Japan’s Contribution
to UN Decade of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development, 2021-2030

- ‘snapshot’ perspective from MEXT, Japan -

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1. Contributions from Japan to the Decade planning process

(1) Prelude, now on-going

(a) Hosting IODE XXV with Scientific Conference focusing on the ‘Decade’ in Feb 2019

(b) Collaborating for leveraged outreach among UN Univ., IOC secretariat, & MEXT, for example

(2) To and with IOC secretariat

(a) Offering to host a 3-day regional consultation workshop in Tokyo for the North Pacific ocean basin in mid 2019, likely in July – August, organized by IOC-WESTPAC

(b) Providing support to IOC secretariat financially for producing ‘networking, engagement and communication tools’
1. Contributions from Japan to the Decade planning process

(3) Expertise

(a) A member to the Executive Planning Group of the Decade, Prof. Mitsuo Uematsu

(b) Others

i. A member of the Editorial Board of the GOSR-II (Global Ocean Science Report II),


iii. Committing BBNJ-IGCs process from JAMSTEC & MEXT

iv. An invited expert to the expert group of the ‘High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy’ organized by Norwegian government and WRI

v. An expert engaging in IOC Group of Experts for CD/TMT-CHM
2. Basis of Ocean Policy and SDGs Strategy

(1) The 3rd ‘Basic Plan on Ocean Policy’ 2018-2023

(a) Principles including (i) improvement of scientific knowledge on ocean, and (ii) harmonization of the development & use of the ocean with the conservation of marine environment

(b) Decision on the Plan made by the Cabinet in May 2018

(c) The ‘Decade’ is mentioned and well recognized

(d) Finally ‘promote comprehensive understanding of the ocean, the Earth and life’ embedded

(e) List of ‘measures’ approx. 370 items with the name of implementing ministries for each measure
2. Basis of Ocean Policy and SDGs Strategy

(1) The 3rd Basic Plan on Ocean Policy 2018-2023
   (e) Encompasses 181 items under 8 ministries
      (i) ‘improve scientific knowledge’: 40 items under 8 ministries in Japanese full text, summarized to 22 items in English summary,
      (ii) ‘promotion of industrial use of the ocean’: 86 items under 8 minis. in JPN, 32 items in ENG, and
      (iii) ‘maintain and protect the maritime environment’: 55 items under 8 minis. in JPN, 14 items in ENG.

Source: https://www8.cao.go.jp/ocean/policies/plan/plan03/plan03.html
         https://www8.cao.go.jp/ocean/english/plan/pdf/plan03_gaiyou_e.pdf
2. Basis of Ocean Policy and SDGs Strategy

(2) The SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles of Japan

(a) Approved by the ‘SDGs Promotion Headquarters’ of Japan that is headed by the Prime Minister, comprised of all ministers on Dec 22 2016. [Link](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sdgs/pdf/000252819.pdf)

(b) Its ‘Specific Measures to Achieve SDGs’ include ‘promotion of R&D and marine surveys for oceanographic science and technology’ for targets 14.2 and 14.3 as relevant to MEXT.

In line with the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy... continue to enhance oceanographic science and technology to support the appropriate development, use and management of oceans, such as technologies to survey and observe oceans including icy water, deep sea and seabed areas, while strategically fostering marine surveys.

[Indicator] Enhancement of marine observation networks to take ecosystem-based approaches and collect information about ocean acidification (number of cases of vertical profiling done by the use of Argo floats and marine vessels). [Link](https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/sdgs/dai2/siryou2e.pdf)

(c) Expanded and updated version of the ‘measures’ as of Jun 2018 is available only in Japanese. [Link](https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/sdgs/dai5/siryou1.pdf)
3. How Japan’s ‘contributions’ to the Decade might be collated and further forged

(1) Overview:

- **UN Decade Implementation Plan**
  - Portfolio Programs
  - Projects

- **SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17**

- **SDG 14: Goals and Targets**
  - 14.1 Pollution
    - 14.1.1 Index of eutrophication & plastic deb.
  - 14.2 Sustainable management
    - 14.2.1 EEZ managed using ecosystem based approach
  - 14.3 Impacts of acidification
    - 14.3.1 Marine acidity
  - 14.a Scientific knowledge & CD/TMT...
    - 14.a.1 Research budget

- **Other Activities Japan**
  - JAPAN

- **ARGO (Core, BGC, Deep)**
  - GOOS 10 Year Strategy
  - GCOS 10 Year Strategy
  - IODE
  - WCRP Strategy 2019-2029

- **GEBCO Seabed 2030**
- **WCRP Strategy 2019-2029**
- **UN MS and other partners**

- **MEXT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, SPORTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN**
3. How Japan’s ‘contributions’ to the Decade might be collated and further forged

(2) Instrument for SDG indicators: GOSR II, first of all, for example...

(a) Questionnaire processed and circulated from MEXT to 5 ministries and 4 agencies including Japan Coast Guard as IODE Focal and Japan Meteorological Agency as GOOS Focal, as well as the Oceanographic Society of Japan

(b) Draft answer sheet was circulated and reviewed by members of the Japan IOC sub-Committee under the Japan UNESCO Committee

(c) Answers submitted online last week (15th Feb)
3. How Japan’s ‘contributions’ to the Decade might be collated and further forged

(3) Steps forward:
(a) Centralized sole initiative unlikely,
(b) Collation of relevant activities necessary and plausible,
(c) Need to explore ways to forge or nurture additional activities specific for the ‘Decade’,
(d) Productive interaction including exchange of views with well-informed professionals much appreciated!
- During iterative regional and global planning process
- Branding of decade might work as an ‘enticement’
Thank you for your attention!

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