

## Korea GLOBEC

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### Korea GLOBEC I (1998–2003):

The Korea GLOBEC committee was established in 1998 by the Korean Society of Fisheries Resources and the Korean Society of Oceanography, and was chaired by Prof. Suam Kim of Pukyong National University. Before the establishment of Korea GLOBEC, a GLOBEC-like research project, "A study on the climate regime shift and fisheries resources in Korean waters", funded from Korea Science and Engineering Foundation, was conducted in Korea. The major objectives were:

- 1) to examine the effects of the variations of the marine ecosystem caused by climate change on fisheries resources in Korean waters, and
- 2) to suggest the research direction for identifying variations in fisheries resources.

The first phase of Korea GLOBEC activity started with a project entitled "Investigation on the relationship between climate change and fisheries resources in the Japan/East Sea" supported by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries from 2001 to 2003. Prof. Suam Kim was a principal investigator of the project. The major objectives of the project were:

- 1) to conduct retrospective analysis on climate, oceanographic, biological, and fisheries data sets in the Japan/East Sea, and
- 2) to establish the "Science and Implementation Plan for Korea GLOBEC".

The project was a feasibility study with a rather small research budget (US\$ 46,000). The research, thus, focused mainly on the retrospective analyses based on historical data in Korea.

In August 2000, we held the first Korea-Japan Joint GLOBEC Symposium on "Long-term variations in the northwestern Pacific ecosystem" at Busan, Korea (See GLOBEC Newsletter, Vol. 6, No. 2, 2000). Selected papers from the symposium were published in a special issue of Fisheries Oceanography. In December 2002, we also organized the first China-Japan-Korea Joint GLOBEC Symposium on "Processes and dynamics in the northwestern Pacific ecosystem" at Ansan, Korea. Thirty-five

papers including several by Russian scientists were presented at the symposium. Some selected papers from the symposium are scheduled to be published in the Journal of Oceanography this year.

### Korea GLOBEC II (2004–present):

The second phase of Korea GLOBEC was launched in January 2004. A new chairperson, Prof. Im Sang Oh of Seoul National University was elected and a new 9-year project was initiated. The project "Long term change of the biogeochemical cycling and biological processes in the East China Sea: Observation and Prediction" is supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology. The principal investigator is Dr. Cheol-Ho Kim of Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute, and the first year's budget is US\$ 345,000.

The final goals of the project are:

- 1) To detect changes both in the oceanic environment and low-level ecosystem due to long-term climate change in the East China Sea, and to clarify their changing mechanisms,
- 2) To enhance the understanding capability for the physical and biogeochemical processes in the East China Sea,
- 3) To develop the prediction model for ecosystem change, and
- 4) To predict the impact of future climate change on the physical and chemical environment and ecosystem in the East China Sea.

Through this long-term national GLOBEC activity, we expect that the dynamic variations of the ecosystem of the Yellow and East China Seas in relation with the local and global climate changes could be more understandable.

Recently, the Korea GLOBEC committee has decided to encourage young scientists by supporting their travel expenses. About 10 Korean scientists who want to present their research results at GLOBEC or GLOBEC-like international conferences will be supported annually. This program will be continued for 10 years.



Professor Im Sang Oh,  
Chair of the Korea GLOBEC

China-Korea-Japan Joint GLOBEC  
Symposium at Ansan, Korea on  
December 13-15, 2002

