

## **JAPANESE TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSION DISPATCHED TO THE GULF**

Dr. Shoichi OSHIMA, the present Director of Planning Division, J.H.D., was dispatched to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates from 8 to 19 March 1991.

The Government of Japan urgently dispatched a preliminary survey team composed of experts from various Ministries and Agencies concerned to the Gulf area for studying possible measures and actions to be taken for environmental oil pollution in the area.

On behalf of Japan Maritime Safety Agency Dr. Oshima, the then Director of Coastal Surveys and Cartography Division, of J.H.D., and Mr. Kuniaki SAKAKI, a retired JMSA Officer and now Senior Technical

Officer of Japan Maritime Disaster Prevention Center, joined the survey team. They were responsible for studying potential technical cooperation to those countries in the Gulf area, in the field of hydrography and oceanography specially for combatting oil spill and its driftage.

Followed by another team was a Japan International Disaster Relief Team composed of experts from several Ministries and Agencies, and dispatched to Saudi Arabia from 30 March to 19 April this year. From the Hydrographic Department of Japan, Dr. Minoru ODAMAKI, Principal Coastal Survey Officer of J.H.D. participated in the team as an expert in tide and tidal current.



Dr. Oshima (right) on the coast of Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia

## **IOC/WESTPAC SUBCOMMISSION SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD IN PENANG, MALAYSIA**

The IOC/WESTPAC Subcommission will be holding a scientific symposium on "Marine Science and Management of Marine

Areas of the Western Pacific" at the Bayview Beach Resort, Penang, Malaysia, from 2 to 6 December 1991. The overall

theme of the symposium is "Scientific Contributions to the Effective Management of the Marine Environment in the Western Pacific." Leading experts have been invited to present lectures and papers. Contributory papers are also invited.

The symposium will be conducted over 5 days with Day 1 and Day 5 being committed to plenary lectures. Day 2 is planned for scientific papers on the following 4 topics:

- Causes and impacts of the sea level change
- Ocean variability and links with climate
- Biogeochemical processes
- Managing the marine environment

Day 3 and the morning of Day 4 will be committed to Workshops on the 9 approved IOC/WESTPAC Subcommission Programmes:

- Toxic and anoxic phenomena associated with algal blooms
- Recruitment of penaeid prawns in the Indo-Western Pacific Region
- Paleographic mapping
- Margins of active plates
- Climatic records in long-lived corals
- Cooperative studies of Ocean Dynamics in the Northwest Pacific

- Monitoring heavy metals and organochlorine pesticides using the mussel watch approach
- Cooperative research of the continental shelf circulation in the Western Pacific
- Assessment of riverine inputs to the sea in the WESTPAC region

The afternoon of Day 4 is scheduled for visits to local scientific establishments, or areas of marine development. A special half-day session on Day 5 will be committed to the topic of managing the marine environment.

Persons interested in the symposium and who wish to receive further details please contact the Symposium Secretariat at the address below.

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## FOURTH SESSION OF WOCE DATA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The fourth session of WOCE Data Management Committee (DMC-4) will be held at the Hydrographic Department of Japan in Tokyo from 28 to 30 October 1991, hosted by the Japan Oceanographic Data Center.

WOCE (World Ocean Circulation Experiment), one of the biggest ocean research program in 1990's concerning the issues of global climate change, has been in operational phase.

The goals of WOCE are:

1. To develop models useful for predicting

climate change and to collect the data necessary to test them.

2. To determine the representativeness of the specific WOCE data sets for the long-term behavior of the ocean, and to find methods for determining long-term changes in the ocean circulation.

For WOCE implementation, it is a basic recognition among related oceanographers that effective and powerful data management system is essential to make the program successful. In DMC-4 meeting, the following items will be discussed: (1) Present status of the WOCE data assembly;