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Respondent

7

Anonymous

116:16

Time to complete

Basic information

1. Name of GRA *

- GRA: Black Sea GOOS
- GRA: CIOOS
- GRA: EuroGOOS
- GRA: GOOS Africa
- GRA: GRASP
- GRA: IOCARIBE-GOOS
- GRA: IMOS
- GRA: IOGOOS
- GRA: MonGOOS
- GRA: NEAR-GOOS
- GRA: OCEATLAN
- GRA: PI-GOOS
- GRA: SEAGOOS
- GRA: U.S. IOOS

2. Your name *

Peter You

3. Your email *

peterhak@korea.kr

4. Your role in the GRA *

Chair of NEAR-GOOS

GRA Overview

5. Vision and mission of the GRA *

Serve as the essential regional implementation arm of GOOS, connecting global strategy with local requirements to deliver a responsive and inclusive ocean observing system.

6. Affiliated organisations and agencies of the GRA *

- Governments/Member States
- Academia
- Research Institutions
- Regional organisations
- Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- Private sectors
- Other

7. Please list the national observing systems that the GRA is connecting to.

NEAR-GOOS

8. How does the GRA connect to GOOS National Focal Points (NFPs) in the respective countries? *

If so, please specify GOOS NFPs in which countries you are currently connecting to). Link to current GOOS NFPs is: <https://goosocean.org/who-we-are/goos-national-focal-points/group/>

The NEAR-GOOS member states-China, Japan, Rep.of Korea, Russia-maintain close communication through their respective NFPs. In particular, Korea's NFP is actively operated within the KHOA.

9. Governance of the GRA. *

Please outline governing bodies of the GRA, including Chair, Secretariat, Steering Committee, etc.

The governing structure of NEAR-GOOS is as follows:

* Chair: Currently chaired by Mr. Hak Yoel (Peter) YOU from the Republic of Korea.

* Steering Committee: Composed of representatives from 8 agencies across the 4 member states (China, Japan, Korea, and Russia), serving as the primary decision-making body.

* Working Groups & Projects: It operates 4 Working Groups and 2 Pilot Projects to advance regional ocean observing capabilities.

* Meetings: meets annually to review national activities, discuss progress, and strengthen regional cooperation.

10. Strategic documents of the GRA. *

Please list titles, dates, and relevant information of the most recently updated version of the governing documents, including the **links** if available. Strategic documents may include: MoU, Goals and Objectives, Planning documents (e.g. Strategic Plan, Work Plan, Implementation Plan), Data Policy, etc.

The following are the most recently updated strategic and governing documents for NEAR-GOOS :

1. Strategic Plan

* Title: A Strategic Plan for NEAR-GOOS in its Second Phase (GOOS REPORT NO.166)

* Date: 2008

* link: <https://ds.data.jma.go.jp/goos/data/rtrtdb/documents.html>

2. Data Policy & Operations

Title: NEAR-GOOS Operations Manual

Relevant Info: Details the data exchange protocols and roles of the Regional Real Time Data Base (RRTDB) and Regional Delayed Mode Data Base (RDMDDB).

Link: <https://ds.data.jma.go.jp/goos/data/rtrtdb/documents.html>

11. Communication tools of the GRA. *

Please list links of GRA website, contact person, newsletter, brochure, introductory video, etc., if any.

* link: <https://goosocean.org/who-we-are/goos-regional-alliances/gra-near-goos/>

* Contact Person: Peter You (Email: peterhak@korea.kr)

* Regular Communication Channels:

Annual Meetings: Coordinating Committee (CC) meetings held annually to discuss strategic updates.

Email Correspondence: Active communication via the official mailing list for technical and administrative updates.

12. Primary financial sources of the GRA. *

Please consider the investment in the ocean observing system itself as well as for GRA coordination.

*Ocean Observing System Investment: The GRA does not receive direct external funding or maintain a centralized budget. Instead, it relies on in-kind contributions from member states. Each member country independently funds and operates its own national ocean observing systems, contributing the resulting data to the GRA network.

Achievements since last GRA Forum (April 2024)

13. Meetings and workshops the GRA organised or sponsored. *

The 22th NEAR-GOOS CC meeting held on Tokyo Japan (10 March 2025)

14. Contribution/Integration to the Global Ocean Observing Networks. *

If the GRA is currently contributing/integrating to other networks other than GOOS networks, please specify them in the field of 'Other'.

