

NEWS AND COMMENTS

Appointments

The year virtually began with the appointment of *Dr. S. Z. Qasim* as Director National Institute of Oceanography. Dr. Qasim was earlier Head of the Biological Oceanography Division of the Institute, and since 1970, was on deputation to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research as Director Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin. Based on the work that he was able to do in Marine Sciences and Fisheries during earlier years, he was awarded by the President of India, 'Padma Shri' on 26th January, 1974. Subsequently, the ICAR awarded him with the 'Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Memorial Prize'. The prize carries Rs. 10,000 in cash, a medal and a citation.

The Physical Oceanography Division was further strengthened with the appointment of *Dr. J. S. Sastry* as Scientist 'E'. Dr. Sastry did his M. Sc. (Meteorology & Oceanography) in 1953 and D. Sc. (Geophysics) in 1960 from the Andhra University, Waltair. Before joining the NIO, he was working as Scientific Officer (SD₂) at the Bhaba Atomic Research Centre, Trombay. His field of interest has been coastal oceanography, shoreline processes and air-sea interaction for the last 20 years. He has published about 25 papers / reports on these physical aspects and he was awarded 6th Annual Gold Medal of the Indian Journal of Met. Geo-

physics (1971) on one of his papers entitled, "Oceanography of the Arabian Sea during the southwest monsoon season". He is a recognized guide for M. Sc. and Ph. D. degrees of several universities.



Dr. J. S. Sastry

Shri R. M. Dhawan, Scientist, working in the Biological Oceanography Division was appointed as Director of Fisheries Goa, Daman and Diu. He is a fishery, biologist and has done good work on the survey of fisheries resources in the waters of Goa. He joined the new assignment on 19 March 1974 and is at present on deputation.

UNEP Project

An Intergovernmental Meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme on "Monitoring" was held at Nairobi from February 11 through 20, 1974. Dr. S. Z. Qasim, Director, NIO participated

in this meeting as an Indian delegate. He also worked as a member of the Working Group set up to determine the objectives, principles and guidelines for monitoring. Dr. P. K. Das, Deputy Director-General, India Meteorological Department, was the other member of Indian delegation. He was nominated member of the Working Group set-up to determine priority pollutants and their related effects for monitoring. The meeting organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was attended by 85 delegates coming from 54 countries and 15 United Nations Agencies.

The delegates agreed on the need for monitoring environmental pollution on the sources, level of pollutants, pathways and exposure to targets. They felt that it was necessary to devise monitoring at global, regional and local levels. It was agreed to set up regional monitoring centres with the financial assistance provided by UNEP all over the world.

The UNEP Chiefs Dr. Maurice Strong and Dr. Robert A. Froesech visited NIO, Goa and subsequently, the Institute was selected as a Regional Centre for monitoring pollutants in the sea, in South-East Asia. The UNEP has agreed to provide financial support to the NIO for monitoring work which will be implemented in three phases and would also include training programme for the candidates from South-East Asia. The objective of the programme is to create an awareness towards pollution, to build up scientific and technological capabilities and to keep a watch of the harmful effects of pollution in the sea.

UNESCO Project on Tropical Plankton

The UNESCO sponsored Meeting on the Advisory Panel of the International Marine Biological Centres was held at Singapore from March 26 to 30, 1974. The Indian Ocean Biological Centre of the NIO was represented by Dr. S. Z. Qasim. The objective of the meeting was to review the scientific work of the UNESCO assisted biological centres. In all, there are three such centres: (1) Indian Ocean Biological Centre (IOBC), Cochin, (2) Regional Marine Biological Centre (RMBC), Singapore and (3) Mexico Oceanic Sorting Centre (CPOM) Mexico. The IOBC, Cochin which was established with the assistance of the UNESCO, is now a part of the NIO and is entirely financed by the CSIR. The other two centres are still getting financial support from the UNESCO.

During the course of meeting, the UNESCO showed considerable interest in the activities of the NIO and it was suggested that the Institute should take up a UNESCO supported project on tropical zooplankton. The project is in the process of finalization.

Executive Committee

The first meeting of the Executive Committee of NIO was held on the 22nd April, 1974, at the Institute at Dona Paula, Panjim (Goa), with Director NIO as the Chairman. The Committee approved of the constitution of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the various sub-committees (for finance, merit promotion, personnel appointment, process release, royalties/premia and

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patents etc.) The Administrative Officer was nominated as the ex-officio member-secretary of the Executive Committee.

The revised objectives and goals of the Institute were placed before the Executive Committee for approval as well as the various outstanding matters connected with the Research Vessel *Gaveshini* of NIO, costly scientific equipment, renewal of contracts of scientists etc.

Sponsored Projects

The capabilities of the Institute and usefulness of the work done at NIO are being recognized by the industries and other users of the sea. This is evident from the requests we have been receiving for sponsored research from various agencies. In response to the request from the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu, the Institute carried out a survey of seaweed resources of Goa. The survey was started by Dr. A. G. Untawale in January 1974 and the report will be submitted shortly. As a follow-up to another request from the local Government, a report was prepared by the NIO on the feasibility of developing Anjadiv Island as a tourist resort. The report gives several favourable points indicating that the island can be converted into a beautiful resort which may attract a large number of foreign tourists.

