



## **Uniting and networking the magnetic community in the northern Indian Ocean region - MAGNIO - a new initiative**

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The North Indian Ocean (NIO) - a region of sparse data coverage - is a prime location for the measurement and study of variations of the geomagnetic field, where the effects of the Equatorial Electrojet (EEJ) and Solar quiet (Sq) currents as well as lithospheric configuration, are yet to be delineated. Ground based measurements of magnetic variations with a time resolution of one minute or better in the NIO region would provide an ideal window of opportunity to augment satellite measurements (SWARM). As the dip equator passes through the NIO, the magnetic field here can be subject to rapid change. Therefore it is felt that forging collaborative scientific links between the scientists and stakeholder communities of these nations is vital. In recognition of the significance of a regional initiative, the International Council of Science (ICSU) has awarded the MAGNIO project to the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), to undertake activities necessary to put further medium and long term endeavors in place.

The MAGNIO proposal aims to bring all NIO magnetic observatories and organisations using magnetic data together, along with relevant stakeholders. The line of action to be adopted for the fulfillment of MAGNIO objectives is presented. Critical issues of trust development, communication establishment, internet usage, role of mentors and policymakers, which could construct the requisite links to bring about such a collaboration and take it forward are discussed.