

## MESSAGES FROM THE FIELD:

### WIO-ECSN members awarded Nippon Foundation scholarships



Soondur Mouneshwar, vice-chair of WIO-ECSN, and Hellen Kizenga, a member of the network, have both been in Helgoland in Germany since the beginning of 2021 under the Nippon Foundation-POGO Centre of Excellence (NF-POGO CoE) scholarship programme which provides world-class education and training courses in the field of observational oceanography. Both scholars are based at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany's foremost polar and marine research institution.

*“ My journey started by moving from the tropical country of Mauritius, with temperature above 33 °C to Helgoland, Germany where the temperature regularly drops below 0°C. It was difficult to adapt and travelling during the COVID-19 pandemic was a struggle, but the experience is absolutely worth it. Every week we have different courses which are all related to observational oceanography. We have practical classes which make these experiences unique in this island of Helgoland with pristine biodiversity. As a biological oceanographer, I had not been exposed much to other fields of science but here we are digging in all the different fields related to marine science, from mathematical biology and fish ecology to remote sensing. These experiences will enhance my career in a multidisciplinary direction. After this course, I will certainly share whatever I have learnt with my fellow WIO-ECSN colleagues and friends.”*



*The views of Soondur Mouneshwar*



*The views of Hellen Kizenga*

*“ I consider myself very fortunate to be able to attend this course at a renowned institute with the best facilities and oceanography experts in the world. As early career scientists from a developing region we need opportunities like this to build our capacity and broaden our expertise in this field. This programme trains and gives us the best experience to work in multidisciplinary oceanographic research, including physical, biological and chemical oceanography. I urge more early career scientists, especially those in the WIO-ECSN, to search and apply for opportunities like these to build their capacities, so that 10 years from now we will have an even more competent generation of marine scientists. Our region's future depends on how much knowledge and expertise we can utilize in making sure that we have concrete information to protect and develop our ocean. The future of our ocean is in our hands.”*