

## IOCCG Workshop in Argentina

IOCCG will be sponsoring an advanced workshop with the specific aim of helping a group of young researchers from South America to write a scientific proposal in the field of bio-optics. This workshop will take place from 7 – 11 July, 2003 at the National Institute of Fisheries Research (INIDEP), Mar del Plata, Argentina. The final goal will be to help the participants to write a proposal to funding agencies to create a network of bio-optical stations around South America. An immediate aim of such a proposal would be to contribute to the validation of satellite images of ocean-colour, and eventually to improve the algorithms used to retrieve chlorophyll concentration. It is anticipated that this proposal would include the application of the improved satellite-derived information, such as chlorophyll and primary production estimates, to study certain aspects of biological oceanography from the shelf regions around South America. In addition, the data will contribute to the answer of global issues, such as those related to climate change. At the moment there are no collaborative projects among South American countries to study issues related to bio-optics or primary production in this important region of the world's ocean.

The idea for this workshop originated during the last training course sponsored by IOCCG at the University of Concepción (Chile) “[Primary Production: Theory, modelling and estimations by remote sensing](#)” (October 2002). At that time, a group of advanced students, already developing work in bio-optics in Brazil, Chile, and Argentina, pointed out the need to join forces to strengthen the isolated efforts being carried out by some research groups, as well as incorporating others. The creation of a network of bio-optical stations around South America was then first mentioned. Trevor Platt and Shubha Sathyendranath, who were teachers at the course, stimulated this idea. It became clear, nevertheless, that most of the participants were very young researchers lacking the necessary experience to elaborate such a proposal for international collaboration. This initiative was raised at the last IOCCG meeting (Florence, February 2003). It was agreed that the group would contribute to financing an advanced workshop where researchers of recognised international experience in the area of bio-optics would advise a group of selected students from South America on how to elaborate a joint proposal.