

22nd NEAR-GOOS-CC meeting
JHOD, Tokyo, Japan
10 March 2025

Minutes (final)

2. Opening and Administrative arrangements

2.1. Welcome remarks (Mr. Peter YOU from KHOA)

The chair emphasized three key points: Firstly, he stated that mutual development should be achieved through strong teamwork and shared goals among member states. Secondly, he stressed that ocean observation data is essential for scientific decision-making in addressing urgent ocean issues. Thirdly, he asserted that global partnerships should be expanded, and influence enhanced to support the UN Ocean Decade and Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Approval of Agenda

3.1. Adoption of the agenda

With the agreement of the GOOS members, Agenda item 4.1 was included.

Decision. 1 All members agreed to allow GOOS Secretariat liaison staff to give a presentation at this NEAR-GOOS meeting.

3.2. Designation of a rapporteur

It was supported to appoint Researcher Ms. Choi as the rapporteur.

4. Report on the NEAR-GOOS (Chairperson Mr. Peter YOU from KHOA)

Following discussions on the operational plan for the NEAR-GOOS gateway website, it was suggested that since NEAR-GOOS is a WESTPAC project, requesting budget support for gateway maintenance from WESTPAC Office would be advisable.

4.1 GOOS presentation (Ms Jing Li, GOOS Secretariat)

Ms Li introduced the following four activities.

- GOOS is a crucial infrastructure for ocean observation, providing ocean information through various observing systems and networks.

- GOOS observes 36 Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) across diverse fields including climate, biogeochemistry, and biology and ecosystems.
 - GOOS aims to provide essential information needed for sustainable development, safety, well-being, and prosperity through its 2030 Strategy.
 - GOOS seeks to achieve its vision through various strategic objectives, including strengthening partnerships, observing implementation, data management, and capacity development.
- It appears that NEAR-GOOS member states' observation effort may not be fully captured by OceanOPS, possibly due to differences in metadata formats or insufficient connection to the GTS/WMO Information System (WIS). Therefore, continuous attention and efforts are needed to enhance the utilization of NEAR-GOOS data in these aspects.

Recommendation. 1 GOOS Secretariat informed that metadata format inconsistencies may hinder user access and requested consideration of a standard format.

- GOOS Secretariat recommended active participation from NEAR-GOOS to GOOS, e.g., through connection and contribution to OCG, networks, OceanOPS and GOOS UN Ocean Decade programmes.

Recommendation. 2 GOOS Secretariat recommended that NEAR-GOOS strengthen its engagement with GOOS, e.g., through connection and contribution to OCG, networks, OceanOPS and GOOS UN Ocean Decade programmes.

- GOOS Secretariat requested NEAR-GOOS' cooperation with GOOS National Focal Points (NFPs).

Recommendation. 3 GOOS Secretariat recommended NEAR-GOOS to connect with GOOS NFPs.

- The GOOS Secretariat indicated their willingness to consider collaboration for the operation of the NEAR-GOOS gateway website. In response, NEAR-GOOS agreed to share information about the gateway's operational costs and structure with the GOOS Secretariat.

Action. 1 China will collaborate with the GOOS Secretariat by providing the design and estimated cost for operating the portal gateway and facilitating the development of alternative solutions.

5. Report on national and regional RTDB and DMDB

5.1. China (Wang Bao from NMEFC and YU Ting from NMDIS)

RTDB

- The real-time data published on the website is typically updated at daily intervals of 20 to 40 minutes, and visitors can receive the data via email by entering the necessary information.
- Since October 2023 to February 2025, the website has released over 40,000 forecast charts with a total number volume of about 45 GB.

DMDB

- Involved in ocean cooperation at global and regional levels, including sea level change prediction and assessment, public service and participation, and international cooperation and coordination.
- Data and products, including tide forecasts, map data from oceanographic stations, and sea surface temperature, are provided along China's coastline.

5.2. Japan (FUKUDA Yoshikazu from JMA and SAEGUSA Jun from JODC)

RTDB

- The system was updated last month, but since the URL was not changed, the access status has not been updated in the new system until now.
- The real-time data has a large user base. In particular, there was a significant increase in foreign access last year, with an average of over 5,000 accesses.

