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## INVITATION FOR INNOVATIVE RESEARCH PROPOSALS – 34<sup>th</sup> INDIAN SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA (34-ISEA)

National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research (ESSO-NCAOR), an Earth System Science Organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, is the nodal agency for implementation of the Indian Antarctic Programme. Hitherto, thirty three Scientific Expeditions to Antarctica have been successfully organized and preparations have begun for the thirty fourth Antarctic Expedition which is scheduled to be launched in November 2014.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (34-ISEA) shall have **CLIMATE CHANGE** as the **thrust area**. ESSO-NCAOR welcomes innovative scientific proposals in different disciplines having linkages to climate change. In addition to the ongoing programmes of different institutions, ESSO-NCAOR welcomes other scientific projects under the following broad areas:

- Astronomy and Astrophysics /Planetary Sciences
- Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences
- Earth Sciences and Glaciology
- Biological and Environmental Sciences
- Engineering and Communication
- Human Physiology & Medicine

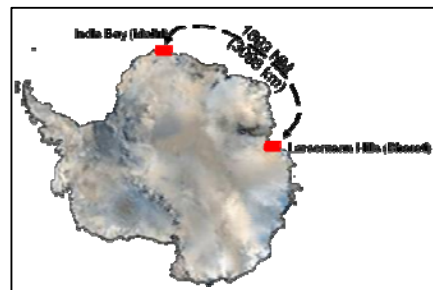
### 1. Area of operation

ESSO- NCAOR operates two year –round stations in Antarctica, which are ~ 3000 kms apart.

1.1. **MAITRI** ( $70^{\circ}45'58''S$ ;  $11^{\circ}43'56''E$ ), Schirmacher Oasis, Central Dronning Maud Land. Maitri research base is an inland station nearly 100km from the shelf (Indian Barrier for Ship)

1.2. **BHARATI** ( $69^{\circ}20''-69^{\circ}30''S$ ;  $75^{\circ}55''- 76^{\circ}30''E$ ), Larsemann Hills, Ingrid Christensen Coast. Bharati research base is near to coast

1.3. **SHIP BOARD OPERATIONS** during the course of voyage from Cape Town - Bharati –Maitri-Cape Town track.



*[Considering the distance between two stations- Maitri & Bharati; and logistics involved, scientific proposals are expected to be well thought out that are viable.]*

## 2.0 TRAVEL

Travel arrangements for all expedition members from Goa to Antarctica and back is taken care of by ESSO- NCAOR.

### 2.1 Mode of Travel

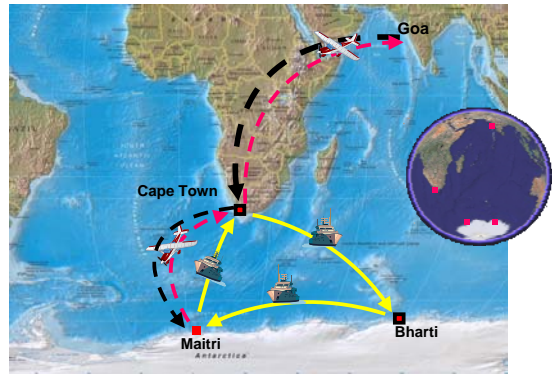
2.1.1 Goa to Cape Town is by air through commercial airlines.

2.1.2 Cape Town to Maitri / Bharati – the passage could be by air through chartered flights under the aegis of DROMLAN initiative or by ship/s on ESSO-NCAOR charter.

*[It's important to note that the mode of travel is not by choice but based on the time of travel, destination and nature of project.]*

### 2.2 Travel Time

2.2.1 Cape Town to Maitri & vice versa – by air takes about 5.5 hours. Travel by air between Cape Town to Maitri takes around 5.5 hours by Ilyushin-76 (IL-76) aircraft. Flight timings and dates can be advanced or postponed subject to weather conditions in Antarctica.



2.2.2 Cape Town to Maitri (India Bay) & vice versa – by ship takes about 10 to 12 days.

2.2.3 Cape Town to Bharati by air- There are no direct chartered flights between Cape Town and Bharati.

2.2.4 Cape Town to Bharati and vice versa – Direct connection is only through ESSO-NCAOR's chartered ships that take 16 to 18 days depending on the weather and sea ice conditions.

2.2.5 Maitri to Bharati and vice versa- By ship it takes 5 to 7 days depending on the weather and sea ice conditions.

2.2.6 Maitri to Bharati and vice versa- By air is possible only through chartered Basler / Twin Otter aircrafts which require midway refuelling and takes nearly 12 to 16 hours. It is very expensive and needs prior planning for availability of aircraft and midway refuelling.

