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Introducing

It is our pleasure to present to you this Newsletter. As you can see, it is a Newsletter with a new format.

In an ever changing research environment also the Newsletter has to change and adapt every now and then.

Also your President has changed. From this year Herman Hummel has succeeded Mike Thorndyke, who now acts as Past-President in MARS.

You can read more on the new president in "Letter from the president", further on in this Newsletter.

If there are any comments on this newsletter, or you have any ideas or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact us at mars@nioz.nl.

We also welcome new contributions to next MARS Newsletters.

- The MARS secretariat -

EMBS 2014 in St. Petersburg

We are pleased to announce that the 49th European Marine Biology Symposium will be held from 8 till 12 September in Saint Petersburg, Russia.



The major topics will be:

1. Organism-environment coupling
2. Predator-prey, parasite-host and other inter- or intraspecific interactions
3. Marine communities and food webs

Registration for the symposium, abstract submission, hotel reservation, payment and other services will start 30 October 2013. For any questions, please feel free to contact embs2014@gmail.com

ERC in the “ Horizon 2020” framework programme

As the seventh framework programme is coming to an end, it is now time to look forward to the new European programme for research and innovation: Horizon 2020. In this new framework the ERC will return in the program “Excellent Science”. The 3 basic forms of grants will return: Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant and Advanced Grant. Also the possibility for a “Proof of Concept grant” will remain. The Synergy Grant is still under evaluation, it is not certain that it will return. The ERC expects to publish the working programme for 2014 at the end of 2013. The preliminary schedule is:

- Consolidator Grants: First quarter 2014: call publication, second quarter 2014: call deadline.
- Advanced Grant: Fourth quarter 2014: call publication and deadline.
- Proof of Concept grant: two call deadlines in 2014.

More information on http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=home

Marine stations highlighted

To underpin the importance of marine stations and institutes, in the coming MARS newsletters we want to present all MARS member stations. If you are interested to promote your station in the MARS newsletter, you can send us the history of your station, and the work your station is now performing, together with a nice photograph. For means of example we now present the Yerseke branch of NIOZ, and hopefully this will encourage you to also present your own institute.

Once we have collected several highlights we are going to collate them in a booklet on the marine stations in Europe.

Highlighted: NIOZ Yerseke

by Christiaan Hummel



The Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) in Yerseke was founded in 1957 to investigate the effects of the Delta works on the flora and fauna of the tidal zones in Zeeland and South Holland tidal. During the first years it was called the Delta research department of the Hydrobiological Institute, and was part of an institute that also sported a freshwater branch situated in Nieuwersluis. After a merger in 1992, it became known as the Netherlands Institute for Ecology, and the institute situated in Yerseke was called the Centre for Estuarine and Marine Ecology (NIOO / CEME). Meanwhile, the investigation was extended to ecosystems of brackish and salt water from the adjacent Oosterschelde to the Antarctic. From the 1st of January 2012, the institute was taken over by the Royal NIOZ, situated in Texel (Northern part of the Netherlands), and now it is known NIOZ Yerseke.

The main research at NIOZ Yerseke focuses on Estuarine ecology. There are four different groups, each dealing with their own particular subject: Ecology and Biogeochemistry, Microbial Ecophysiology, Organisms - Landscape Interactions, and Benthic Communities as Environmental Indicators.



Session on Marine Stations at the 48th EMBS

by Herman Hummel

At the 48th European Marine Biology Symposium, held at the Martin Ryan Institute (NUI), in Galway, Ireland, from 19 to 23 August, a special session was dedicated to Marine Stations and Infrastructures. The overarching theme of the symposium was "Biodiversity in a Changing Ocean". More than 180 participants enjoyed a dynamic programme during 5 days.

In the special session on marine stations, with 8 oral contributions, several MARS members from e.g. Sweden, Estonia, Italy, and Netherlands emphasized the research and role of marine stations. Some of these presentations will appear in a special volume of the journal *Marine Environmental Research*. The special session was also a memorial session commemorating the sudden decease earlier this year of Carlo Heip, the founder of the MARS network.

During the coffee-break and poster sessions the interest of participants in the MARS network was stimulated further with an exposition of posters, flyers and the booklet on the role of marine stations in the 21st century.

For the best poster presentations MARS has awarded 4 young researchers. The first prize went to Chloe Kinsella (UCD, Dublin, Ireland), the second to Anna-Karin Almen (Abo Univ., Finland), and the third and fourth prize to Katrin Bohn (School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor, UK) and Julia Calderwood (Queens Univ., Belfast, UK).

