Engineering Committee on Oceanic Resources (ECOR)

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Creation and aims

The concept of an international organization of engineers interested in marine affairs originated in 1969 in connection with proposals for the International Decade of Ocean Exploration.

In 1969 IOC adopted a resolution encouraging the formation of ECOR and in November 1969 WFEO (World Federation of Engineering Organizations) authorized its Executive Committee to review the possibility of a formal relationship of WFEO and ECOR.

Mainly as a result of correspondence with various interested national and international engineering bodies, and by convening meetings in Washington, September 1970, and Düsseldorf, November 1970, Statutes of ECOR were agreed and ratified by the Founder Members (the National Committees of the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom and USA and the international societies IADC and ISSC). The Founder Council Meeting held in Bordeaux, March 1971 elected the ECOR officers, established its By-Laws, and arranged for its incorporation in the Netherlands.

According to the Statutes, ECOR is an international, nongovernmental, professional engineering body, whose purpose is ‘establishing and maintaining international, professional engineering communication on marine affairs; providing advice from an engineering viewpoint on policy, programme and organizational methods to international and intergovernmental organizations concerned with marine affairs or providing such advice directly to individual nations on behalf of these organizations; assisting the engineering profession in the development of its capability in the use of the ocean and in the enhancement of the quality of the marine environment, while recognizing that engineering is practised within legitimate proprietary interests’.

K. A. Bekiashev et al., International Marine Organizations
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Membership

Membership of ECOR is open to national bodies, who may forward their applications with a description of their activities to the Council of ECOR for approval. Members wishing to resign from ECOR give six months notice to the Council in writing.

In accordance with the Statutes there are two kinds of membership: National Members, such as a national committee or a national engineering academy and International Members, such as engineering-related organizations with an interest in the ocean. National Members have in their own nations a purpose similar to that of ECOR.

On January 1, 1977 the National members of ECOR consisted of the National Committees of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Great Britain, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa and the USA. The following international organizations were international members of ECOR: FIP, IADC, IAHR, IAWPR and ISSC.

Structure

The highest organ of ECOR is the General Assembly, which consists of the Delegates and Members of the Council, Chairmen, members of Working Groups and Official Observers. Each Adhering Body may appoint one Delegate to a General Assembly with one vote.

The Council of no more than fifteen and no fewer than nine members and including the President, the Vice-President, the Immediate Past President, and the Secretary, is elected for three years by the General Assembly and is responsible for executing the decisions of the General Assembly.

Working Groups are established by the Council to investigate scientific and technological questions and projects as appropriate within the purpose of ECOR.

Finance

ECOR derives its income from the annual subscriptions of the Adhering Bodies, chosen from one of five levels and approved by the General Assembly, donations and grants from Adhering Bodies, international and intergovernmental bodies with whom ECOR has an advisory relationship, and other donations and grants accepted by the authority of the Council.

These funds are devoted to the expenses necessary for the operation of the Council and to the organizational expenses of the General Assembly.