During the last decade, the amount of surface and subsurface oceanographic observations (physical, chemical and biological) collected by maritime nations has increased exponentially. Over the past four years, the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) attended a number of international meetings and forums, and noted that ocean observations are critical to various countries’ domestic and offshore strategies. Some countries are placing ocean instrumentation in the numerous locations that match or exceed current U.S. capabilities. The NDBC has the primary mission to provide marine meteorological, oceanographic and geophysical observations – accurately and in real-time. NDBC’s off-shore marine platforms assist marine warning centers, forecasters, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy, ocean platform operators and the public in making sound decisions to safely operate in the marine environment. NDBC currently maintains over 250 stations located in the North Pacific (off Alaska, Kuril Islands, Japan, Philippine Sea, Columbia, Mexico and the U.S. West Coast), South Pacific (off Ecuador, Peru, Australia, Indonesia), and the Atlantic (off the U.S Gulf Coast and East Coast, Mexico, Cuba) operating platforms that are equipped with meteorological, oceanographic and geophysical instrumentation (visit www.ndbc.noaa.gov). The locations of these stations provide NDBC with an excellent opportunity to interact with the international community and to develop a strategic viewpoint regarding foreign mission thrusts toward acquiring ocean observations. This talk will discuss these international objectives and some of the implications to ocean observations which may be a part of the Integrated Ocean Observation System.