All these MARS actions and presentations have helped strongly to increase the visibility of MARS among the marine research community.

Letter from the President

Dear MARS colleagues



It is my pleasure to greet you through this Newsletter. A Newsletter with a new format.

The basis is the same stimulating environment of marine sciences performed at marine stations, yet as the arena around the stations is changing, also the Newsletter has to change and adapt every now and then.

Also your President has changed. From this year I succeeded Mike Thorndyke, who acts now in MARS as Past-President. Let me introduce myself shortly. As a student in marine ecology at the University of Groningen already during my studies I became acquainted with marine stations. It was the major marine station in the Netherlands, the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) at Texel, where I followed a field course. This course captured my attention towards the marine realm so strongly that I decided to carry out my Master as well as my PhD thesis. It laid the basis for my further career as marine ecophysiological of macrozoobenthic species as mussels and clams. At a later stage I got more and more captured in international cooperation

and networking at European, as in INTAS projects (with east Europe), BIOMARE, and the more recent MarBEF and EuroMarine. And every time again the focus of my work centered around field work at marine stations or bringing marine stations, e.g. as observatories, together. Stations all around Europe, ranging from the White Sea Biological Stations (in Poyakonda and Kartesh) in northern Russia, to the International Marine Centre in Oristano at Sardinia in southern Italy.

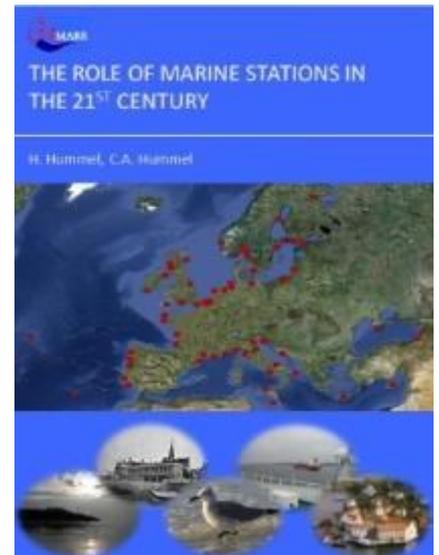
This may also be exemplary for one of the strong functions of marine stations – to awake the curiosity in young students who then begin exciting research in the marine realm, and then later to be a stronghold for major projects and international cooperation at a pan-European scale. An example of some of the traditional missions of marine stations that are strongly rooted. Yet missions that have to be defended now also strongly in a globalizing environment where the attention is shifting from curiosity-driven fundamental knowledge towards applying knowledge for socio-economic issues in policy and industry.

It is my intention to actively promote in the coming years the role of marine stations, to increase their visibility, and to develop a strong science policy and strategy for marine stations that will be heard at policy and political level all over Europe.

To this end it remains vital to act as marine stations together, the larger as well as the smaller, and to unite our efforts to emphasize the role of marine stations in the present turbulent developments in marine sciences.

The importance of the MARS network is thus now even more evident to put forward, and show the “outside world”, that marine stations are among the best to lead and perform first-class marine research, and that marine stations should not be sacrificed in the present economic recession.

A first booklet on what steps we have to take as marine stations united in MARS has recently been published (H Hummel & CA Hummel, 2013. The role of marine stations in the 21st century. NIOZ-MON Publication Series 2013-3) and it is our aim to call the coming winter for a Director’s meeting to outline in more detail the further steps to be taken for the coming years.



I do hope that we all together can make those necessary steps forward in a globalizing world and at the same time keep precious traditions alive.

Yours, Herman Hummel

In memoriam: Carlo Heip

by Pierre Lasserre, Mike Thorndyke, Herman Hummel

Many of us knew Carlo Heip as a strong, motivating, and integrative marine scientist. He was the catalyst of marine biodiversity research in Europe and made so many things happen. Due to his achievements his footprint on European research will last for a long time. Over many years, Carlo developed a thoughtful and intellectually captivating discourse. He was one of the founders of the European MARS network and also its first President. He was eloquent and captivating as a speaker. He had the unique capacity to capture key messages necessary to draw attention and enthuse colleagues, administrators and politicians alike to adhere to ambitious proposals. His leadership of MarBEF, one of the first European Networks of Excellence, commanded admiration from his colleagues and friends, and generated a real renaissance of interest for integrated research and education all over Europe. His recent involvement in the launching of WAMS, marine GeoBON/DIVERSITAS saw him throw himself, heart and soul, into the noble target to facilitate integration of marine research at the global level, and on building tomorrow’s future. We will not only remember Carlo as a charismatic leader in research but also as a warm-hearted, friendly and enthusiastic colleague.