### 2.3 Travel Season for Antarctica -November to March of succeeding Calendar Year.

2.3.1 Air operations Between Cape Town and Maitri and also between Maitri and Bharati are possible only in the summer season i.e. between November and February on select pre-decided days.

2.3.2 Ship operation between Cape Town and Bharati/ Maitri depending on the voyage plan for the season is possible from November to March of succeeding calendar year.

## 3.0 Infrastructure facility

### 3.1 Maitri

#### 3.1.1 Living Capacity Winter– 25

Expedition members for long term (25 numbers) are accommodated in the main building of Maitri station.

### 3.1.2 Living Capacity Summer – 40

Expedition members for short term (15 numbers) are accommodated in the summer facility comprising of containerized living modules.

### 3.1.3 Laboratory space.

There is limited containerized/ modular laboratory space available. Members have to carry their equipment / chemicals/ sample collection, storage & transportation devices. In case of large space requirements for any instrumentation both in terms of logistics and power consumption, the same should be spelt out in detail.

### 3.1.4 Inland transport

#### 3.1.4.1 Helicopters –

Ship based helicopters are variable for scientists working in field. The helicopters are available only when the ship is around. Projects with intensive helicopter requirements should spell out the details in advance.

#### 3.1.4.2 Tracked snowmobile –

Pisten bully vehicles, snow scooters are available round the year. However; requirement details need to be spelt out in advance.

#### 3.1.4.3 Wheeled vehicle-

Toyota Hylex, a modified Toyota pickup truck for Antarctic conditions is available round the year however; requirement details need to be spelt out in advance.

*[In view of the available infrastructure, the proposed scientific work should be confined within the logistic reach, ideally not exceeding 200 km from station in campaign mode.]*

## 3.2 **Bharati**

### 3.2.1 Living Capacity – 47 - Summer & Winter

All expedition members stay in the main building of Bharati Station

### 3.2.2 Laboratory – 270 Sq feet of laboratory space is with regulated power supply. Laboratories are augmented with some basic equipment such as Laminar Air Flow, Milli-Q Ultra purification water system, Ultra-Sonicator, Autoclave, Hot Air Oven, Muffle Furnace, electronic weighing balance.

### 3.2.3 Inland transport

#### 3.2.3.1 Helicopters –

Ship based helicopters are available for scientists working in field. Projects with intensive helicopter requirements should spell out the details in advance.

#### 3.2.3.2 Tracked snowmobile –

Pisten bully vehicles and snow scooters are available round the year. However; requirement details need to be spelt out in advance.

#### 3.2.4 Water based – small fibre boat

A small fibre boat is available for doing some near coast work.

*[In view of the available infrastructure, the proposed scientific work should be confined within the logistic reach, ideally not exceeding 200 km from station in campaign mode.]*

### **3.3 Voyage based science**

Some operations which can be done without stopping the ship can be carried out during the ship voyage. The ship is a chartered vessel and a separate lab space is not available.

The infrastructure support needed in Antarctica / during the voyage, should be spelt out in detail in the Project Proposal format and should be defended before the group of experts at the time of presentation of project proposal/s tentatively during the month of May/June

### **4.0 Duration of stay in Antarctica**

ESSO-NCAOR operates two year-round stations Maitri and Bharati for scientists to mount research activities for duration necessary. Entry and exit to Antarctica due to its peculiar geographic position is restricted between November to March of the succeeding calendar year.

Scientists participating in the 34<sup>th</sup> Indian Expedition desirous of working only through the summer season can enter Antarctica in November' 14 and return by March 15 and those desirous for longer durations can continue staying in Antarctica only to return between November'15 to March'16

Duration in Antarctica

the shorter period (1<sup>st</sup> December to 28/29<sup>th</sup> February) and  
the longer period (1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> November).

### **5.0 Communication facility available with the stations**

Internet connectivity and e-mail facility are available at the stations.

ESSO-NCAOR also provides limited time for calling your near and dear ones:

- Shorter duration (Summer period) – 6 minutes per month
- Longer duration (Winter period) – 20 minutes per month

### **6.0 Eligibility for participation in the 34<sup>th</sup> ISEA Expedition**

For participating in the 34<sup>th</sup> ISEA the proposer of the scientific project i.e. the Principal Investigator (PI) - should be a regular employee, with an interest in the relevant field.

The proposed personnel indicated in the scientific proposal for participation in ISEA should mostly be from PI's organization/institute/department. In case of collaboration with other institute/department/organization, same should be explicitly mentioned. ESSO-NCAOR strongly encourages scientific collaboration with other organizations.

