

## The Progress of China's Argo Project

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China has formally decided to participate in the Argo Project and its implementation. The State Oceanic Administration (SOA) is responsible for the implementation of the China's Argo project, along with other agencies including China Meteorological Administration (CMA) , Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

During the year of 2002-2005, China plans to deploy 100-150 floats. Additionally, we will deploy 20-30 floats every year to maintain the array running regularly.

The deployment area designed is the northwest Pacific, within the area which is surrounded by connecting lines of 6 points, i.e. (0 ° N,130 ° E ), ( 15 ° N,125 ° E ), ( 23 ° N,125 ° E ), ( 30 ° N,130 ° E ), ( 30 ° N,145 ° E ), ( 0 ° N,145 ° E ). According to the deployment principle of the International Argo Program, 100 floats will be progressively launched. Depending on the progress of the project, another 50 floats could be deployed in the Indian Ocean and the Southern Ocean.

At the end of 2001, we got fund from the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and 2-3 floats will be deployed in the Northwest Pacific area (2 floats) and Indian Ocean area (1 float) in March of 2002. Another deployment of 8-10 floats is planed in the next half year.

With the floats deploying, China will set up the Argo data center to meet the need of data accessing, processing and distributing.

With financial support of POGO (the Partnership for Observing the Global Oceans) and under the assistance of NOAA, SOA sent 2 young oceanographers, in January 2002, to participate in a training course on Argo float technology and data processing method in University of Washington and NOAA'S Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML).

The Second Institute of Oceanography (SIO, Hangzhou) and the Key Lab of Ocean Dynamic Processes and Satellite Oceanography (LOPSO, Hangzhou), would like to host the 5<sup>th</sup> IAST in Hangzhou in March of 2003.