



## The IOI Caspian Sea Operational Centre organized the Winter International School within IOI's Women, Youth and the Sea Network-wide Programme

### **"Internal Audit of System of Ecological Management & Methods for Aerial surveys of Caspian Seal populations" 02 - 06 March, Atyrau, Kazakhstan**

*organised by the International Ocean Institute, Caspian Sea operational centre*  
*Supported by Agip KCO, the Darwin Initiative Program (Leeds, UK) and Atyrau Oil and Gas Institute (AING)*

At the end of this winter, IOI Caspian Sea successfully held the first "Winter International School" in partnership with its sponsors and supporting institutes. This was a training activity implemented within the framework of the IOI network-wide Programme "Women, Youth and the Sea" and carried out in the Caspian Sea Region. The aim of this event was to continue the youth training courses on new approaches to Ecological Management Systems (commenced in summer during the 6<sup>th</sup> International Ecological Camp) for the conservation of biodiversity in the Caspian Sea while maintaining its sustainable development.

In order to achieve the objectives, two modules were created to impart knowledge and skills on "Internal audits of the ecological management system" including detailed consideration of the international standards ISO 14001:2004 and ISO 19011:2002 as well as on "Methodology for aerial surveys of the seal breeding population in the Northern Caspii". The Winter International School was opened by Professor T. Serikov, Rector of AING and a number of authorities welcomed the participants during the opening session among which were Prof. Viacheslav Zaitsev, Director, IOI Caspian Sea and representatives from the collaborating and sponsoring institutes.

The interest shown in attending the course was very great with 52 participants finally attending this training course. Most participants were from the Republic of Kazakhstan, Russia and Azerbaijan and came from diverse academic and employment backgrounds, illustrating the importance and the actuality of the topic touched upon during the training. The faculty consisted of highly qualified specialists among which were Dr. Sue Wilson, Zoological Institute of London; Dr. Simon Goodman, University of Leeds; Mrs. Natalia Ruleva from FRECOM Ltd, Moscow and representatives from HSE Environment Department - Environmental Ecology Team of Agip KCO, Davide Speranza and Dilyara Tuleuyova; members of the Darwin Initiative Project team and IOI staff members Dr. Andre-Serge Mikouiza and Ms. Irina Kurinnaya. The event exposed the participants to more than 20 class-based subjects and 6 simulation exercises. The closing ceremony was conducted by Prof. Islam Dzhanzakov, Vice rector of AING, Prof. V. Zaitsev, and Mr. Armando Secchi, Manager of Sustainable Development Department of Agip KCO; during the ceremony each participant received 2 certificates, a special cup produced for this event, a CD with all lectures and other gifts presented by Agip KCO and AING.

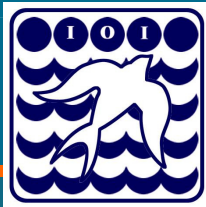
IOI Caspian Sea plans to conduct further winter training meetings in Atyrau as one step in a programmed series to improve ecological education, create a positive living environment for future generations, and to work towards sustainable development not only for the Republic of Kazakhstan but also for the Caspian Sea Region.

**For further information please contact:**

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*Above: Faculty and organisers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Winter International School, 2009. Prof. Viacheslav Zaitsev, Director and Dr. Andre-Serge Mikouiza, Deputy Director, IOI Caspian Sea are 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from the left respectively.*





## IOI Caspian Sea Operational Centre - Winter International School (continued)

### A word of thanks or "Kop Rakhmet"

On behalf of IOI Network, the IOI Caspian Sea Operational Centre would like to express its sincere gratitude to Agip KCO for the interest and financial support accorded to IOI's Youth Training Programme in Ecology over the last 6 years; to Mr. Walter Rizzi, HSE & SD Director of Agip KCO specifically for financing the first Winter International School and Prof Tuleush Serikov for hosting this event. Further thanks go also to Mr. Secchi, Mrs. Svirepova, Prof. Dzhanzakov and Prof. Kambetov and the faculty, in particular to Dr. Sue Wilson and Nathalia Ruleva; to the Darwin Initiative Project in the Caspian Sea for advice and financial support; Frecom Ltd; the Rector's office of Aktau Caspian State University of Technology and Engineering. Finally a "Kop Rakhmet" ("thank you very much" in Kazakh) to all in Atyaru for their hospitality and who contributed to the success of this event.