- Ship Observations Team (SOT)/Voluntary Observing Ships (VOS)
- Ship Observations Team (SOT)/XBT-Ship of Opportunity Programme (SOOP)
- Ship Observations Team (SOT)/Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (ASAP)
- Global Ocean Ship-Based Hydrographic Investigations Programme (GO-SHIP)
- Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS)
- OceanSITES
- Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)/Moored Buoys (MB)
- Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)/Tsunami Buoys
- Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)/Drifting Buoys (GDA)
- Argo
- The Global High Frequency Radar Network
- Ocean Gliders
- Animal-Borne Ocean Sensors (AniBOS)
- Emerging: Fishing Vessel Observing Network (FVON)
- Emerging: Surface Ocean CO2 Observing Network (SOCONET)
- Emerging: Science Monitoring And Reliable Telecommunications (SMART) Subsea Cables
- Emerging: SUN Fleet
- None
- Other

15. Any other ocean observation projects and activities uniquely conducted by the GRA?

None.

16. **Contribution of data at local/national/regional/global level.** *

Please indicate other data centers and repositories in 'Other', if applicable.

- Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS)
- IODE National Ocean Data Center (NODC)
- IODE Associate Data Unit (ADU)
- IODE Associate Information Unit (AIU)
- WMO Information System (WIS)
- Other

17. Describe the primary roles of the GRA in facilitating the **delivery of Information, Products and Services to end users** and how these are different/complementary to national activities. *

The primary role of the GRA in delivering information and services:

Data Integration & Aggregation: The GRA (e.g., NEAR-GOOS) acts as a regional hub that integrates real-time and delayed-mode data from various member states into a unified, standardized format. This allows end-users to access comprehensive regional oceanographic information through a single entry point (e.g., RRTDB).
Standardization: We facilitate the adoption of international data standards (IOC/GOOS), ensuring that data provided by different national agencies are interoperable and of high quality.

Difference/Complementary to National Activities:

Scale: While national activities focus on providing high-resolution services for their respective territorial waters, the GRA provides a larger, basin-scale perspective necessary for understanding regional climate and oceanographic trends. Complementarity: National agencies operate the physical infrastructure, and the GRA adds value by providing a collaborative framework for data exchange. This synergy enables the development of regional ocean forecasting models that no single country could achieve alone.

18. **In what areas (checklist is below) does the GRA enable co-designed/co-produced ocean observing solutions?** *

More detailed information & services, e.g. links, can be indicated in 'Other'

- Biodiversity conservation
- Sustainable fisheries
- Coastal resilience
- Climate resilience mitigation and adaptation
- Sustainable ocean planning
- Marine carbon capture and storage
- Safety of life at sea
- Coastal hazard warnings
- Disaster risk reductions
- Human health
- Ocean science
- Other

19. Please list new Best Practice documents completed in 2025 (and submitted to the OBPS). *

None.

20. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

Please state the capacity building activities organised in 2024-2025, and # of beneficiaries; expertise/experience shared with other GRAs in terms of capacity building.

Not active

Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) Measurement

GOOS Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) are defined as the *minimum set of ocean variables* that are needed to assess ocean state and variability for important global ocean phenomena, and to provide essential data for applications that support societal benefit. Please see more detailed information and specification sheet for each EOv via <https://goosocean.org/what-we-do/framework/essential-ocean-variables/>

21. Please indicate the **physics EOVs** that have been/are being measured by your GRA. *

	Yes	No	No info
Sea state	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ocean surface stress	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sea ice	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sea surface height	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sea surface temperature	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Subsurface temperature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Surface currents	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Subsurface currents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Sea surface salinity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Subsurface salinity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Ocean surface heat flux	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Ocean bottom pressure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Turbulent diapycnal fluxes (*pilot)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

22. Please indicate the **biochemistry EOVs** that have been/are being measured by your GRA. *

	Yes	No	No info
Oxygen	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nutrients	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inorganic carbon	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transient tracers	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Particulate matter	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nitrous oxide	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stable carbon isotopes	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dissolved organic carbon	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

