

# Move to promote operational oceanography

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Y S Chowdhary

Sujana Chowdhary lays stone for ITCO centre in Hyderabad

**Hyderabad:** Union Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Y S Chowdhary has said an International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography is being set up by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

This was being done as a part of a commitment of the Union government in helping the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in their efforts in capacity building in areas of Operational Oceanography.

The Union minister was the chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony (Bhoomi Pooja) for the building complex of the International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCO-Ocean) here on Monday. The building complex is being constructed within the campus of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) at Pragathi Nagar, Hyderabad.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said the Centre wants to promote Operational Oceanography since it plays an important role in translating the benefits of science for the common public; a few examples being potential fishing zones advisories to fishermen, ocean state forecasts for mariners, tsunami & storm surge early warnings, etc.

Malkajgiri MP Malla Reddy said the youth were playing important role in the nation building. Dr Satheesh Shenoi, Director, INCOIS, explained the purpose of training centre and its contribution in providing

oceanographic services to the general public, who depend on the sea for their livelihood and commercial activities. Dr Ch Mohan Rao, Director CCMB & NGRI, Hyderabad and several dignitaries were present.

Since INCOIS has already been at the forefront of providing such operational services, Govt of India chose to establish ITCO-Ocean at INCOIS, Hyderabad. Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has also signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with IOC/UNESCO on July 4, 2013 to cooperate in the capacity development programmes.

He also remarked that this shows the confidence of international community in the achievements of India, especially in the field of operational oceanography. For this, the Union government has already allocated Rs.100 crore over a period of 5 years. He mentioned that the ITCO-Ocean building complex will comprise of the academic block with an area of 80,000 Sq ft and an international hostel with an area of 40,000 Sq ft. to be built at a cost of about Rs 50 crore.

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