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Nippon Foundation / GEBCO Indian Ocean Bathymetric Compilation Project

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The Indian Ocean Bathymetric Compilation (IOBC) project, undertaken by a group of Nippon Foundation / GEBCO Scholars, is focused on building a regional bathymetric data compilation of publically-available bathymetric data within the Indian Ocean region from 20°N to 60°S and 10°E to 147°E. This capacity-building project is envisioned to connect multi-national, multi-disciplinary scholars and colleagues from within all of the involved nations and organizations, resulting in additional capacity-building in this field of multi-resolution bathymetric grid generation in their communities. The skills transferred, through training workshops, further supports the ongoing development of the Nippon Foundation / GEBCO scholar’s network.

An updated regional bathymetric map and grid of the Indian Ocean will be an invaluable tool for all fields of marine scientific research, for improved prediction models and the sustainable management of all marine resources, including both fisheries and deep-water mineral resources. The most up-to-date data depth for modeling regional scale oceanographic processes such as tsunami-wave propagation behavior and other geohazard models may also have an impact on public safety.

The IOBC database includes single beam and multibeam data as well as data complications, including the Australian (250 m) & Kerguelen (100 m) grids from Geoscience Australia and the Strashnov29 transit 200 m grid (from Russian Academy of Sciences) with the GEBCO 2014 30 arc-second grid in the background.

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One of the main objectives of this IOBC project is the creation of a network of Nippon Foundation / GEBCO Scholars working together, from the thirty Scholars from fourteen nations bordering on the Indian Ocean, who have graduated from the Postgraduate Certificate in Ocean Bathymetry (PCOB) training program at the University of New Hampshire.