Major Outcomes of the Eighth Intergovernmental Session of WESTPAC and its Recommendations

Zhanhai Zhang, Ph.D
Chairperson, IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific
Forty-third Session of the IOC Executive Council
UNESCO, Paris, 8–16 June 2010

http://westpac.unescobkk.org
Delegates at the WESTPAC-VIII

Eighty-six delegates and representatives from 12 IOC/WESTPAC Member States and 5 international /regional organizations and programmes. The Kingdom of Cambodia also sent their delegation to the session for the first time since the establishment of WESTPAC in 1989.
Celebrating IOC’s 50th Anniversary at WESTPAC-VIII

**Cruises Launching Ceremony of INAGOOS - teleconference between meeting venue and four research vessels with regional scientists aboard**

**Signing Ceremony of the First Regional Training & Research Center on Oceanography between IOC of UNESCO and the First Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration of China**
WESTPAC Revitalization: Outcomes, Impacts and Constraints


Strategic Planning:  *WESTPAC Regional Ocean Research Priority Plan*

Advisory Mechanism:  *WESTPAC Advisory Group*
From Programme conceptualization to Operation

• Enhance marine scientific knowledge and promote its application

• Demonstrate the value of observation through the development of regional ocean observing systems

• Improve the regional capacity in the study and management of their coasts and oceans

in the forms of international workshops, training courses, joint cruises, field surveys, and exchange of scholars and students
Objectives

• improve the understanding of the Physical processes of marine hazards and their responding mechanisms to global climate change by means of observations, dynamic analysis and numerical methods;
• quantify the trends of the typical marine hazards

Progress

• Two International Workshops were organized in Nov. 2008 and Dec. 2009
• Pilot areas and research priority identified
• First joint cruise organized in Jun. 2009 with data sharing among participating members
Fluvial Sediment Supply to the South China Sea: Anthropogenic and Natural Aspects

Objectives
i) Investigate source and transport of fluvial sediment discharge to the South China Sea over geological past: fractionating anthropogenic influence from natural trend
ii) predict the future sediment discharge.

Progress
• Two International Workshop organized;
• Four fieldworks/cruises carried out;
• Bilateral scientific visits organized.
• Several scientific papers published
Objectives
- To review the regional status on the marine invasive species;
- To understand and provide scientific basis for marine biodiversity management;
- To establish the effective management plan and monitoring programs for marine biodiversity among WESTPAC country members.

Progress
- WESTPAC Workshop on Marine Invasive Species and Management organized, Bangkok, 4-5 June 2009
- Poster developed for public awareness
- one regional status Report on Marine Non-indigenous Species 2009 under editing
- Training Workshop on Rapid Assessment of Marine Non-indigenous under preparation with secured funding
Coral reef under Climate and Anthropogenic Perturbation

Objectives:

i. understand the biogeochemical and ecological nature of coral reefs in WESTPAC;
ii. evaluate the consequence of impact of climate change and other human activities on the health of coral reefs and their sustainable use;
iii. promote capacity building in areas related to research on coral reefs

Progress:

• IOC/WESTPAC Workshop on the Coral Reef under Climate and Anthropogenic Perturbations, Shanghai, China, 23-26 May 2009
• one regional synthesis report under development
• training and 2nd Workshop under preparation

Call for Abstracts
Second IOC/WESTPAC Workshop on the “Coral Reefs under Climate and Anthropogenic Perturbations”, Phuket, 22-24

Announcement on the IOC/WESTPAC Training Course “Impact of Sedimentary Dynamics and Biogeochemistry on Coral Reefs”, Koh Samui, Thailand, 15 – 18 June 2010
**WESTPAC-Harmful Algal Bloom**

**Objectives:**
- To understand the biological, biochemical and ecological nature of harmful algae and the events caused by them

**Progress:**
- A series of “training through research” conducted before last session with improved scientific knowledge;
- Extensive consultations made to strengthen WESTPAC-HAB with emphasis on outreach activities.
Enhancing the knowledge and Promoting its application

Ocean Remote Sensing

Objectives:

• To advance remote sensing techniques and promote its application in the protection and management of marine environment

Progress:

• New Generation Sea Surface Temperature” (NGSST) high-resolution SST digital data has continuously provided

• Regional ocean color algorithm developed in cooperation with the UNDP/YSLME) and UNEP/NOWPAP

• New activities on Remote Sensing for Coastal Habitat Mapping to be implemented

NGSST Data :http://www.ocean.caos.tohoku.ac.jp/%7Emerge/sstbinary/actvalbm.cgi?eng=1
Demonstrating the value of ocean observations and service through the development of Regional Ocean Observing Systems

**North East Asian Regional-GOOS (NEAR-GOOS)**

**Progress**
- Real-time and delayed mode database system smoothly operating and timely updated
- The available amount and types of data increased
- New data products developed
- Observing system and operational oceanographic system developed in the member states

**Objectives for the 2nd Phase of NEAR-GOOS**
Developing a comprehensive and sustained ocean observing network and a operational forecasting system in the region.
Monsoon Onset Monitoring and its Social & Ecosystem Impacts (MOMSEI)

Objectives: To improve the understanding and forecasting of Asia monsoon and its multi-scale variability; demonstrate the value of ocean observations for the society and ecosystem cons.

