The 32nd Session of the IOC Assembly

Key accomplishments over the last intersessional period and major results of the WESTPAC –XIV (4-6 April 2023)


IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific, IOC/UNESCO

Agenda 3.3.2
Please refer to the full report (IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIV)
Part 1-1: Mobilize Actions for the UN Ocean Decade

2021/China
World Oceans Day, 8 June 2021, Qingdao, China

2021/Thailand
Science for Sustainable Use of the Oceans, 28 September 2021, Thailand

2021/UNESCAP
UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean, 27 October 2021, online

2022/Indonesia
International Workshop on Small Island Studies, 19-20 August 2022, Jakarta, Indonesia

2022/Thailand
National Workshop on the UN Decade of Ocean Science, 1 December 2021, Bangkok, Thailand

2022/the Philippines
East Asia Summit Workshop on Maritime Cooperation “Technical and Scientific Cooperation Towards Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Oceans”, August 30 - September 1, 2022, Manila, Philippines

2022/China
IOI International Training on Ocean Governance, 7 September 2022, Tianjin China
Part 1-1: Mobilize Actions for the UN Ocean Decade

- More than 3,000 participants/viewers
- High Level Commitments & Stakeholder Roundtable Dialogue
- Voice from the Youth
- 17 UN Ocean Decade Incubators

https://www.ioc-westpac.org/decade-kickoff-conference/program/
Part 1-1: Mobilize Actions for the UN Ocean Decade

Four Sub-Commission’s actions jointly developed and accepted as UN Decade Actions (Programme/Project)

- **UN 24**—Explore the strongest ocean current in the Western Pacific: the 2nd Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions – from its sciences to human well beings
- **UN 23**—Accelerating capacity development transformations in the Western Pacific - **Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs)** on Marine Science
- **UN 22**—Stem the tide of Asia’s riverine plastic emission into the ocean
- **UN 21**—Accelerate **Marine Spatial Planning** in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas

DCO is in the extending WESTPAC office with the support of all countries!
Minimize and Address the Impacts of Ocean Acidification

National training and stakeholder engagement workshops in

Malaysia (Penang, 20-22 September 2022),

Thailand (Phuket, 2-4 November 2022)

Vietnam (Nha Trang, 13-15 October 2022)
Part 1-2: Delivering knowledge and services for Sustainable Development

Advance the Application of Remote Sensing for Sustainable Development

Photos taken by drone at each point
Examples of seagrass photos taken by drone for further processes and input in the GEE processes.

The result of the GEE analysis found the coverage of seagrass in 3 sites is 0.72 km²

Ao Ma Kham Pom, Rayong Province, Thailand
Part 1-2: Delivering knowledge and services for Sustainable Development

Delivering Knowledge on Harmful Jellyfish for Public Health

Science for society, Headlines, The Star, July 2020

Public awareness and community services
Part 1-2: Delivering knowledge and services for Sustainable Development

Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific - UN 21 & MSP Global 2.0

MSP matters to the region

December 2022
- Regional Dialogue for Accelerating Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific

Then, Published “Regional MSPforum for Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas – 1st edition” as an event report.

2nd Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and Adjacent Areas (CSK-2) – UN24

Science Action Plan

CSK-2 Data and Information Management Plan

3 times of Steering Group Meetings from eight (8) MSs (China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippine Russia, USA, Vietnam)

WG on Gas Hydrates and Methane Fluxes and their Impact on Climate, Ecosystem and Socio-Economic Development

1st CoSGas meeting, March 18, 2022, 15 participants: China, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, Vietnam

WG on Integrated Investigation in Indo-Pacific Convergence Center: Marine Ecosystem and Biodiversity

Organized two Scientific Committee meetings to identify the priority areas and common interests in the Indo-Pacific Convergent Center
Part 1-3: Capacity Development Strategy and Actions

“Development of “UNESCO/IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science”

“Training Through Research” via the engagement of early career scientist into WESTPAC research programmes

Establishment of “WESTPAC Best Young Scientist Award” and “WESTPAC Young Scientist Grant”

Initiation of “WESTPAC Young Scientist Forum” to exchange their perspective on marine science development and cooperation

Conduct of “Bring Marine Science to School” to inspire young generations/school

The 11th UNESCO/IOC-RTRC-ODC Training Course on Prediction and Projection of Climate
22-28 August 2027
Qingdao, China & Online

RTRC-ODC: 11th meeting in China

Training Workshop on Coral Larval Reseeding, Bolinao, Pangasinan, Philippines
04 Apr 2020 @ 9:00 am - 10 Apr 2020 @ 5:00 pm UTC+8

RTRC in Philippine on Coral Reseeding

Mangrove Monitoring International Training
29 Aug 2021 @ 1:30 pm - 08 Nov 2021 @ 4:00 pm UTC+7

