

On August 31 to September 2 the APDRC hosted an organizational meeting to outline plans for establishing a Regional Argo Center. The participants included Drs. Shinya Minato and Shigeki Hosoda from JAMSTEC, Dr. Shuiming Chen from UH/Oceanography and several representatives from the APDRC.

Argo, a multinational effort to measure the world oceans with autonomous drifting floats, is well underway. Nations contribute to this program by supplying ship time, floats and expertise with float deployment, but not all countries have the resources to collect, quality control and distribute the data. Further, various products can be made from the argo network of measurements, for example gridded, near real-time temperature and salinity maps for depths up to 1500 meters. Therefore, the Argo program establishes Regional Centers to help with these activities.

The APRDC, in close collaboration with JAMSTEC and CSIRO, will work towards the development of a Regional Argo Center for the Pacific. This center will be responsible for Argo data and subsequent products for the western Pacific region. (Note here: in the discussions it became clear that this region needs better definition; i.e., how far south do we go? should we include the Indian Ocean?, etc.).

At the meeting, the initial plan called for the development of a "virtual center", i.e., a web-based site for the main participants (APDRC, JAMSTEC and CSIRO) to exchange information. The design of the web pages were discussed at length during the first two days.

Future plans and research efforts were then discussed in the final day. Dr. Chen (UH/Ocean.), Dr. Yoshinari (IPRC) and Dr. Hosoda (JAMSTEC) presented their respective research projects that use the Argo data to determine deep velocities in the ocean.