

Topics July 2019 - Present

July – August 2019: Regional Planning Workshop for the North Pacific and Western Pacific Marginal Seas, Tokyo, Japan

The workshop received overwhelming interest. There was a total of 160 participants and representatives from 18 countries and relevant United Nations bodies/programmes, intergovernmental/international organizations, regional marine scientific institutions and fishery organizations, spanning communities from the scientific community, ocean policy and management, business and industry, civil society and NGOs, and donors and foundations. Throughout the three-day workshop, participants tabulated a catalog of knowledge gaps and scientific priorities/questions that need to be addressed in the region, as well as a list of concrete recommendations for actions, potential activities, programmes and partnerships in support of the Decade.



June 2020: Recommendations Proposed by the Councilors' Meeting of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy

On 30 June 2020, the Prime Minister received the recommendations proposed by the Councilors' Meeting of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy from Chairman TANAKA Akihiko, at the Prime Minister's Office. In the Recommendation, the importance of taking part in the UN Decade of Ocean Science, which is aimed at contributing to achieving SDG14 and the other Goals, is emphasized. Additionally, according to the Report by the Study Group on Sustainable Development Goal 14, Japan has the opportunity to send messages to raise Japan's profile during the UN Decade of Ocean Science. The significance is also emphasized of the UN Decade of Ocean Science, which is aimed at contributing to SDG14 and the other SDGs through scientific knowledge, data and information, and building scientific knowledge, infrastructure, and partnerships.



August 2020: Japanese Working Group for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

The Japan Ocean Policy Association and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation Ocean Policy Research Institute have jointly held a study group on the United Nations Decade for Ocean Science. In Japan, which is both a maritime nation and a science and technology nation, the promotion of marine science is an important issue that forms the basis of Japan's maritime policy, and it is expected that Japan will show leadership from the aspect of science and technology diplomacy. On the other hand, industry-government-academia-private collaboration in the field of marine science is not always sufficient, and it is essential to formulate a strategy that comprehensively analyzes Japan's strengths. They also published a booklet titled "Japan's Practices for the UN Ocean Decade," which summarizes the ongoing activities in Japan that will contribute to the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

(Kick-off meeting: 31 August 2020; 1st meeting: 6 November 2020; 2nd meeting: 21 December 2020; 3rd meeting: February 25)

<https://oceanpolicy.jp/decade/>

December 2020: Symposium on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development by Minato UNESCO Association



文部科学省

On 11 December 2021, the Symposium on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development was held by the Minato UNESCO Association, which is a grass roots volunteer organization established on October 17, 1981, in Minato City, Tokyo, whose members engage in UNESCO activities. The objectives of the Symposium were to discuss and consider together what people can do in order to pass on our beautiful and inspiring ocean to the next generation, in terms of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. At the symposium, participants shared information and exchanged opinions regarding the significance of enhancing Ocean Literacy, good practices for ocean education and comparisons between Japan and Europe about the process of environmental policy making.

February 2021: Japanese National Committee for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

The Japanese National Committee for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development was established on 25 February 2021 and the first meeting was held on 17 May 2021. See attached document (P3) for further information regarding the objectives and structure of the committee.

April 2021: Interaction between Climate Change and the Ocean in Asia Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by UNESCO Jakarta (Japan Funds-in-Trust Programme)

On the occasion of Earth Day on 22 April, UNESCO Office Jakarta, as the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, supported by the Japanese Funds-in-Trust, organized an Earth Day Webinar on “Interaction between Climate Change and the Ocean in Asia Pacific SIDS”. The webinar shared information regarding Climate Change and the Ocean within the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030, Lessons Learnt on good practices, challenges and gaps, and youth programme in SIDS on climate emergency, Hydrometeorological Hazards, and ocean degradation and UNESCO Program and activities in relation to Climate Change and the Ocean.

The poster features the UNESCO logo at the top left. The main title is "Climate Change Intersection with UNESCO Programmes INTERACTION BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE OCEAN IN ASIA PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)". Below the title, it states "Thursday, 22 April 2021 at 11:00-13:30 (GMT+7, Jakarta time)" and "On the Occasion of the Earth Day". The poster displays 14 circular portraits of participants, each with their name and affiliation. The participants include: Dr. Vladimir Ryzhikhin (ASPI Executive Secretary of UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)), Mr. Hans O. Thulstrup (UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific), Dr. Weixi Zhu (Head and Programme Specialist UNESCO IOC WestPac), Dr. Kanna Sachdeva (UNESCO Chair, Fellow Member on Climate Science and Policy, Dept. of Energy and Environment, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, India), Prof. Nobuhito MORI (Special Professor, Research Institute, Kyoto University), Ms. Francesca Santoro (Programme Specialist UNESCO-IOC), Mr. Carol Young (Education Consultant in the Pacific), Mr. Zukhfi Sha Ismail (UNEP/WHO Maldives), Mr. Augusto Manuel Pinto (Director of National Directorate for Climate Change, UNESCO State Secretary for the Environment), Mr. Joana Tokoni (Team Leader, Research, Communication and Training Unit (TC) Global of Social Services), Mr. Aodhán M. Kodjak (Global Risk Reduction and Tourism Information, UNESCO Jakarta), and Ms. Sachi Suzuki (IT Project Coordinator). At the bottom, it provides Zoom registration and live streaming information: "Zoom Registration: https://unesco-org.zoom.us/join/register/WJ_vucp1MYHqmmBdpJuaHIA" and "Live Streaming: www.facebook.com/unescojakarta/live". A small Japanese flag is visible in the bottom right corner.

