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India's buoy network to provide ocean data to global researchers TNN | Jun 12, 2018, 03:09 IST

Dona Paula: Making a break from its earlier policy, the Union ministry of earth sciences had decided to share data obtained from the Ocean Moored Buoy Network in the Indian Ocean (OMNI) with the international research community and nations. The OMNI network along with the Research Moored Array for African-Asian-Australian Monsoon Analysis and Prediction (RAMA) network will provide global researchers a trove of data from the 46 buoys moored in the Indian Ocean.

“Data from eight OMNI-buoys will be made available to all users. From now onwards, everyone will be able to assess the OMNI-buoy data freely which will be an important contribution to the international scientific community,” union earth sciences secretary M Rajeevan said.

Addressing the Indo-US colloquium on Earth Observations and Sciences for Society and Economy, which got under way in Dona Paula on Monday, Rajeevan said that better data gathering had helped generate accurate weather forecasting and people had started believing in the Indian weather forecasts. The eight OMNI buoys are equipped with sensors, which record data and climatic conditions and relay it through wireless mechanisms to researchers.

“We are opening up now. Atmospheric data is free of cost to everyone and even ocean data will be shared,” Rajeevan said.

The move was welcomed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

“As weather systems develop in the Indian Ocean, we see an expression of that in the United States, in the weather and the atmosphere in the other parts of the world,” acting chief scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Craig McLean, said.

Director of INCOIS Sathesh Shenoi explained that the OMNI network of buoys had sensors to collect lower atmospheric data, air temperature, winds, radiation, and humidity, along with sub-surface sensors that track salinity, currents and carbon dioxide. “If you put together the RAMA buoys and the OMNI buoys, there are 46 moorings in the Indian Ocean that will gather data for sharing and we will get a lot of data from the Indian Ocean.