Oceanographic data will now be available worldwide on NIO website: Dr M Rajeevan

Pannai: Oceanographic data will now be easily available worldwide in National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) website. There will be no restrictions of sharing data with the East for security reasons too, said Secretary of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) Dr M Rajeevan during the second India–United States Colloquium on Earth Observations and Sciences for Society and Economy held at National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Dona Paula on Monday.

“Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCIS) in Hyderabad is designated for national data collection. We archive all the data and we make it in such a way that it can be easily accessible to any scientist all over India. Now we are going to open source of the data so that it can be easily accessible to any scientist all over the world,” said Dr Rajeevan.

While explaining the significance and the reach of the work being jointly carried out by the scientific community from both countries, Dr Rajeevan said, “The citizens of Indian benefit from the forecast because of the work we do together in the Indian Ocean. The measurements, the deployment, the models and the work that we have to discuss here on fishing and ecosystem management. These are global challenges, that only a global community can master, the only global community can accommodate and develop solutions.”

“Indian ocean observations are very important so we have been putting observations jointly. It is a government rule not to share observations with anyone. But by doing that we are stopping good researchers hence we have decided that this data will be shared with the international community and we will have data from 46 databases of the Indian Ocean,” he said.

Indian monsoon is influenced by both Pacific ocean and Indian ocean. The trade will also have an indirect impact on sharing the observations. “There are more advantages than disadvantages. Even if we do not share our observations, the foreign countries can put their own observation. In that case, there is no security as such, so we prefer sharing of data,” Dr Rajeevan said.

Ronald H Brown (R 104), only global class research vessel of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) anchored at Mormugao port on Monday, Pic: Abid Naluk

We have Argo float which goes down 2000 metres to collect salinity data and every 10 days they come up. We collect the data and send it back to shore. We also have drifters that float in the ocean and allows us to get data on a constant basis,” said Gunter.

Ronald H Brown’s manoeuvring capabilities provided by a dynamic positioning system enhance its ability to hold its position in the water for up to 11 feet, with the wind and a 5 knot current. This capability is critical when deploying and recovering deep-sea moorings, supporting remotely operated vehicles and deploying the sensors necessary for successful research.

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