



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

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IOC/VR/WZ
18 November 2022

To : Member States of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)

cc. : IOC Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with the IOC
National Commissions for UNESCO, and
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO of IOC Member States
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of WESTPAC
Directors, UNESCO Offices in Bangkok, Jakarta, Beijing

Subject: Invitation to the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIV), Jakarta, Indonesia, 4–7 April 2023

I have the pleasure of inviting you to participate in the Fourteenth Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIV), to be generously hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 4 to 7 April 2023 in Jakarta.

The session will bring together national competent governmental agencies, marine scientific communities and other relevant IOC ocean stakeholders in the region, aiming to foster ocean science-policy interface, advance ocean science development and cooperation, enhance related technical and institutional capacities, and jointly develop ocean science solutions to critical challenges for sustainable development in the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas.

In Jakarta, the Sub-Commission will review its developments and achievements during the intersessional period, be updated with the global ocean-related developments, including the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), and then deliberate on the Sub-Commission's engagement in and contribution to the Ocean Decade. The Sub-commission will be expected to elect its Officers, and formulate its programme and budget for the period May 2023–April 2025. Kindly note that given the limited regular budget allocated from IOC, the WESTPAC Programme and Budget normally serves as guidance on the programmes and activities that Member States would like to jointly promote and seek funding from various sources to support their implementation.

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During the session, a **Senior Governmental Officials Roundtable** chaired by the host country will be organised as a follow-up to the high-level commitments at [the UN Ocean Decade Regional Kick-off Conference for the Western Pacific](#) (25–26 November 2021). The roundtable will share progress and exchange views on the development and implementation of the Ocean Decade, and will also provide guidance and input to the Sub-Commission in mobilising actions that will contribute to the Ocean Decade in the region. In addition, the organization of a **National Decade Committees Forum** (NDCs Forum) is envisaged as a side event to the session in order to facilitate the considerations by Member States of establishment of NDCs in their countries.

A copy of the Provisional Agenda for the WESTPAC session is attached for your information as Annex 1. Given the extensive agenda session scheduled over four days (tentatively including one day for field study), I would like to kindly request delegations to focus their interventions on providing the vision, guidance, and recommendations for practical actions. Reporting on past activities will be done in writing in advance of the session. As you compose your delegation, please take fully into account the agenda, your commitments and the events that will be held, and the importance of gender equality and the necessary engagement of early career ocean professionals that should prevail in IOC meetings.

Following past practice, working and information documents, and logistics arrangements for participants, will be forwarded to you via electronic means and will be posted on the WESTPAC website (<http://ioc-westpac.org/>) in due course.

At this session, WESTPAC Member States will elect the Officers of the Sub-commission, i.e. one Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons for the next 2-year intersessional period. Elected Officers may be re-elected for one additional term of office. Information about the election procedure and prescribed nomination forms are attached hereafter as Annex 2. Kindly note that nominations should be sent to me with a copy to Wenxi Zhu, Head of the WESTPAC Office (w.zhu@unesco.org), no later than 4 April 2023 at 17:00 p.m. (Bangkok time). As a reminder, Co-Chairs Kentaro Ando (Japan) and Fangli Qiao (China) and Vice-Chair Aileen Tan Shau Hwai (Malaysia) currently serve their first term since being elected by acclamation at the 13th Session of WESTPAC (WESTPAC-XIII, April 2021, online).

I would appreciate your understanding of the proposed arrangement. Should you have any enquiries and comments, kindly respond to this letter by 30 December 2022. Let me also invite you to communicate in writing the names, positions, and contact addresses of the members of your delegations to Ms Nachapa Saransuth (n.saransuth@unesco.org, or by fax: +66 2 143 9245), at your earliest convenience but no later than 6 February 2023, with a copy to iocwestpac@unesco.org.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (2): Annex 1: Provisional Agenda
Annex 2: Election Procedures & Forms

ANNEX 1

Fourteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIV), Jakarta, Indonesia, 4–7 April 2023

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. OPENING

- 1.1 WELCOMING REMARKS
- 1.2 KEYNOTES (MINI SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM)

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

- 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- 2.2 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION

3. STATUTORY REPORTS

- 3.1 STATEMENT OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS
- 3.2 REPORT BY THE HEAD OF WESTPAC OFFICE ON INTERSESSIONAL PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING THE OPERATION OF THE WESTPAC OFFICE AND DECADE COORDINATION OFFICE
- 3.3 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN UNESCO, THE IOC, AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO WESTPAC

3.3.1 Update by the IOC Executive Secretary

3.3.2 Other initiatives

4. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 CONTRIBUTION OF WESTPAC TO COUNTRIES' IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs, IN PARTICULAR, SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER
- 4.2 CONTRIBUTION OF WESTPAC TO THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE.