M/s Zuari Agro Chemicals Limited, Zuari Nagar, Goa, requested the NIO to investigate the effect of urea on marine organisms. The fertilizer factory, releases a large quantity of urea in the sea as waste and the knowledge of its effect on the organisms will be useful for the maintenance of the environment.

It will help the factory to maintain a safe level of urea in the effluents.

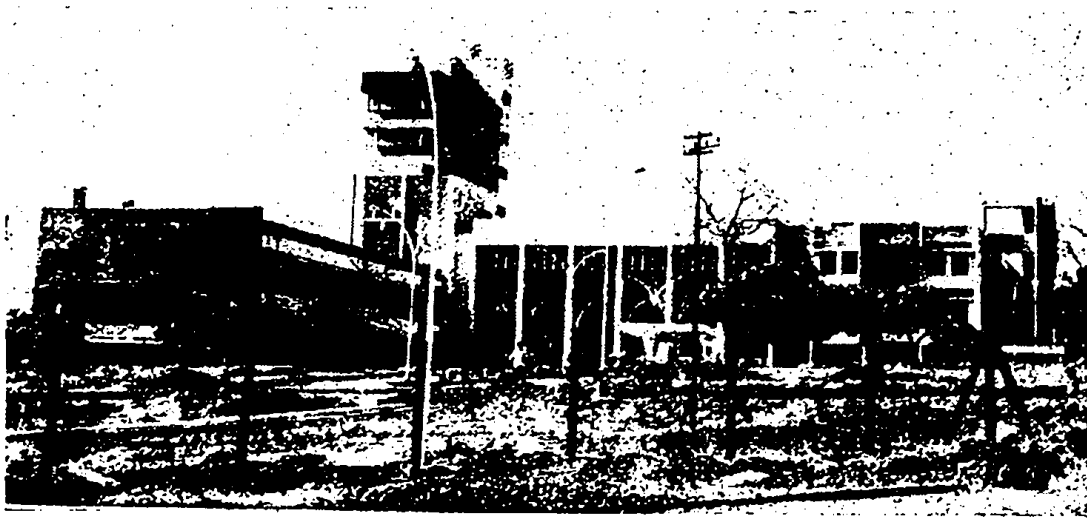
M/s India Resort Hotels Ltd., Bombay, proposed to build a "Beach Resort Hotel" at the Sinqerim Beach, Goa. They are interested to know the feasibility of boating and surfing, safe areas for swimming in the waters adjacent to the hotel and whether it will be possible to construct break-waters near the beach adjoining the walls of an old fort with a view to providing relatively calmer waters for swimming. The project is under study and a preliminary report has been submitted to the sponsors.

At the request of the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu, the Institute has taken up 'Studies on physical parameters of the shore-line and adjoining sea at Lollem' in connection with the location of a site for an Atomic Power Plant in Goa. Sponsored by the Public Works Department of the Government, the project was started in May 1974 and is expected to be completed by November 1975.

Another project is likely to be taken up by the Regional Centre of the Institute at Cochin on the request of the Cochin Port Trust. The details of the project are being worked out.

Proposed Research Projects of NIO for the Year 1975

During the first 6 months of the year, scientists of the Institute have worked out the various research projects of their Divisions. These projects have been identified according to national needs. The projects thus developed are



Laboratory Building of NIO at Dona Paula

strictly time-bound and have been oriented according to the problems which are relevant to Indian conditions. Each Project will shortly have a Cost-Accounting System.

Progress of the NIO Buildings

The 46 staff quarters completed in January 1974 were occupied by the staff. Thus the centre of activities is

rapidly shifting from Panaji to Dona Paula in Goa, where the new NIO building is located.

The construction of the Institute's Laboratory building which was held up for various reasons, has been accelerated and in the first week of March the first rented building was surrendered and the offices began to move to the new premises. Thus, part by part, the newly



Staff Quarters

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constructed building is being occupied. It is hoped, that by the end of the year the new building will be fully occupied.

Progress of R. V. *Gaveshini* and Canadian Aid

The research vessel of NIO is at present undergoing conversion at the Garden Reach Workshop Ltd., Calcutta. Due to non-availability of certain equipment, the work had slowed down. During the early part of the year, the work was accelerated and it is hoped that the vessel will be ready for trials in June 1975. The 83-metre long and 13000 tonnes vessel can accommodate 18

scientists on board and has 4 laboratories.

In April, the Government of India and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) signed an agreement to provide assistance of the order of \$ 660,800 (Rs. 52 lakhs) for the Research Vessel *Gaveshini* of the Institute. The assistance will include a variety of equipment for the research vessel. Under this agreement, there will also be an exchange of visits of scientists from Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Canada, to NIO Goa and NIO scientists to BIO, Dartmouth.

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