

2025 NF-POGO-SeaNetwork-UCT SEAmester South Africa's Class Afloat

Training Report

Name of Trainee: KRISTEL JOYCE T. OCCEÑA

Name of Supervisor (Parent Institution): Dr. IRENE B. RODRIGUEZ

Supervisor (Host Institution): DR. ISABELLE ANSORGE

Dates of Training: 17 June 2025 to 26 June 2025

Topic of Training: SEAmester VIII, "Oceans in a Changing Climate" stream

Section A

(To be completed by the fellow)

It is the responsibility of the trainee to forward this form to the host and parent supervisor, and to submit a fully completed version to the POGO Secretariat. Please note that the complete report will be made public on the OTP website; Private comments should be included in a separate confidential form.

1) Please provide a brief description of activities during the training period:

During SEAmester VIII, I participated in the "Oceans in a Changing Climate" module aboard the R/V SA Agulhas II. The program combined daily lectures, research support tasks, and practical shipboard training. I observed the deployment and recovery of oceanographic equipment including CTDs and plankton nets, helped subsample and process water and biological samples, and engaged in small group data analysis sessions. We also worked on mini-projects that align with the objectives of the Agulhas System Climate Array (ASCA) research cruise. This encouraged critical thinking and collaboration. Throughout the cruise, we were immersed in the full workflow of ship-based research, from planning and sampling to data interpretation.

2) What applications of the training received do you envision at your parent institution?

The training significantly improved my technical skills in oceanographic sampling and instrumentation, which I can now apply during local cruises and fieldwork conducted by my home institution. I intend to support ongoing and future research activities by sharing best practices in onboard operations, sample handling, and at-sea collaboration. I also aim to contribute to the design of better onboard workflows for multidisciplinary projects and help mentor students new to shipboard science. More broadly, I hope to use this experience to advocate for stronger ship-based training programs and promote international collaboration within my local marine science community.

3) Please provide your comments on the Fellowship Programme.

The SEAmester Fellowship Programme is a rare and transformative opportunity for young scientists. It creates a truly immersive learning environment where classroom theory meets real-world research. The balance between lectures, hands-on work, and collaborative projects was well designed, and the program fostered both scientific curiosity and community-building. I'm grateful to the organizers, lecturers, and crew for creating such a welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment. This experience has not only deepened my knowledge and skills but also inspired me to contribute more actively to ocean science in the Philippines and beyond.

PRI

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Date: JULY 22, 2025

Section B

(To be completed by the host supervisor and returned to the trainee)

Please note that the complete report will be made public on the OTP website; Private comments should be included in a separate confidential form.

1) Please provide your comments on the performance of the trainee.

Kristel was an outstanding member of the SEAmester team, demonstrating great dedication to her work and training. I was thrilled to have her as an ambassador representing the marine science initiatives taking place in the Philippines.

2) Is this exchange likely to lead to future collaboration with the trainee's parent institution? If so please give example(s) of how this collaboration may be pursued.

I hope so, as the region surrounding the Philippines offers fascinating insights and valuable results in ocean science

3) Please provide your comments on the Fellowship Programme.

PRINT NAME

Isabelle Ansong

Date: 29th July 2025 / /

SECTION C

(To be completed by the parent supervisor and returned to the trainee)

Please note that the complete report will be made public on the OTP website; Private comments should be included in a separate confidential form.

1) Do you agree with the above comments and do you have any additional feedback you wish to provide?

I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity given to my colleague to participate in this training course. This experience will help her as she pursues a career in oceanography and share her learnings to other marine scientists in the Philippines.

PRINT NAME

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Date: 1 /August /2025