POGO

Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans

Newsletter Jan 2018

News from the POGO members (cont'd)

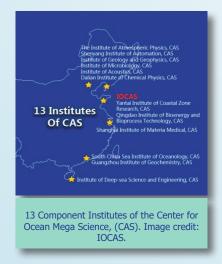### Center for Ocean Mega-Science (CAS) is moving forward steadily and confidently

On December 20, 2017, the first Council meeting of Center for Ocean Mega-Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), was held in Beijing.

Dr. Fan Wang, the director of Institute of Oceanology, CAS (IOCAS) and Yantai Institute of Coastal Zone Research, CAS (YICCAS) was elected as the chair of the Center for Ocean Mega-Science, CAS.

Dr. Fan Wang
Image credit: IOCAS.

The Center for Ocean Mega-Science is composed of marine related research fields of 13 institutes of CAS, which is the new organization of CAS reformation and the new engine for furthering China Ocean Science development. IOCAS is taking the leading role in the Center.

13 Component Institutes of the Center for Ocean Mega Science, (CAS). Image credit: IOCAS.

CAS is a comprehensive research centre with global influence; an opening and sharing facility cluster of S&T innovation; an elite talent cultivation base and a platform for collaborations with domestic and international institutions.
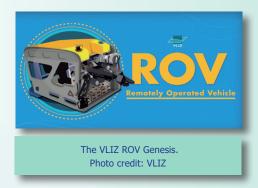
It is expected to put forward major marine scientific research plans, strengthen marine-related scientific resources management, and operate the multi-disciplinary research units of *R/V* fleet, observation networks and fundamental analysis instruments.

This article was provided by Yanwei Li and Fengfan Yang, International Cooperation Office, IOCAS.

A Marine Robotics Center in Oostende by Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)

The Flemish government invests 3 million EUR in the development of a Marine Robotics Centre at the Marine Station Ostend (Belgium).

VLIZ is in charge and will acquire an unmanned surface vehicle (USV), an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) and a technical lab, to complement VLIZ's currently operational remotely operated vehicle (ROV) "Genesis" (http://www.vliz.be/en/rov-genesis).

The VLIZ ROV Genesis.
Photo credit: VLIZ

The Marine Robotics Centre will operate and maintain the different robotic vehicles and associated sensors, creating novel research possibilities for the Flemish marine research community.

The vehicles will be deployed to collect large amounts of data and access otherwise difficult-to-sample regions with high accuracy. The USV allows controlled autonomous long-lasting measurements of both atmosphere and ocean characteristics in the Belgian part of the North Sea and beyond. The AUV will have a depth range up to 1000 metres and will be equipped with a multitude of sensors including a multibeam echosounder, a sub-bottom profiler, a synthetic aperture sonar and an environmental module.

View of the control room of the ROV Genesis.
Photo credit: VLIZ

This allows seawater, seabed and sub-seafloor measurements related to chemical, biological, physical, geological and historical research from near-shore areas to continental slopes. Combined with the 1500 m depth-rated ROV, Flemish researchers and their (inter)national partners will have access to the latest technology in ocean sciences and can improve, extend and diversify their research.

VLIZ has the ambition to set up the Marine Robotics Centre as a facility for cutting edge research through national and international collaborations by the end of 2019.

This article was provided by Jan Mees, Director, VLIZ.