RTRC-MarBEST in Indonesia on Mangrove Monitoring
Part 2: Major results WESTPAC-XIV, 4-6 April, Jakarta, Indonesia

- **Establishment of new Working Groups**
  - Small Island Research and Development
  - Blue carbon Actions in the Western Pacific
  - Advancing Marine Citizen Science
  - Traditional and Local Knowledge

- **Establishment of RTRC**
  - Coastal Contaminant Monitoring and Marine Innovative Technologies (RTRC-Coastal COMMIT)

- **Senior Governmental Official meeting**
  - Jakarta Statement for fostering UN Decade of Ocean Science in the region and further contribution to our globe

- **Programme and Budget**:  
  - Adopted the Programme and Budget for 2023 to 2025, with a total budget estimate of USD3.4 M
  - Have to be carried out via extrabudgetary support from Member States, either in cash or in kind

- **Results of elections**
  - Kentaro Ando (Chair), Aileen Tan (Vice Chair), Fadli Syamsudin (Vice Chair)

- **Next Session**
  - March or April 2025 in Tokyo Japan

- **Side event: National Decade Committee forum**
  - Pro. Yutaka Michida and Dr. Youn-Hoo Lee led the event
  - Share experiences and lessons learned in the development
  - Discuss how NDCs could further demonstrate their value
WESTPAC KEY AREAS OF ACTIONS

A: Ocean processes and climate change
B: Marine biodiversity, seafood safety and security, blue economy
C: Ocean ecosystem and public health
D: Enhanced knowledge for emerging issues

WESTPAC PROGRAMMES/WORKING GROUPS 2023-2025 (total number: 29 including RTRCs)

A 1: NEAR-GOOS
A 2: Ocean Forecasting (SEA-GOOS)
A 3: Ocean Acidification (SEA-GOOS)
A 4: Changing Asian Marginal Seas and their responses
A 5: Upwelling studies through data integration towards ocean health
A 6: South China Sea Fluvial Sediment and its Environmental Changes

B 8 Coral Reef Conservation, Restoration and Resilience
B 9: DNA taxonomy and recruitment monitoring-environment DNA
B 10: Marine toxins and seafood safety

C 12: Ocean remote sensing for habitat mapping
C 13: Harmful jellyfish research and monitoring
C 14: Harmful algae blooms

WG2019: Ocean Oxygen Network (WG)
WG2021: Rapid Detection Techniques for Harmful Algal Blooms
WG2021: Gas hydrate and methane flux
WG2021: Indo-Pacific Convergent Center
WG2023: Small island research and development
WG2023: Blue carbon actions
WG2023: Citizen science
WG2023: Traditional and local knowledge

UN 21: Marine Spatial Planning

UN 22: Asian rivers’ plastic input to ocean

UN 23: Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Ocean Science
- RTRC on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health (BRIN, Indonesia)
- RTRC on Ocean Dynamics and Climate (FIO/MNR, China)
- RTRC on Marine Toxins and Seafood Safety (IO/VAST, Vietnam)
- RTRC on Coral Reef Restoration and MPAs (UPMSI, Philippines)
- RTRC on Plastic and Microplastic Research (ECNU, China)
- RTRC on Coastal Contaminant Monitoring and Marine Innovative Technology (CityU, Hong Kong SAR, China)
Operation of the WESTPAC Office / Decade Coordination Office - New Era and Big Challenge to the UN Ocean Decade -

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WG2019: Ocean Oxygen Network (WG)
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WG2022: C2O Pacific Convergent Center
WG2023: Small island research and development
WG2023: Blue carbon actions
WG2023: Citizen science
WG2023: Traditional and local knowledge

UN 23: Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Ocean Sciences

• RTRC on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health (BRIN, Indonesia)
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UN Decade Actions

Works in the office include to support 29 Programme/Project/Working Groups/RTRCs in WESTPAC, plus 16 UN Decade Actions, to conduct several AG meetings, one Intergovernmental Session, one International Marine Science Conference, one Regional Decade Conference, and also to serve as regional DCO to coordinate with DCU and others.

Need further supports from Member States to the office
Future Directions

1. **Ocean research impacts** to be greatly enhanced, with the following approach to future programme development
   - Issue-based, solution-oriented approach, responding to national and regional priorities
   - Define “SMART” objectives
   - Involve end users, engage key stakeholders---uptake and use of research outside academia
   - Co-design and co-produce
   - Disseminating of research-efficient communication
     - Of course, we keep promotion of basic marine science
2. Leverage the opportunities of the UN Ocean Decade
3. Strengthen the WESTPAC Office/Decade Coordination Office
Thanks to all

2nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference & 11th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference

“Accelerating Ocean Science Solutions for Sustainable Development”

22-25 April 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

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