23. Please indicate the **biology and ecosystems EOVs** that have been/are being measured by your GRA. *

	Yes	No	No info
Phytoplankton biomass and diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zooplankton biomass and diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fish abundance and distribution	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sea turtles abundance and distribution	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seabirds abundance and distribution	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marine mammal abundance and distribution	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coral cover and composition	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seagrass cover and composition	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Macroalgal canopy cover and composition	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mangrove cover and composition	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Microbe biomass and diversity (*pilot)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Benthic invertebrate abundance and distribution (*pilot)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

24. Please indicate the **cross-disciplinary (including human impact) EOVs** that have been/are being measured by your GRA. *

	Yes	No	No info
Ocean colour	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ocean sound	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marine debris (*pilot)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

25. **Additional comments on EOV measurement by your GRA.**

None.

Planning and Support

26. **Top 3 Challenges and Opportunities ***

To highlight the **challenges** for operation of GRA and how to address them; as well as the **opportunities** for new partnerships with regional networks, programme/project, countries; new funding opportunities including cooperation with industries; emerging requirements for delivery of information and services, and etc.

[Top 3 Challenges]

1. Geopolitical Sensitivities and Diplomatic Fluctuations

Description: Regional tensions and diplomatic sensitivities often hinder the consistency of data sharing and active cooperation among member states.

How to Address: We prioritize technical-level collaboration that remains neutral from political shifts. By adhering to international frameworks like IOC-UNESCO, we aim to maintain a stable environment for scientific data exchange.

2. Lack of a Unified Integrated Data Platform

Description: The absence of a single, centralized portal for all regional data makes it difficult for end-users to access information efficiently. Currently, users must visit individual national websites, which reduces data usability.

How to Address: We are working to enhance interoperability by promoting standardized metadata formats. We aim to propose a joint project to develop a "Regional Data Hub" that bridges existing national databases.

3. Constraints in Sustained Funding and Operational Support

Description: Securing long-term financial resources for dedicated secretariat operations and the maintenance of a comprehensive website remains a significant challenge.

How to Address: We maximize in-kind contributions from member states (hosting databases, providing technical staff). To secure more stable funding, we are highlighting the socio-economic value of our data to national governments and seeking alignment with global initiatives like the UN Ocean Decade.

[Opportunities]

New Partnerships: Great potential exists to collaborate with the UN Ocean Decade programs to modernize observing systems and expand our regional network.

Cooperation with Industries: Emerging requirements from the Blue Economy (e.g., smart shipping, offshore renewable energy, and sustainable fisheries) provide opportunities to demonstrate the commercial value of our services and attract private-sector interest.

Emerging Requirements: The increasing global focus on Climate Change Adaptation and marine disaster prevention creates a strong mandate for GRA to deliver more sophisticated and integrated information products.

27. **Planning for 2026-2027 ***

To highlight top 3-5 priorities of the GRA over next two years.

The 30th anniversary NEAR-GOOS work shop(2026). And annual meeting.

28. Requested Support from GOOS *

May include but not limited to communication support; capacity building support; partnership building support; leveraging support from member states, etc. Indicate priority or urgency.

We request the following support from GOOS to enhance the operational stability and regional impact of our GRA:

1. Leveraging Support from Member States (High Priority)

Request: Provide official high-level advocacy to member state governments to emphasize the socio-economic value of the GRA.

Objective: To secure more stable national budget allocations and long-term commitment for GRA coordination and infrastructure maintenance, especially in the face of shifting domestic priorities.

2. Capacity Building and Technical Standardizing (Medium Priority)

Request: Support training programs and workshops focused on data interoperability and the adoption of the latest Ocean Best Practices.

Objective: To bridge the technical gaps between member states and ensure that regional data follows global standards, making it easier to integrate into a unified platform.

3. Partnership Building and Communication Support (Medium Priority)

Request: Facilitate connections with global programs such as the UN Ocean Decade and private sector partners (Blue Economy).

Objective: To diversify funding sources and increase the visibility of our regional products. We also request support in developing communication templates (brochures, introductory videos) that align with the global GOOS brand to improve our outreach.

4. Diplomatic Mediation and Neutral Platform Support (Urgent)

Request: Act as a neutral international facilitator to encourage data sharing during periods of regional geopolitical tension.

Objective: To ensure the continuity of ocean observing activities by framing cooperation as a purely scientific and humanitarian necessity under the IOC-UNESCO umbrella.