All those who wish to participate in the 34<sup>th</sup> ISEA have to submit their proposal/s to ESSO-NCAOR through proper channel. In case of participation of two or more institutes, scientific proposal should have the consent from all the participating organizations/institute.

The research proposals for the mentioned scientific programmes have to be submitted in the Prescribed Format - for 34<sup>th</sup> ISEA (2014-2015) both as hard copy as also sent as a soft copy on email.

Proposals are invited for both short duration (summer) and longer duration (winter) both for Maitri and Bharati.

Preference will be given to long term programmes resulting in meaningful scientific research with tangible results. Programmes with capabilities for online data acquisition and transmission are encouraged.

## **7.0 Student Participation in the 34-ISEA**

ESSO-NCAOR encourages post graduate students to participate in the Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica. To be eligible, students with post graduate degree in any discipline of science or degree in engineering, technology or medicine (completed their post graduate degree in the previous academic year or appearing for their final year exam in this year-degree awaited) under the aegis of **STUDENT PARTICIPATION SCHEME**.

There are two approaches to apply for Student participation scheme

- 7.1 Interested students with requisite qualifications need to submit a research plan within the framework of the major themes mentioned above for summer period only under the guidance/ supervision of a permanent scientist of any institute/ department/ university.

The designated guide/supervisor shall be fully responsible for the participation of his/her student/s in Indian Expedition.

- 7.2 Students desirous of becoming part of the ongoing projects in Antarctica can also apply with their study area interest to ESSO-NCAOR, along-with a request for a possible attachment with an ongoing programme of either ESSO-NCAOR or any other organization (based on the subject and student interest area).

## **8.0 Process of selection**

The PI should defend his/her research proposal submitted to ESSO-NCAOR, before a panel of experts as and when invited (May/June, 2014). All proposals should be scientifically and logistically viable. **PI/Co-PI should invariably defend the proposal in person at their own expense.**

## **9.0 Things to do, on selection of the research proposal**

Only those project proposal/s which get approved for 34-ISEA, will be informed on their selection.

**All organisations to provide full details within two weeks on receipt of the communication** (of being selected) from ESSO-NCAOR, on the prescribed **form-numbered AL1208**

The selected team members will have to undergo -

- i. a detailed Medical Examination at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi
- ii. snow acclimatization training at the Mountaineering & Skiing Institute (ITBP), Auli, Uttarakhand. Exact dates will be communicated, to medically fit members.

## 10. Team movement for Antarctica

### Team Movement 34 ISEA (2014-15)

#### Air Travel to Maitri/ Bharati tentative schedule for season 2014-15

Departure Goa	Nov-14 to Dec-14
Departure Cape Town	Nov-14 to Dec-14
Arrival Maitri/Bharati	Nov-14 to Dec-14
Departure Maitri/Bharati	Dec-14 to Feb-15
Arrival Cape Town	Dec-14 to Feb-15
Arrival Mumbai/Delhi	Dec-14 to Feb-15

*Expedition members shall be sent in and brought out of Antarctica in batches depending on requirements.*

#### **Cargo Movement:**

The expedition cargo (including scientific cargo) is sent from Goa to Cape Town through commercial freight carriers/shipping lines. It takes nearly 45 days for the cargo to reach Cape Town including the lead time for customs formalities. For onward carriage to Larsemann Hills, Antarctica, the cargo will be shipped onboard the chartered expedition ship.

*Organizations should make sure that the scientific cargo must reach ESSO-NCAOR, Goa on or before **02<sup>nd</sup> September 2014** else it could be left out and thus jeopardizing the programme.*

#### Luggage dimensions for air transfer:

Members going directly to Maitri may carry their select scientific equipment/s by air (with prior intimation to the Logistic division at ESSO-NCAOR).

The size and weight of individual packaging/box/baggage should not exceed 90 cm in length, 72 cm in height, and 45cm in width and 30 kg in weight.

Any requirement for hazardous cargo like gasses, chemicals fuel, oil etc needs to be intimated immediately upon approval of the project as the same cannot be transported by air and needs to be arranged at Cape Town.

## 11. Allowances for travel and stay in Antarctica

11.1 ESSO-NCAOR makes arrangements for travel to Antarctica from Goa and back, accommodation in the ship and Antarctica, food, special polar clothing requirements and personal insurance cover.

11.2 All other expenses including those related to procurement of scientific equipments, attending pre-Antarctic training, Hard Duty Allowance [Presently @ Rs. 1125/-and Rs.

1688/- per day for long term [winter] (1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> November) and short term [Summer] team (1<sup>st</sup> December to 28/29<sup>th</sup> February) members respectively as per ESSO-NCAOR's terms and conditions] etc. will have to be borne by the participating organization. This may be taken into account while forwarding the nominations.

