

Bio Data

Desmond Scott joined the British Royal Navy early during the 2nd World War (WW2) and after initial war service as a junior officer trained as a Hydrographic Surveyor, 'in charge of survey', and rising to command two naval surveying ships HMS Shackleton (1958) and HMS Scott (1960). Subsequently, after 32 years in the Royal Navy, he retired to become Secretary IOC for a period of 7 years plus (1972-1979).

Achievements during the period 1972 - 1979

I see the main achievement during this period as being the strong sense of co-ordination which was built up under three main headings: Ocean Science, Ocean Services and TEMA (Training and Education in the Marine Sciences), and the eventual agreement that was reached with the Member States in drafting and participation in the Long-term and Expanded Programme of Oceanic exploration and Research (LEPOR).

During this period close liaison and goodwill were built up with Member States, and also the relation with UNESCO, an essential prerequisite, was placed on a footing agreed and acceptable to both parties.

In spite of a chronic shortage of staff and necessary finance which I inherited and several years later passed on to my successor in the post, requests from Member States would be seriously considered and supported to a maximum possible. On the whole liaison was good, but availability of staff and finance needed was poor.