



COMMUNICATING SCIENCE EFFECTIVELY

Workshops on scientific paper writing and scientific presentation

Background:

The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project and the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiatives recognize the importance of science communication and are offering a workshop programme on Communicating Science Effectively. The Programme comprises two 4 day workshops: the first on scientific paper writing (21-24 August 2012) and the second on scientific presentation (1-4 October, 2012). These workshops are designed exclusively for BOBLME and MFF focal country researchers seeking to improve their delivery of scientific and technical information/advice, and to be better equipped with the skills needed to communicate their work clearly and confidently to a wide range of audiences.

The invitation

The workshops will comprise up to 20 participants and be held over 4 full days. The first workshop will be in Phuket Thailand; and the location of the second workshop is yet to be determined. BOBLME will sponsor up to two (2) candidates from each of the Project countries. The sponsorship will cover return airfare, course costs, accommodation and a living allowance. Participants will have to bring their own laptop. **Please note: the course comprises two workshops and the nominated participants will be expected to attend both workshops.**

Workshop 1: Scientific Paper Writing (21-24 August, 2012)

The workshop is about organisation and taking a systematic approach to preparing and publishing a scientific paper. It will be a learning-by-doing workshop with around 25% instruction time and the rest working on a real journal paper with support from peers and facilitators. At the end participants should have a completed draft manuscript.

Workshop 2: Scientific Presentation (1 – 4 October, 2012)

The Scientific Presentation Workshop aims to improve the delivery of scientific and technical information/advice. It is designed to provide the skills needed to communicate clearly and confidently to a wide range of audiences. It will be a learning-by-doing workshop with around 25% instruction time and the rest will be spent organising, preparing and delivering a short scientific presentation; while receiving feedback from peers and facilitators. At the end participants should have a completed short presentation.

Who should participate?

We are targeting young researchers that have demonstrated their keen desire to develop as scientists and have been part of a programme of research that is relevant to the BOBLME Project areas of interest. Moreover, we would like to work with individuals that are experiencing difficulties in getting their messages across to relevant audiences, and want to improve their publication and presentation skills. Candidates may be drawn from a range of competent agencies such as the National, State/Provincial research agencies, NGO's and Universities. Researchers working in coastal fisheries and/or environment are highly desirable. And, as always, the participation of women is especially encouraged.

Where?

Scientific writing: Phuket, Thailand.

Scientific presentation: to be advised.

Communicating science effectively

a programme of 2 four day workshops

The Scientific Paper Writing Workshop

Preparing a paper for the scientific literature is the culmination of our endeavours as scientists – the job is not complete until it's published. Publications are the currency by which we are viewed and judged by our peers. This literature has a long tradition and with it strict, and at times, mysterious rules, procedures and pitfalls. The workshop is **not** about grammar and syntax; but more about organisation and a systematic approach to preparing and publishing a scientific paper. It will be a learning-by-doing workshop with around 25% instruction time and the rest working on a real journal paper with support from peers and facilitators. The workshop will be held over 4 full days (21-24 August, 2012) – at the end you should have a completed draft manuscript.

Please do the following:

1. **Chose a topic for your paper** that you will draft during the workshop. Do not bring a part-complete paper, as we want to start from a near-blank sheet. However, I expect you are likely to bring some material (e.g. references, figures and tables) that you can cut and paste into the paper.
2. **Assemble a collection of references** you will need. Please bring paper copies of anything (other than electronic journals) you will need. It is a good idea to identify about 5 to 10 key journal papers that you will cite and will lead readers from those papers to your paper.
3. Consider an agreement with **a writing "buddy"**. During the workshop your paper will get several short, sharp reviews by a buddy and facilitators. If you have a close colleague (or someone that you want to work with) it is useful, but not essential, for you to pair up in this process. More on this when we start the workshop, but for now just scan the list of participants (see the email addresses above) and chat with folk you know.
4. **Your work station for the 4 days of the meeting** will need to be ergonomic. The best option is to bring your laptop, mouse, monitor and keyboard.

No other pre-work is required.

Remember it is a writing 'lock up' – you should not have parallel appointments and should not deal with other business (e.g. via email) during the workshop. You can deal with your correspondence before and after the workshop each day.

We will provide morning and afternoon tea and lunch on all four days.

The Scientific Presentation Workshop

Communication is an integral part of our personal and professional lives. Communications is essential to both, inform others and to receive valuable inputs. This ranges from personal interactions, social media networking, getting your messages across to decision-makers and the general public using various communication tools and skills.

The Scientific Presentation Workshop is designed to improve the delivery of scientific and technical information/advice. It is designed to provide the skills needed to communicate clearly and confidently to a wide range of audiences.

The course will be run over 4 full days (1-4 October, 2012). It will be a learning-by-doing workshop with around 25% instruction time and the rest will be spent organising, preparing and delivering a short scientific presentation; while receiving feedback from peers and facilitators. At the end you should have a completed short presentation. This is **not** a course about PowerPoint, but will include tips on how to use audio visual aids effectively.

Please do the following:

1. **Chose a topic for your presentation (from the paper produced in the first workshop)** that you will prepare during the workshop. Do not bring a part-complete presentation, as we want to start from a near-blank sheet.

2. **Assemble a collection of raw material** you will need. I expect you are likely to bring some photographs, figures and tables that you can cut and paste into the presentation.

3. Consider an agreement with a **presentation “buddy”**. During the workshop your presentation will get several short, sharp reviews by a buddy and facilitators. If you have a close colleague (or someone that you want to work with) it is useful, but not essential, for you to pair up in this process. More on this when we start the workshop, but for now just scan the list of participants (see the email addresses above) and chat with folk you know.

4. **Your work station for the 4 days of the meeting** will need to be ergonomic. The best option is to bring your laptop, mouse, monitor and keyboard.

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About Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystems (BOBLME)

Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are working together through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project to improve the lives of coastal populations through better management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries. For more information visit www.boblme.org .

About Mangroves for the Future (MFF)

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a joint partnership-based regional initiative with UN and donor agencies, NGOs, local communities and the private sector to promote investment in coastal ecosystems. It focuses on eight focal countries (India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam), plus several outreach countries. MFF provides a unique regional platform for Integrated Coastal Management (ICM), using mangroves as the entry point.

