

Candidate Statement for Chair, Ocean Science Section, AOGS

I am Ibrahim Hoteit, Professor of Earth Sciences and Engineering, Director of the Aramco Marine Environment Research and Solutions Center, and Director of the National Climate Change Center at KAUST. With expertise in ocean modeling, physical oceanography, operational oceanography, remote sensing, and data assimilation, I have dedicated my career to advancing our understanding of general circulation, its interactions with the atmosphere, and its role in global climate. Over the past decade, I have led international collaborations, supported by governmental agencies and industrial partners, that yielded new scientific discoveries, high-resolution datasets, operational forecasting systems for extremes, oil-spill detection platforms, and biogeochemical cycle analyses. My dual roles in academia and applied research enable me to bridge fundamental science with real-world applications.

As Chair of the Ocean Science Section, I will leverage my leadership and technical experience to:

1. **Foster Collaborative Innovation:** Promote sessions that integrate physical, chemical, and biological oceanography with data-driven methods, AI/ML approaches, and digital-twin technologies, connecting academic and operational communities.
2. **Strengthen Asia–Oceania Partnerships:** Facilitate collaborations across the Asia–Oceania region, from the Red Sea and Gulf of Oman to the Bay of Bengal and South China Sea.
3. **Enhance Regional Relevance:** Highlight underrepresented marginal seas through dedicated symposia and special-issue publications showcasing novel observational and modeling advances.
4. **Support Early-Career Scientists:** Expand travel grants and best-paper awards, and launch a mentorship program matching students and postdocs with experienced AOGS members in “ocean + technology” tracks.
5. **Strengthen Outreach and Impact:** Partner with AOGS Council to broaden open-access resources, host quarterly webinars, and publish research briefs on emerging ocean science advances.

If elected, I will collaborate with section conveners and the Secretariat to deliver a balanced, high-quality program at the Assembly, sustain year-round engagement, and elevate AOGS as the premier forum for ocean science in Asia–Oceania. I humbly request your support as we embark on this next chapter of discovery and impact.



Ibrahim Hoteit