



International
Whaling
Commission

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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
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Southern Ocean Research Partnership: Announcement of dates and venue for a conference

I have been asked to announce the dates and venue for a conference organised by the Southern Ocean Research Partnership (SORP).

The three-day event will take place from 31 May to 2 June 2013 at the Hotel Shilla, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. The timing of the conference is immediately prior to the 2013 Annual Meeting of the IWC's Scientific Committee which will meet at the same venue.

SORP was established in March 2009 to maximise the conservation outcomes for Southern Ocean whales through an understanding of the post-exploitation status, health, dynamics and environmental linkages of their populations and the threats they face. An integrated and responsive relationship is maintained with the IWC Scientific Committee and its priorities. A Partnership framework, objectives and project proposals for SORP were presented, discussed and endorsed by the Commission and Scientific Committee in 2010. The Scientific Committee receives annual reports of SORP's intersessional progress which include updates of existing projects and their progress.

The SORP Conference aims to present the progress and outcomes of SORP to date and to discuss the way forward for the Partnership's projects. It will also offer an opportunity for SORP project working groups, technical and steering committees to meet during concurrent sessions.

Some financial support may be available to attend this event. Please forward a request to Elanor Bell of the SORP Secretariat. Include in your request a description of your past and proposed contributions to SORP, and to the conference, and whether you are also attending the following meeting of the Scientific Committee. Accommodation and *per diem* support will apply only for the SORP conference days that are additional to the regular meeting of the Scientific Committee.

If you know of scientists who could make a significant contribution to existing or potentially new SORP projects please pass this information on to them.

All enquiries regarding the conference and associated matters should be directed to Elanor Bell, elanor.bell@aad.gov.au.

Simon Brockington
Executive Secretary

c.c. Intergovernmental Organisation observers to the IWC

Chair: Ms Jeannine Compton-Antoine (St. Lucia)

Vice-Chair: Mr Frédéric Chemay (Belgium)

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