## 12. Conduct of Members

Members have to maintain discipline at the station, ship and air transit. The orders from the Leader in prioritizing things and any disciplinary matter are final.

## 13. Do you aspire to be the Leader of the 34-ISEA at Bharati or Maitri or Voyage?

**ESSO-NCAOR welcomes nominations from organizations for selection of the expedition Leader for Maitri, Bharati and Voyage**

Candidates having leadership qualities with Antarctic experience are preferred.

Letter of nomination addressed to The Director, ESSO-NCAOR along with bio-data and professional experience of the nominated candidate should be sent in a separate cover inscribed "Proposed Leader 34 ISEA- MAITRI / BHARATI/ VOYAGE"(preference to be clearly indicated) by the Head of the organization.

## 14. Logistic Personnel

Retired defence personnel preferably from EME & Engineers/ITBP/Border Roads and allied Paramilitary services, may apply for summer and wintering component. Persons with Antarctic experience are preferred for a long term contractual re-employment. **The interested personnel may apply to Programme Director, Logistics, ESSO-NCAOR at [logistics@ncaor.gov.in](mailto:logistics@ncaor.gov.in) with a copy to Director, NCAOR at [director@ncaor.gov.in](mailto:director@ncaor.gov.in)**

## 15. Data Policy

Data in general and that from the polar region is precious in particular. The true value of scientific data is often realized long after it has been collected, and to ensure the lasting legacy it is essential to ensure long-term preservation and sustained access to Antarctic data.

Being the member of the Antarctic treaty, the data policy of ESSO-NCAOR is governed by section III.1.c of the Antarctic Treaty 1959 and has been broadly adopted from IPY 2012-13 ([http://classic.ipy.org/Subcommittees/final\\_ipy\\_data\\_policy.pdf](http://classic.ipy.org/Subcommittees/final_ipy_data_policy.pdf)) keeping in view the interests of national and international scientific community.

**All data generated during the voyage and/ or from the Antarctic continent under the aegis of Indian Scientific Expeditions accompanied by a full set of metadata that completely documents and describe the data is to be given to ESSO-NCAOR for secured archival in the National Polar Data Centre, on return to mainland.**

In order to promote the data management within the Antarctic scientific community in accordance to the spirit of the Antarctic Treaty, the metadata (data about data) will be made available through ESSO-NCAOR website without any access restrictions and will be shared on the network established by the SC-DAM – Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research/Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (SCAR/COMNAP).

However, the data will be treated as intellectual property of the owner / collector with a lock in period of 2 years from the date marking the end of the expedition season. This

gives ample opportunity to the collector for digesting the data, making full use of the information and in translating it to knowledge base. The mandatory lock in period upon request is extendable to a maximum of five years depending on the nature, volume, sensitivity and reasonability of processing time required.

Upon the expiry of the mandatory or extended lock in period the data will be made available to the scientific community for full free and open access with a rider that the name of the owner / collector will be duly acknowledged in any sort of technical report/ publications / short note / scientific and or administrative communiqué.

As per the IPY norms, the only exceptions to this policy of full, free, and open access are:

- Where human subjects are involved, confidentiality must be protected
- Where local and traditional knowledge is concerned, rights of the knowledge holders shall not be compromised
- Where data release may cause harm, specific aspects of the data may need to be kept protected (for example, locations of nests of endangered birds or locations of sacred sites).

#### **16. Care for the Antarctic environment**

Antarctica is a pristine environment and needs to be protected and maintained to the best of our ability. This is as part of the international treaty for embracing and protecting the earth as also the strict guidelines for research in Antarctica. There is an Environmental Policy in force and needs to be adhered in word and spirit. Details can be had from [www.ats.aq](http://www.ats.aq)

#### **17. Application Format for 34-ISEA**

The application format may be downloaded from ESSO-NCAOR's website ([www.ncaor.gov.in](http://www.ncaor.gov.in))

#### **18. Deadline for receiving proposals**

- **Three copies of the proposal along with all essential endorsement and certificates in the prescribed formats [available on our website] should be forwarded through proper channel and must reach the Director, Earth System Science Organization, National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research, Headland Sada, Vasco-da-Gama, Goa- 403 804 latest by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The envelope should be clearly super scribed "34-ISEA PROPOSAL".**
  - **A soft copy of the same should also be sent as an attachment by e-mail at [insea2008@gmail.com](mailto:insea2008@gmail.com) with a copy to [insea@ncaor.gov.in](mailto:insea@ncaor.gov.in) with the Subject: "34 ISEA Proposal".**
- Nominations received after 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014, will not be entertained.**

- Details on our webpage [www.ncaor.gov.in](http://www.ncaor.gov.in)