

## Chinese Action Plan for Contributing to Argo

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### ***China's Attitude to the Argo Project***

Since the Argo project was come out, Chinese ocean policy-makers and administers have paid more attention to it, and state on many occasions that China would positively consider participating the project and make the Chinese scientists' contribution to it. Then, many atmosphere experts and oceanographers have expressed their strong interest to use profiling floats in their projects.

### ***Organization***

In the past year (2000), the State Oceanic Administration (SOA), Chinese agency responsible for the ocean affairs, did much substantial work, including to introduce government officials and cross-agencies the contents about the Argo project, its significance of the Argo implementation and its active influence to the mankind activities. And after several times coordinating and demonstrating about the Argo act plan and its funds source, a main common understanding is reached. China will be set up the related groups to manage the China contribution to Argo.

### ***Funding***

In China, funding for Argo will come from three main channels, that is, the National Basic Research Programme, the National Climbing Programme and the National Special Projects. In the coming three years, China will be planned to deploy about 80 profiling floats(2000m depth) in the regions of the South China Sea and the Northwest Pacific Ocean, as well as the adjacent oceans, totally investing Chinese RMB Twenty Millions yuan (20,000,000).

### ***Projects***

At the moment, two projects related with Argo have been planned in China. One is the Research on the Formation and Variation Mechanism and Numerical Prediction Theory of the China Coastal Circulation and Its Influence on Coastal Environment (1999-2004). The other is the Research on the Formation Mechanism and Prediction Theory of heavy Climatic and Synoptic Disasters in China (1998-2003). The latter will study the theory of monitoring, dynamics and prediction of the ENSO, they are planning to deploy 8-10 profiling floats in the areas where the Western Pacific Warm Pool and the Kuroshio origin, started in the summer of 2001. The fund comes from the National Basic Research Priorities Programme supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

### ***Development***

A Chinese marine technical institute is to develop profiling floats under the support of the mature technique. But, the first sets of profiling floats, which will be deployed soon, will be imported from abroad. In the future, China also would plan to import the main parts of the float and assemble them at home, in order to reduce the costs of profiling float and lessen possible breakage and technical hitch caused by long distance transportation.