## IOI continues its work on vulnerable Coral Reef systems

### Pacific Regional Workshop on Reefs at Risk

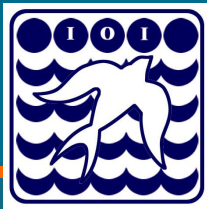
16-18 March; Suva

The World Resources Institute (WRI), with the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), the University of the South Pacific Institute of Marine Resources in collaboration with IOI's *OceanLearn* Coordinator Prof Robin South - who played a lead role in the coordination and running of the event - and the Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific (CRISP), hosted a three-day workshop on the **Reefs at Risk Revisited** project ([www.wri.org/project/reefs-at-risk](http://www.wri.org/project/reefs-at-risk)). The workshop brought together 32 experts from 20 local and regional organizations in the Pacific, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, regional organizations, universities, trade associations, and consulting companies.

The Workshop synergises with the efforts of the IOI Network to safeguard and protect coral reefs globally. As a member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the IOI, via its operational centre in Australia, contributed to the International Year of the Reef 2008 through publication of a series of 15 case studies of coral reef experiences drawn from the IOI's global network - the booklet, currently available in an electronic format is titled "*International Ocean Institute, global network - Coral Reef Experiences*". Furthermore, IOI's *OceanLearn* programme also successfully delivered MPA training courses in the Solomon Islands and Fiji, which dealt with topics pertaining to the management and preservation of coral reefs.

Reefs at Risk is a map-based indicator of threats to the World's coral reefs, produced by the World Resources Institute (WRI) in collaboration with the WorldFish Center (formerly ICLARM), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Released in 1998, it was the first global assessment of coral reefs to map areas at risk from overfishing, coastal development, and other human activity. Reefs at Risk confirmed that coral reefs are seriously threatened in most parts of the world, clearly identified the human activities contributing to this threat, and called for global action. Ten years on, the health of coral reefs continues to decline, and powerful hurricanes and tsunamis, increased pollution, coral bleaching and disease have all led to this. Coral bleaching was not factored into the original Reefs at Risk model, yet it now represents one of the most pressing threats to coral reefs worldwide. This has led to the need to revisit the Reefs at Risk.





While Reefs at Risk is a global project, the Suva workshop was the first to include a focus on the Pacific region, which was not captured in previous publications. The Suva discussions centered on various indicators to be used in the modeling process with social vulnerability analysis and climate-related trends representing new areas included in the modeling. The main conclusions from the workshop were that the significant threats to reefs in the Pacific region are fishing-related, threats from land-based, and marine-based activities, invasive species, climate change, overpopulation, disease, predation, military activities and loss of traditional management practices.

This 2009 update - **Reefs at Risk Revisited** - will raise public awareness of the location and severity of threats to coral reefs, and catalyze targeted, responsible, and informed decisions that protect coral reefs and the broad range of benefits they provide to people. It will also inform and show decision-makers, politicians and the public where to focus energy and resources to address critical threats, and will inform funding bodies as they seek ways to help coordinate and finance these efforts. It will support conservation priority setting, constructive public and private alliances and better private and public policy; and will highlight the value of investment in effective coastal management. The **Reefs at Risk Revisited** report will be published in mid-2010.

For more information contact G. Robin South ([south\\_g@usp.ac.fj](mailto:south_g@usp.ac.fj)) or Cherie Morris ([morris\\_c@usp.ac.fj](mailto:morris_c@usp.ac.fj)).



Above: A selection of the participants at the Reefs at Risk Pacific workshop, held in Suva, Fiji, 2009.

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