Ocean Forecast Demonstration
Objectives: To develop ocean forecasting system through the utilization and comparison of existing global ocean models, like MASNUM, BlueLINK

Three MOMSEI planning Workshops in 2009; Buoys to be deployed and cruise to be conducted in 2010; MOMSEI Summer School scheduled for 26-30 July 2010; Project Office to be established within WESTPAC Secretariat;
Establishment of National Ocean Data Portal Nodes” in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 31 August -4 September 2009

Monitoring Technique and Emergency Response of Marine Oil Spills in Qingdao, 20-23 April 2009

Subject-specific Trainings

Improving the regional capacity in the study and management of their coasts and oceans

UNESCO/IOC Regional Net. Of T& R Centers
The Sub-Commission decided to continue the following on-going projects:

- HAB
- Ocean Remote Sensing
- Response of Marine Hazards to Climate Change
- Fluvial Sediments to the South China Sea
- SEAGOOS
- NEARGOOS
- Coral Reef under Climate and Anthropogenic Perturbations
- Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and its Management
- Marine Hazards Forecasting and Mitigation
- IBCWP
- ODINWESTPAC
- UNESCO/IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers on Oceanography
- WESTPAC E-Bulletin
**Adopted New WESTPAC Projects**

- **Ocean Forecast Demonstration System**

![Image of ocean forecast demonstration system]

- **DNA Taxonomy and Recruitment Monitoring of the Coral Reef Marine Organisms**

![Image of DNA taxonomy and recruitment monitoring]

- **Ensuring Seafood Safety from Toxic Marine Organisms**

![Image of seafood safety from toxic marine organisms]
Adopted Recommendations

Recommendation SC-WESTPAC-VIII.1 & 4

*Eighth WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium*
*Appreciates* the generous offer of the Government of Republic of Korea to host the next Symposium;

*Decides* that the Eighth WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium be organized in March 2011, Pusan, Republic of Korea;

*Ninth Intergovernmental Session of WESTPAC*
*Appreciates* the Government of Republic of Indonesia for hosting the Eighth Session on 10-13 May 2010, Bali, Indonesia and excellent arrangements made for the Session;

*Accepts with appreciation* the offer by the Government of Republic of Korea to host the Ninth Session in the second quarter of 2012, subject to the final endorsement of the relevant authorities.
Adopted Recommendations

Recommendation SC-WESTPAC-VIII.2
UNESCO/IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers on Oceanography

Appreciates the First Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration of China for the submission of a proposal on the establishment of a Regional Training and Research Center on Ocean Dynamics and Climate;

Notes with the satisfaction the approval by IOC has been made on the establishment of the Center;

Encourages Member States to take active part in the activities planned for the Center once it becomes operational;

Invites Member States to encourage their respective national oceanographic institutes and universities to actively participate in the Regional Network;

Requests the Executive Secretary of IOC to take necessary actions to further promote this regional capacity building activity.
Adopted Recommendations

Recommendation SC-WESTPAC-VIII.3
WESTPAC Working Groups

Further recognizing the need from Member States to establish a mechanism for attracting the leading scientists to deliberate on focused scientific topics, marine-related societal concerns and other international emerging issues,

Decides to establish WESTPAC Working Groups as the mechanism to deal with the above issues, with the Guidelines for the Establishment of WESTPAC Working Groups annexed to the Recommendation.


The groups are expected to hold up to one meeting per year over their life time to fulfil their terms of reference and develop a publication for the primary scientific literature, or a project proposal together with a detailed implementation plan, or a concrete action plan to be carried out within the framework of WESTPAC;

WESTPAC considers the proposals for new working groups every two years at its session, but at most three new groups can be funded after being adopted at each session, subject to WESTPAC’ extra budgetary situation.
Adopted New WESTPAC Working Groups

Asian Dust and its Impact on Ocean Ecosystem in the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-ADOES)

Objectives
• improve the understanding of the deposition flux and bioavailability of Asian dust, and its impact on biogeochemical processes and productivity of marine ecosystem in the western Pacific

Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment (WESTPAC-GRAME)

Objectives
• function in its advisory capacity to the Sub-Commission to facilitate and advise on the development of GRAME in WESTPAC region.
One US dollar from IOC regular source leveraging 8.7 US dollars from extrabudgetary sources

**Adopted Recommendations**

**Recommendation SC-WESTPAC-VIII.4**
WESTPAC Programme and Budget for May 2010 - May 2012

**Extended appreciations for:**
In-cash Support from other resources, mainly from China, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Thailand.
In-Kind Support from China, Thailand, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, in the forms of Provision of research vessels, ship time, equipments; hosting WESTPAC workshops and lending their expertise to WESTPAC training courses...

**Budget for May 2008 – May 2010**

**Budget for May 2010 – May 2012**
One US dollar from IOC regular source leveraging 8.7 US dollars from extrabudgetary sources
Express concerns

• the shortage of human resources in the WESTPAC Secretariat with the rapid expansion of WESTPAC activities;

• the role of Regional Subsidiary Bodies in IOC global programmes/activities:
  ➢ communications between IOC HQ and its RSBs need to be improved;
  ➢ clear message/guidance on what RSBs are able to contribute to and assist IOC global programmes/activities shall be sent to RSBs in a timely manner;
  ➢ overall resources position of RSBs within IOC global programmes need to be informed;
Newly-elected WESTPAC Officers

Dr Yasuwo Fukuyo, Japan
First Vice-Chairperson

Dr Zhang Zhanhai, China
Chairperson

Dr Nor Aieni Binti Hj Mokhtar, Malaysia
Second Vice-Chairperson
Acknowledgements

SPECIAL THANKS TO
MEMBER STATES
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PROF. YASUWO FUKUYO AND PROF. NOR AINENI BINTI HJ MOKHTAR
AND
MR. WENXI ZHU OF WESTPAC SECRETARIAT
Welcome to join WESTPAC Community