

## **The UCT and the UBO have signed an agreement to co-badge Masters and PhD degrees in the ICEMASA framework on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

A delegation of the *Universite de Bretagne Occidentale* (UBO) located in Brest, France, has visited the University of Cape Town (UCT) from 7 to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011, to finalize and sign agreements which will allow exchange of students at Masters and PhD levels of both Universities and the awarding of co-badged degrees. The UBO was represented by its President, Pascal Olivard, its deputy President in charge of Research, Pascal Gente and by the Director of the *Institut Universitaire Européen de la Mer*, Yves-Marie Paulet. This visit is a follow up to the visit made in Brest, in May 2011, by representatives of UCT (D. Visser, DVC; Marilet Sienaert, Director of Research; and John Field, Marine Research Institute, (Ma-Re) Director). Two major documents were signed on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 : a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to promote institutional exchanges of staff on research, education and professional development programmes, and a Specific Implementation Agreement (SIA) directly related to ICEMASA, detailing the institutional, technical and financial aspects of the student exchange programme and the co-badging of degrees. The MoA is a broad agreement which is designed to accommodate several SIAs if necessary. Although the MoA is signed between the two universities, the SIA also comprises a third partner, the IRD (*Institut de Recherche pour le Developpement*) which is also actively involved in the education and training programme.

The perspective for 2012 is to start with 1 to 2 students of each University. The spirit of the co-badging between a “home” institution and a “host” institution is to offer more opportunities to students in their coursework and research thesis. The degree-awarding and enrolling (“home”) institution takes responsibility for the curriculum, and the contribution of the host institution is to provide courses which the home institution recognises towards the degree, and to provide co-supervision (in the case of a research student) in terms of a collaboration agreement. Upon completion of the study programme, the successful student is awarded a single degree and a single degree certificate issued by and signed by the home university, but bearing the badge of the host institution in recognition of their contribution under a formal collaboration agreement.

The plan is to expand the programme to a larger number of students provided that human and financial resources could be increased in the forthcoming years.

These agreements have been signed for a duration of five years (2012-2016). The signing ceremony took place in Bremner `building, University of Cape Town, in presence of Dr Max Price, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr Pascal Olivard, President of the UBO, and officials of both institutions, as well as representatives of the IRD (Claude Roy and Francis Marsac, ICEMASA) and the French Consul, Mr Antoine Michon.

Contact : Francis Marsac ([francis.marsac@ird.fr](mailto:francis.marsac@ird.fr))



Signature of the MoA and SIA at Bremner Building, UCT, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

From left to right. Front : Prof. John Field (MA-RE Director), Dr Max Price (VC, UCT) and Dr Pascal Olivard (Pdt UBO). Behind : Prof. Danie Visser (DVC, UCT) and Dr Pascal Gente (Deputy Pdt, UBO).