May 2021: 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3)

The third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) took stock of the progress made by the international community up to 2020. ASM3 was co-hosted by Iceland and Japan and held in Tokyo, Japan on 8-9 May 2021. It was the first Ministerial meeting regarding Arctic issues held in Asia, and this event highlighted the value of Arctic science research conducted by non-Arctic States. ASM3 aimed to use the well-established foundation of the Ministerial as a means to take action on coordinated Arctic observation and research in an open and transparent format which includes all Arctic stakeholders. The involvement of States, Indigenous participants, and international organizations for Arctic research showed a broad recognition at the government level of the urgent response and action needed. The importance of coming together to develop and strengthen Arctic research cooperation and collaboration is essential.

Japanese National Committee

for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Established on 25 February 2021, 1st meeting on 17 May 2021



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

- 1) Promotion of collaborative initiatives across various stakeholders at the domestic, interregional, and international levels, and liaison and coordination related thereto.
- 2) Preparation of annual reports and periodic reports on the Ocean Decade in Japan.
- 3) Dissemination and enlightenment and public relations to raise awareness and interest in the Ocean Decade.
- 4) Other matters that need to be dealt with by the committee (e.g., monitoring and evaluation of activities in Japan)

Japanese Working Group for the UN Ocean Decade (since 31 August 2020)

**Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,
Science and Technology, MEXT**

**Ocean and Earth Division,
Research and Development Bureau etc.**

**Japanese National Commission for UNESCO
(Office of the Director-General for International Affairs)**

Japanese National Committee for IOC

**Research Institutes
(JAMSTEC, FRA, MRI, etc.)**

**Academic Societies (JOS, JSOP, etc.),
Universities
(The University of Tokyo, TUMSAT, etc.)**

Private Companies / Organizations

**Ministries and Agencies:
House of Councilors,
Cabinet Office General Ocean Policy Headquarters,
MOFA, MLIT, MOE
Japan Coast Guard, Japan Meteorological Agency,
Japan
Science and Technology Agency, etc.**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



2021
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of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

**Decade Coordination Unit
(UNESCO/IOC)**

Preparatory Phase of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development: communication and engagement activities (HQs (IOC); February 2019- February 2021)

- Communication Strategy
- Communication materials and Ocean Decade website
- Participation of early career scientists and SIDS/LDCs experts in the Preparatory Phase consultative and planning meetings
- Reinforcement of the IOC communication capacity
- Organization of a North Pacific Workshop “Regional Planning Workshop for the North Pacific and Western Pacific Marginal Seas” and follow-up activities

The communication activities have also helped the Preparatory Phase in:

- adding legitimacy to the design of research activities, reducing stakeholder skepticism about Science;
- ensuring relevance of Decade actions in response to sustainable development needs of nations;
- leveraging synergies and facilitating mutual learning across research and stakeholder communities, helping to secure wider support for Science

Accelerating the transfer of marine technology for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources (IOC-WESTPAC; June 2019 - ongoing)

- Regional workshop on Remote Sensing for Coastal Habitat Conservation “Integrating cutting-edge technologies into coastal technologies in coastal habitat mapping”
- Ocean Remote Sensing for Coastal Habitat Mapping
- Ocean Acidification and its Impacts on Marine Ecosystems (OA)

70th Session, Japanese National Committee for IOC

Date: 26 August 2020

- Sharing current activities related the Japanese National Committee for IOC
- Information exchange regarding the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development at national/regional/global level

71st Session, Japanese National Committee for IOC

Date: 25 January 2021

- Sharing current activities related to the Japanese National Committee for IOC
- Information exchange regarding the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development at national/regional/global level
- Discussion for IOC 53rd Executive Council

148th Assembly, Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Date: 10 March 2021

- Sharing the information regarding the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
 - establishment of the Japanese National Committee for UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
 - Good Practices on Ocean Literacy in Japan

72nd Session, Japanese National Committee for IOC

Date: 27 May 2021

- Sharing current activities related to the Japanese National Committee for IOC
- Information exchange regarding the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development at national/regional/global level
- Discussion for IOC 31st Assembly