



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Chinese marine scientists to collaborate with Tasmanian researchers**

Tasmanian marine researchers will today sign a Memorandum of Understanding with their counterparts from China, leading to a greater knowledge of ocean processes in the Southern, Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Australia's Integrated Marine Observing Systems (IMOS), based at the University of Tasmania, is hosting a delegation of researchers from State Oceanic Administration (SOA) in China. IMOS was established as part of the Australian Government's National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy.

SOA is the Chinese government agency in charge of national ocean affairs and is looking to develop a Chinese Ocean Climate Observing System (COCOS).

IMOS director Professor Gary Meyers said IMOS was a world leader in establishing a national body, as other countries tended to form more regional systems. As a result of its national status, IMOS was an attractive partner for China.

"I think we've done pretty well in attracting international recognition," Prof Meyers said.

As part of their visit, the SOA delegation will tour the IMOS facilities, particularly those involved in data collection. There will also be a display on how the data is supporting research.

The two organisations will then sign the Memorandum of Understanding – the first for IMOS - to show their intent to work together to monitor the ocean and, in the future, to coordinate research on the Southern and tropical Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Chinese and Australian researchers already collaborate on a body of water between Australia and Indonesia, monitoring the Indonesian Through Flow.

"We've been working with the Chinese for quite some time, but this formalises our commitment to share resources and knowledge toward building a greater understanding of our oceans as we try to measure climate change," Prof Meyers said.

“The Memorandum of Understanding is about, over time, enhancing the research we do together.”

**For more information:**

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