DMDB

- JODC is a synthetic marine data bank of Japan. duty is correcting and storing, processing, providing the ocean data information.
- In 2024, foreign views surged, exceeding 120,000, but the cause of this increase is unknown. If you have any insights or information regarding this, please share them.

5.3. Republic of Korea (Hyeongyu Shin from KHOA and Haekun Jung from NIFS)

RTDB

- The oceanographic observation network consists of a total of 139 observation stations, which monitor oceanic and meteorological data. All collected data is

provided in real-time on the website.

- This year's plan is to enhance real-time quality processing by improving algorithms, and to apply AI-driven anomaly detection through the implementation of advanced quality controls.

DMDB

- The NIFS Serial Oceanographic observations data (NSO) and coastal oceanographic observation data (COO) are easily downloadable without requiring user login, and we also provide metadata services based on international standards.
- As for future plans, we aim to upgrade the website and improve the unresponsive service items to provide more accurate and validated data.

5.4. Russian Federation (Dr. Vyacheslav Lobanov from POI)

- The real-time data is currently temporarily suspended, and updates can be made, if necessary, but it seems that the number of users in the NEAR-GOOS countries is low.
- The NEAR-GOOS line observation has been temporarily suspended since 2020, but JMA is continuing the observations, and Russia is expected to resume the observations this year. It is expected to implement Russian part of the section every 2-3 years.

6. Report on Working Groups

6.1. Working Group on Development of Operational Ocean Forecasting Systems (Ki Young Heo from KIOST)

- The NEAR-GOOS OFS working group is composed of four task force teams with experts from each country, and the numerical models operate smoothly in each member state.
- The NEAR-GOOS OFS website needs to be updated, Russia's wave forecast has not been updated since January 29th, 2025, and KIOST's OFS website is currently down due to a web server issue.

6.2. Working Group on Data Management (Yulong LIU from NMDIS)

- No updates have been received from the data management group members since the last meeting.
- Since observation stations and products from several countries are distributed differently, it is necessary to provide them through a unified website.

6.3. Working Group on Products (Fukuda Yoshikazu from JMA)

- The member list of the product working group was last updated about a year ago.
- The user survey for the product working group has not yet been conducted. We considered posting questions on the NEAR-GOOS gateway, but further discussion is needed.

Action. 2 The Products Working Group shall finalize key roles and survey content through an online meeting and then conduct the user survey in an open format by the end of this year.

Action. 3 All Working Group leaders should share membership information with their Working Group members to ensure that the information is up to date.

7. Report on Pilot Projects

7.1. Climate Monitoring Section (Mr. Vyacheslav Lobanov from POI)

- Deep-water temperatures have recently increased, and dissolved oxygen levels have decreased, with this trend possibly related to changes in ocean circulation.
- This project is crucial for enhancing climate change understanding through data exchange and collaboration between Russia and Japan. It requires multinational cooperation and improves the effectiveness of climate change research.

Recommendation. 4 The NEAR-GOOS Climate Monitoring Pilot Project is a crucial collaboration between Russia and JMA. Continued cooperation is strongly recommended for valuable research.

8. Any other business

8.1. Further plan on technical workshop

- There was discussion about holding an online meeting before next year's workshop to promote technical cooperation activities among member countries and to share useful ideas related to workshops.
- Next year, the focus will be on the technical workshop first, with the larger-scale scientific workshop to be discussed later.

Action. 4 Member State CC/Working Group representatives must collaborate on prior discussion of the Technical Workshop's topics and timetable to ensure its successful operation at the CC Meeting.

Action. 5 The next host country of the CC meeting should prepare for the Technical/Scientific Workshop by securing necessary resources and coordinating logistics.

8.2. Establishment on WG/PP for UN Ocean Decade

- We agreed on the necessity of collaborative activities to implement the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and decided to establish a related working group. We plan to prepare for these activities through members recommended by each member state.

Action. 6 NEAR-GOOS established a working group related to the UN Decade, with Dr. Lobanov serving as the interim leader, and member states shall recommend suitable candidates.

9. Next NEAR-GOOS CC Meetings (venue and date)

Action. 7 Russia will host the next CC meeting in mid-May 2026, with the Republic of Korea and China as alternative host countries.

10. Review of the List of Actions

Action. 8 The chair will seek to secure funding for the operation of the gateway website through collaboration with WESTPAC and GOOS.