



**THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE PROPERTIES OF
WATER AND STEAM**

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February 18, 2012

To: **SCOR**
President
Prof. Wolfgang Fennel
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and To: **IAPSO**
President
Prof. Eugene G. Morozov

Dear Prof. Fennel, Dear Prof. Morozov,

Thank you for your letter of 17 November 2011 regarding the establishment of a permanent Joint Committee of SCOR, IAPSO, and IAPWS on Seawater (JCS), as a successor of the SCOR/IAPSO WG127 which was formally disbanded at the end of 2011. IAPWS was very satisfied with the fruitful cooperation with WG127 and the successful development and implementation of a new seawater standard, TEOS-10.

The IAPWS leadership is very favourably disposed towards the formation of the JCS and this issue will be formally considered and a final decision is anticipated by the Executive Committee of IAPWS at the Annual Meeting in October 2012 at Boulder, Colorado. The offer of SCOR to provide the JCS with administrative support is acknowledged. It is anticipated that IAPWS will offer to host JCS meetings at its future annual meetings.

At a recent meeting between IAPWS and the International Bureau for Weights and Measures (BIPM), actions toward a closer cooperation between IAPWS and BIPM were envisaged which to some extent concern the future work of the JCS, such as the development of new definitions and measurement standards for seawater salinity and seawater pH, traceable to the International System of Units (SI). Under participation of JCS, a position paper of IAPWS and BIPM is intended to be published, describing those tasks and the goals of the cooperation. Workshops on the IAPWS-BIPM cooperation are planned to be held at the 16th International Conference on the Properties of Water and Steam (16th ICPWS) at London-Greenwich in 2013. IAPWS would be pleased to welcome representatives of SCOR and IAPSO at this occasion, as well as at the IAPWS meeting in Boulder 2012.

This initiative in building links with BIPM may be regarded as the first substantial initiative of the JCS, as part of its terms of reference regarding working towards an SI-traceable link to the measurement of properties of interest to SCOR, IAPSO and IAPWS. In this regard, we recognise that the JCS, as indicated by the List of Tasks in its draft Terms of Reference, is also planning to continue a standard-developing role for the thermodynamic properties of the cryosphere and the atmosphere in addition to the hydrosphere. This is consistent with the work carried out by SCOR/IAPSO WG127 which created several international standards for ice and for humid air (via formulations endorsed by IAPWS, the IOC General Assembly in 2009, and the IUGG Conference in 2011), as well as seawater standards.

We are looking forward to the intended continuation and extension of the work of WG127 and IAPWS in cooperation with SCOR and IAPSO under the umbrella of the new Joint Committee. In this regard we note that in December 2011 Dr Rich Pawlowicz forwarded by email the draft Terms of Reference of the JCS to SCOR, IAPSO and IAPWS. If we three parent bodies are agreeable to these draft Terms of Reference, then the establishment of the JCS will be considered by IAPWS in October 2012 with these as being the agreed Terms of Reference. If SCOR and/or IAPSO would like these draft Terms of Reference to be changed, then it would be best to agree on such change(s) prior to October 2012.

Sincerely yours,

Karol Daucik

