

## **Achievements of IOC during 1968 - 1972**

In 1968 I was seconded for a year from my post as Director of the Fisheries and Operations Division of the Fisheries Department of FAO, Rome, to Paris as the FAO Liaison Officer with the IOC. DR Konstantin Federov was at the time IOC Secretary (During my time in FAO I had been FAO's representative at the First International Oceanography Conference, in Copengagen in 1960, which led to the establishment of th IOC. Since then I had represented FAO in all IOC meetings and conferences.)

At the end of that year, I was nominated as IOC Secretary, in which post I served for two years, when my FAO secondment ended.

I had two major tasks in addition to the usual routine, both of which were accomplished. One was to convert (as agreed by the UN Inter-Agency Committee and the responsible organs of the UN system) IOC Secretariat into a multi-Agency secretariat, serving all UN bodies concerned with some aspects of marine science and its applications. The secretariat was to be provided, still, mainly by UNESCO but with staff also from FAO, WMO and possibly also from WHO and UN itself.

My second task was the preparation of a Longterm and Expanded Programme of Oceanic Research (LEPOR). This was achieved through the conduct of numerous workshops and working groups, in cooperation with ICSU's SCOR and FAO's Advisory Committee on Marine Resources research (ACMRR), taking into account suggestions from IOC Members.

The background to this, that we were always conscious of, was the convening of the third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, in 1973, in the wake of Dr Arvid Pardo's address to the UN General Assembly in 1967 in his capacity as Ambassador of Malta. Our special concern was to try to ensure that any new provisions eventually would not impede, but would, rather, assist, facilitate and encourage the conduct of scientific research, especially in areas coming under national jurisdictions. The IOC thus began to influence what would eventually be written into Part XIII of UNCLOS 1982. At the same time we were involved in, though not primarily responsible, for the development of World Oceanographic Data Centres and the budding Global Ocean Monitoring System.