



14 September 2009

TO: Co-Chairs, OceanObs'09 Organizing Committee

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Thank you very much for your letter of 25 August 2009 (Ref: OO/2009/5D-WG/AF), as well as your following email dated 1 September 2009 (Subject: Post-OceanObs'09 Working Group), in which you proposed a Working Group (WG) with draft Terms of Reference, to build on the results of the forthcoming OceanObs'09 Conference.

We subscribe in principle to the preliminary Conference Statement, the proposed WG, and its draft Terms of Reference. We are fully supportive that the WG consider the available mechanisms and funding sources to advance the plans for, and support of, a sustained ocean observing system.

Speaking on behalf of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), the international forum of space agencies involved in observing the Earth, we are most interested in participating in this WG. Considering the membership of this WG, we feel that it needs to be inclusive, rather than exclusive, so that the perspectives of the broad community can be represented in the deliberations following up from the Conference.

We have asked Dr Stan Wilson to participate in this effort on behalf of CEOS. He will be available to join the informal discussion group when it meets at lunchtime on Tuesday 24 September. He will be in a position to draw on additional assistance from the greater CEOS organization, if and when the need arises.

In the meantime, we wish you every success with the OceanObs'09 Conference and we stand ready to work with you helping fulfill the vision of this Conference, a sustained integrated observing system for the oceans.

Sincerely,



Pakorn Apaphant
Representative of the Chair
Committee on Earth Observation Satellites

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