2.2: Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)

Programme Objective

The Data Buoy Cooperation Panel, DBCP, [1] is a Team of the Observations Programme Area, OPA, of JCOMM. It describes itself as “an international program coordinating the use of autonomous data buoys to observe atmospheric and oceanographic conditions, over ocean areas where few other measurements are taken”. It organizes its activities through a number of action groups [2] that for the purposes of this report will be divided into separate chapters dealing with surface drifters, with data from the Tropical Moored Buoy Implementation Panel, TIP, and with data from OceanSITES.

Programme Overview

The TIP and groups on surface drifters both existed prior to the creation of JCOMM. The surface drifter programme grew out of the FGGE [3] in the late 1970's. The TIP grew from the TOGA [4] programme in the mid 1980's. These both expanded their operations over time until they are what exists today. OceanSITES began in the late 1990's to provide a series of deep water reference stations collecting a broad suite of oceanographic and atmospheric observations.

There are some 286 people listed in the DBCP, representing more than 35 countries. A list of contacts for DBCP activities are available [5] from the web site.

Acronyms

DBCP: Data Buoy Cooperation Panel  
FGGE: First GARP Global Experiment  
GARP: Global Atmospheric Research Programme  
JCOMM: Joint Commission on Oceanography and Marine Meteorology  
OPA: Observations Programme Area  
TIP: Tropical Moored Buoy Implementation Panel  
TOGA: Tropical Ocean – Global Atmosphere programme

References

1. DBCP home: http://www.jcommops.org/dbcp/  
2. DBCP action groups: http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/pubs/outstand/mcph1720/mcph1720.shtml  
5. DBCP contacts: http://www.jcommops.org/dbcp/community/contacts.html