

TOWARDS OCEAN SECURITY: THE GLOBAL APPROACH

Working Group A: The Role of Science

20. This session was chaired by Dr. Bruce Molnia, Office of the Chief Geologist, USGS, and member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention, in the absence of Prof. Erik Arrhenius due to illness. Rapporteur for this session was Dr. J. Michael Bowers, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Canada, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention.
21. The first paper was presented by Dr. Ljubomir Jeftic, Chairman of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention, and entitled *Scientific Research on the Oceans*. His thesis was that oceanic problems remained the same - only their frequency and diversity had increased. Further, many of these problems could not be addressed by individual national actions and required international cooperation. Dr. Jeftic moved immediately to his recommendations under the respective headings of:
 - integrated management of coastal and marine zones;
 - multi-disciplinary research;
 - ecosystems research;
 - climate change and carbon cycle; and
 - interaction between scientists and managers.
22. The second paper was presented by Dr. Bowers under the title *Marine Data Gathering and Observation Systems*. The recommendations in this paper were assembled in two categories: long-term actions and short-term actions. The long-term actions reflected the need for an integrated comprehensive approach to ocean observations and the short-term measures involved reconsideration of existing monitoring programmes.
23. The next paper was presented by Prof. Jilan Su, Director of the Second Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration, China and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Marine Natural Resources Management, under the title *Enhanced Mitigation and Adaptation Capability in Developing Countries from Impacts of Climate Change in Coastal Zones*. He quoted the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) conclusion regarding the balance of evidence suggesting a discernible human influence on climate. This paper again reflected the requirement for interdisciplinary approaches among the social and natural sciences – a theme and conviction common to most of the papers in this session.
24. The subsequent paper on *Utilisation of National Security Data for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development* was delivered by Lt. Cmdr. Robert Edson, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Environmental Security, USA and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention. He drew attention to the very nature of defence-related data that were invariably restricted and, in some cases, classified at higher levels. However, many of these data were directly relevant to environmental conditions and were, therefore, implicitly useful to a wider marine environmental community, both scientific and managerial. He concluded with a plea for continued re-evaluation of defence-related data in the interests of making them available for release to the community at large.