

International Collaboration & Science Diplomacy

Robin Brown

Retired PICES Executive Secretary

Remember the outline provided for this session:

- What an effective and successful international collaboration looks like across different countries,
- Key considerations when initiating international scientific projects with colleagues from different cultures,
- How ECOPs can contribute to Science Diplomacy, and the experience needed to succeed in this field,
- Strategies for maintaining effective communication to foster long-term relationships.

Effective Science Collaborations

- An effective scientific collaboration is a pretty intimate relationship
 - Almost always multi-year
 - Parties need to trust that participants will do their very best to complete the agreed-upon work
- This relationship primarily belongs to YOU and only partially to your institution and or nation
 - If you change jobs, you can probably “take the collaboration with you”
 - Institutions can “facilitate” but they cannot make the collaboration happen.

International scientific projects with colleagues from different cultures

1. Some cultures are very “transactional” while others are more about “relationships”.
2. The reward system for your international research colleague may be different than yours.
3. Different kinds of outputs may be required.
4. Different communication standards will probably apply.

What does this mean for ECOPs?

- In my experience, the current generation of ECOPs are MUCH BETTER at this stuff than their predecessors
- ECOPs MAY need a bit more institutional support than their more established colleagues
- There are some challenges, like reductions in travel to reduce CO₂ emissions
- This is a “learn by doing” process. Look for any opportunity to jump in.

Questions?

Short Bio –Robin Brown

- Robin is a retired Executive Secretary of PICES where he served from 2015 to 2020.
- Prior to this, he worked for Fisheries and Oceans Canada for 30 years, working his way up from a Multidisciplinary Oceanographer with lots of at-sea data acquisition and analysis and then as Oceanographic Data Manager, responsible for management and quality control for the Institute of Ocean Sciences (IOS) in Sidney, Canada.
- In his last 15 years in DFO, he moved to the “dark side” - science program management - as the Manager of the Ocean Sciences Division. This was a group of 70 science staff working in the North Pacific and the Arctic. While at DFO, he and his staff were engaged in many international programmes and projects including APEC Working Groups, JGOFS, GLOBEC and WOCE. Robin also developed and managed successful formal collaboration agreements with Asian institutions.
- Robin attended the first PICES Annual Meeting and almost every meeting since in a variety of roles, including expert group member, expert group Chair and representative of Canada on the Finance and Administration committee and Governing Council. Robin also served as lead Commissioner for Canada on the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission and NPAFC Vice-President in 2014-2015..