

## **ODU to Host International Workshop on Ocean Modeling May 24-26**

Scientists from research institutions and universities around the world will present and discuss their research on ocean modeling and prediction May 24-26, when Old Dominion University hosts the 2nd International Workshop on Modeling the Ocean (IWMO).

ODU's Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography and Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center will jointly host the event, which opens at 9 a.m. Monday, May 24, and continues through 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 26. Presentations will take place on campus in the E.V. Williams Engineering and Computational Sciences Building.

Some 50 scientists from research institutions and universities in Australia, Brazil, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Norway, Slovenia, Taiwan and the United States will present their research.

The goal of the workshop, which held its first meeting in Taipei, Taiwan, in February 2009, is to encourage more collaboration among ocean scientists from the Far East and scientists from America and Europe, said Tal Ezer, professor of ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences at the Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography, who organized the meeting at ODU.

The three-day workshop includes sessions on a wide range of topics, including the development of computer models for ocean circulation, ocean waves, biophysical interactions and forecasting. There will also be demonstrations of how simulations can aid in the study of bodies of waters from the Chesapeake Bay to the South China Sea, and how they can help with important processes - from climate changes in the Bering Sea to the recent BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Simulations of the oil spill use the Princeton Ocean Model to help the government efforts in tracking and predicting, Ezer noted. Another talk at the conference will highlight a collaboration between the Princeton modeling group and a group of three CCPO researchers (Larry Atkinson, Jose Blanco and Ezer), on environmental impact studies of potential oil and gas explorations off the Virginia coast.

One session at the workshop will be dedicated to presentations by international graduate students, who will compete for the Outstanding Young Scientist Award. Two ODU graduate students, Mahmoud Kamel and Suriyan Saramul, will present their research at this session.

For more information about the workshop, contact Ezer at [tezer@odu.edu](mailto:tezer@odu.edu) or visit the workshop Web page at [http://www.ccpo.odu.edu/~tezer/IWMO\\_2010/](http://www.ccpo.odu.edu/~tezer/IWMO_2010/).