4.2.1 UN Ocean Decade global developments

4.2.2 WESTPAC led Decade Actions and Decade Coordination Office

- UN21: Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas
- UN22: Stem the tide of Asia's riverine plastic emission into the ocean
- UN23: Accelerating transformations in capacity development in the Western Pacific - Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science
- UN 24: Explore the strongest ocean current in the Western Pacific: the 2nd Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions
- Decade Coordination Office

- 4.3 PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND UN OCEAN DECADE REGIONAL CONFERENCE & THE ELEVENTH WESTPAC INTERNATIONAL MARINE SCIENCE CONFERENCE (SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 2023, BANGKOK, THAILAND)
- 4.4 SENIOR GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS ROUNDTABLE ON THE UN OCEAN DECADE

5. REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND WORKING GROUPS FOR MAY 2021–APRIL 2023

Note: Due to the time constraints, reporting will be consolidated and conducted according to thematic areas of action, as specified below. However, each programme, project and WG will prepare the progress report in written form, which will be uploaded to the event webpage. Posters of programmes, projects, and WGs are encouraged to be displayed at the meeting venue.

- 5.1 OCEAN-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION
 - 5.2 MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, OCEAN ECOSYSTEM AND HUMAN HEALTH, AND BLUE ECONOMY
 - 5.3 KNOWLEDGE FOR EMERGING ISSUES/DEMANDS OF MEMBER STATES
 - 5.4 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
- 6. RECOMMENDATION OF THE WESTPAC ADVISORY GROUP ON THE PROGRAMME/PROJECT/WORKING GROUP TERMINATION, AND IMPROVEMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION**
- 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROGRAMME/PROJECT/WORKING GROUP**
- 8. EVALUATION OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON A NEW PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRE ON MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING (CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG)**
- 9. FURTHER ENGAGEMENT IN AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)**
- 10. WESTPAC WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD MAY 2023–APRIL 2025**
- 11. ELECTIONS**
- 12. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**
- 13. OTHER MATTERS**
- 14. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 15. CLOSURE**

ANNEX 2

Election Procedures and Forms

As customary, at its Fourteenth Intergovernmental Session, the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIV), Jakarta, 4–7 April 2023, shall elect one Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons, for the term May 2023–May 2025.

The Chairperson shall preside over the sessions of the Sub-Commission and carry out the duties which are entrusted to him/her. The Vice-Chairpersons assist the Chairperson in his/her functions and substitute him/her where necessary. The Vice-chairpersons will be entrusted with specific responsibilities.

The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of an IOC Subsidiary Body shall not remain in his/her mandate for more than two successive terms, according to the IOC Manual Section 5.

Nominations

Nominations of individuals to either the post of Chairperson or the posts of Vice-Chairpersons shall be submitted by Member States through the officially designated Head of Delegation to the WESTPAC-XIV or through the IOC Focal Point in the Member State or the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO.

Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary using **Form A** (Chairperson) or **Form B** (Vice-chairperson). They must reach the Executive Secretary or his representative by the specified deadline for nomination.

Each nomination shall contain a declaration from the candidate that he/she is prepared to stand for the post for which he/she has been nominated and is willing to take on the obligations that would devolve upon him/her, should he/she be elected. Each nomination shall also contain a CV with the profile of the candidate (**Form C**).

Each candidate must be seconded by two Member States of the WESTPAC other than the nominating Member State.

Elections

The IOC general practice is working and deciding by consensus (Rule 38.2).

Should voting be necessary, decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the members present and voting (Rule 43.1), by secret ballot.

Current WESTPAC Chairperson and Vice-chairpersons

Co-Chairpersons: Kentaro Ando (Japan), Fangli Qiao (China)
Vice-chairperson: Aileen Tan Shau Hwai (Malaysia)

They were elected, by acclamation, at the 13th Intergovernmental Session (Virtual, April 2021) for the first term (April 2021-April 2023).

IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)

Biennial Elections for Chairperson

Form A – Chairperson

Name of Member State:

Name of Nominee:

I declare that I am prepared to stand for election to the post of Chairperson of **WESTPAC** and, if elected, to take an active part in the work of it.

Signature of the Nominee:

Seconder 1

Seconder 2

Member State of the WESTPAC

Name in capitals

Position

Signature

Date sent to the IOC Secretariat

Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat

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IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)

Biennial Elections for Vice-Chairperson

Form B – Vice-Chairperson

Name of Member State:

Name of Nominee:

I declare that I am prepared to stand for election to the post of Vice-Chairperson of the WESTPAC and, if elected, to take an active part in the work of it.

Signature of the Nominee:

Secunder 1

Secunder 2

Member State of the WESTPAC

Name in capitals

Position

Signature

Date sent to the IOC Secretariat

Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat

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IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)

Biennial Elections for Chair and Vice-Chairpersons

Form C– CV of Nominee

[NAME]

Date of birth:

Languages:

Address:

Phone number:

Fax number:

Email:

CURRENT POSITION

[Please insert text]

EDUCATION

[Please insert text]

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

[Please insert text]