

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

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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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 2016. 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.

**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 2015-2016 session.

### **London Convention: 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parties and London Protocol: 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parties, 12-16 October 2015**

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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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).

#### Deep-sea Mining

ACOPS submitted comments to the International Seabed Authority on its draft framework for exploitation in the Area (ISBA/Cons/2015/1), which were acknowledged by the ISA as follows: "ACOPS's comments are comprehensive and very useful indeed. It is well noted."

### **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 ANCSCT 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.

ANSCT is dedicated solely to enhancing capacity on disaster and climate resilience research, underpinned by science, technology and innovation. ANCSCT 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.

### **Workshops**

Workshop on **Atmosphere – ocean interactions in the Indo-Pacific basin and their impact on Asian climate** 15 April 2015 | University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Workshop on **Marine Litter – a problem that refuses to go away** 30 June 2015 | House of Lords, London

Workshop on **Deep-sea mining – a new industry for the oceans** 3 December 2016 | House of Lords, London

### **Events**

ACOPS was represented at **The Sea Trade Awards** – 6 May 2016 | Guildhall, London

### **Publications**

Throughout the year Professor Hunt and other Acops members and colleagues write articles for various newspapers and journals .

15<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Article by Julian Hunt and Yuguo Li ‘The heat is on to ensure sustainable development in Asia’s swelling cities’ The Guardian

9<sup>th</sup> October 2015 [Article by Julian Hunt ‘Hope rises for climate change adaptations’](#) South China Morning Post

25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 [Article by Julian Hunt, Johnny Chan, Jianping Wu on Asian urban environment and climate change](#) Current Science Vol 110, p 1398

## **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.
- Attend Arctic Council meetings on critical issues about the Arctic Environment.