was an effective expert advisor of parliamentary committees. Our community and, more importantly, our increasingly threatened oceans

- the lifebuoy of our planet - have lost a hugely influential and important advocate.

## **DEVELOPMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR**

ACOPS continues to have Observer status with several Agencies and associated bodies of the United Nations (including the International Maritime Organization (IMO)) and other international intergovernmental bodies, including the Office of the London Convention and London Protocol); the Arctic Council; and the OSPAR Commission (the Regional Seas Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic), which guide ACOPS's activities enables ACOPS to provide technical support for the work of these bodies within its areas of expertise.

### **The Arctic**

The Arctic Ocean is an important area of interest for ACOPS at a time of profound change for the Arctic environment. In addition to involvement in the Arctic Council and the Polar Code at IMO, Professor Hunt was also a member of the House of Lords Select Committee on the Arctic during the 2014-2015 session. The Select Committee report 'Responding to a Changing Arctic', with a specific section on increasing maritime access within Chapter 5, including potential for new shipping routes and associated risks, was published on 27 February 2015.

### **London Convention: 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parties and London Protocol: 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parties, 3-7 November 2014**

ACOPS was represented by Dr Philomene Verlaan, where she followed these topics: deep sea mining, disposal at sea of mine tailings from land-based operations, marine geoengineering and sub-seabed CO2 sequestration. A correspondence group was set up under the Chairmanship of Chile on at sea disposal of mine tailings. ACOPS, represented by Dr Philomene Verlaan, took the position that this disposal at sea should not continue.

#### Update on the Ghana Exchange Program (GXC):

Lord Hunt continues to speak about this in Parliament. Contact is being kept with relevant experts in Ghana.

#### Update on Ocean Fertilization and Marine Geo-engineering

ACOPS has been active in this work undertaken by the Parties to the London Convention and Protocol since its adoption as a high-profile issue by the Parties in 2007. It culminated in an amendment to the London Protocol that formally places marine geo-engineering in general and ocean engineering in particular in a clear international regulatory framework, and defines marine scientific research for the first time in international law. For further information, please see Dr. Verlaan's description and analysis of the ground-breaking work by the Contracting Parties to these two treaties in developing the international law applicable to marine geo-engineering and marine scientific research in an invited article in the International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law 28(4):729-736 (2013).

Asian Network on Climate Science and Technology (ANSCT)

ACOPS is closely affiliated to the Asian Network on Climate Science and Technology (ANSCT), which provides and facilitates exchange of information to aid development of research coordination projects led by Asian researchers. The scope of ANCST encompasses the broad areas of climate science and technology with particular emphasis on disaster resilience, extreme climate events and urban climate change and related topics.

ANCST is dedicated solely to enhancing capacity on disaster and climate resilience research, underpinned by science, technology and innovation. ANCST aspires to bring together researchers from various disciplines to a multidisciplinary platform to strengthen their capacity, while simultaneously interacting with other multi-stakeholder networks, intergovernmental bodies and multi-lateral institutions operating in the region.

Greater capacity to innovate and transmit science and technology would enhance disaster and climate resilience in many parts of Asia. This is particularly relevant for Southeast Asia. Institutional planning and coordination for development of multidisciplinary research programmes on disaster and climate resilience is needed at regional and national levels. Establishing strong networking among researchers and academics is critical for building capacity in multidisciplinary and integrated approaches that address disasters related to extreme climate events.

ANCST is hosted by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia with SEADPRI-UKM serving as the coordination centre, with support from the Cambridge Malaysian Education and Development Trust (CEMDT) in Association with the Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre (MCSC) of Trinity College, Cambridge.

In June 2014 Prof. Hunt and others met with Joy Jacqueline Pereira in Cambridge to discuss progress and future plans of ANCST.

### Workshops

Workshop on **Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate Change in Asia (WACCCA 2014)** 14 – 15 July 2014 | University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Workshop on “**Atmosphere-ocean interactions in the Indo-Pacific basin and their impact on Asian climate**” 23-24 November 2014 | Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru, India

### **The Press**

Throughout the year Professor Hunt writes article for various newspapers.

28<sup>th</sup> August 2014 [Article by Julian Hunt and Yuguo Li: Will climate change drive a revolution in building design?](#) Reuters

10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 [Article by Julian Hunt: Starting with the Arctic: could some effects of the global warming be reversed?](#) The Independent

1 <sup>st</sup> December 2014	<a href="#"><u>Article by Julian Hunt COP is a forum for regional green policies not just global climates target.</u></a>	The Guardian
24 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	<a href="#"><u>Article by Julian Hunt Is Asia is prepared for the next tsunami?</u></a>	The Wall Street Journal

## **FUTURE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENTS :**

- Annual Survey of Reported Discharges Attributed to Vessels and Offshore Oil & Gas Installations Operating in the United Kingdom Pollution Control Zone.
- Continue work with the International Maritime Organisation, following development of environmental regulation for international shipping, undertaken by the Marine Environmental Protection Committee.
- Continue work with the London Convention and London Protocol on the international regulation of ocean fertilization, marine geo-engineering and aspects related to deep-sea mining.
- Continue work with the OSPAR Commission on the Environmental Impact of Human Activities, with a focus in particular on marine litter, deep-sea tailings placement and marine spatial planning.
- Hold meetings in Parliament and the Scottish parliament.
- Continue working in a voluntary partnership with the P1 Marine Foundation to develop their university awards scheme.
- Develop a programme of regular topical Climate seminars in Cambridge, noting in particular the forthcoming UNFCCC Climate Summit in Paris (December 2015) and to continue with the search for support for the Meta-data centres for climate/environment data in African countries project.

