



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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(Available in English only)

IOC/VR/WZ/ns
10 December 2020

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

cc. : Permanent Delegates to UNESCO of Member States of WESTPAC
National Commissions for UNESCO in Member States of WESTPAC
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of WESTPAC
Directors, UNESCO Offices in Bangkok, Jakarta, Beijing

Subject: Arrangements for the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIII), Virtual, 27–29 April 2021

On behalf of the WESTPAC Officers, I have the pleasure of inviting Member States in the region to carry on their intergovernmental guidance of the IOC programmes despite the difficult conditions imposed on us by the prolonged Covid-19 pandemic. The WESTPAC Officers, Advisory Group and the Head of WESTPAC Office have been monitoring closely the situation and would like to recommend that the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIII) be conducted virtually from 27 to 29 April 2021, with three-hour daily sessions to ensure participants' health and facilitate their participation from various time zones. The virtual session will be kindly "hosted" by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in English as customary.

The agenda for the session will focus on essential issues requiring attention, guidance and collective actions of IOC Member States in the region. After briefly reviewing the progress of the Sub-commission over the last intersessional period, the session will hear the latest development at global level on the UN Ocean Decade and IOC strategy development, and further deliberate on the Sub-commission's engagement in and contribution to the Decade. The Sub-commission will be expected to formulate its workplan and budget for the 2022–2023 biennium and will elect its Officers.

The session will bring together national competent governmental agencies and ocean research communities, aiming to strengthen the science-policy interface, advance international ocean science development and cooperation, and enhance institutional capacities, in order to address critical challenges for sustainability in the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas.

Chairperson

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A copy of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable is attached for your information as Annex 1. 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 well in advance of the session.

Following past practice, working and information documents, as well as a technical guideline for participation in the virtual session, will be forwarded to you via electronic means and will be posted on the WESTPAC website (<http://iocwestpac.org>) in due course. Furthermore, a test run will be arranged in advance, tentatively on 23 April 2021, to ensure the smooth connection of all participants to the online meeting system.

At the 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 11 April 2021 at 17:00 p.m. (Bangkok time)**.

I would appreciate your understanding on the proposed arrangement. Should you have any further enquiries and comment, kindly respond to this letter by 30 December 2020. I 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 28 February 2021**, 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 and timetable
Annex 2: Elections Procedures & Forms

ANNEX 1

Thirteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIII), Virtual, 27–29 April 2021

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. OPENING

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 CHAIRPERSON

3.2 REPORT BY THE HEAD OF WESTPAC OFFICE ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

3.3 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN UNESCO, ITS IOC, AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO WESTPAC

3.3.1 UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)

3.3.2 IOC Draft Medium Term Strategy (2022–2029), and IOC Programme and Budget

4. REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND WORKING GROUPS FOR MAY 2019 – APRIL 2021

Note: Due to the time constraints, reporting will be consolidated and conducted according to thematic areas of actions, namely, i. Ocean and climate change; ii. Marine biodiversity, seafood safety and security; iii. Ocean ecosystem health. However, each programme, project and WG will prepare the progress report in written form, which will be uploaded to the event webpage.

5. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROGRAMME/PROJECT/WORKING GROUP

6. ENGAGEMENT IN AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)

6.1 UN DECADE REGIONAL PLANNING WORKSHOP, REGIONAL DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

6.2 WESTPAC APPROACH TO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UN DECADE

6.3 WESTPAC PROPOSAL(S) FOR UN OCEAN DECADE ACTIONS

6.4 PREPARATIONS FOR THE UN DECADE REGIONAL KICKOFF CONFERENCE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ELEVENTH WESTPAC INTERNATIONAL MARINE SCIENCE CONFERENCE (SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 2021, THAILAND)

7. WESTPAC WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD MAY 2021 – APRIL 2023

8. ELECTIONS

9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

10. OTHER MATTERS

11. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12. CLOSURE

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

	Monday 26 April	Tuesday 27 April	Wednesday 28 April	Thursday 29 April
1200-1300*		Participants logging in	Sessional Working Group meeting(s)	Sessional Working Group meeting(s)
1300-1420	WESTPAC Advisory Group meeting (tbd)	1. Opening 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 Chairperson 3.2 WESTPAC Office's report	4.3 Healthy Ocean Ecosystem 4.4 Capacity Development 5. Establishment of new programme/project 6. Contribution to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2023) 6.1 UN Decade Regional Planning Workshop, Regional Dialogue and partnership building	6.4 Preparations for the UN Decade Regional Kickoff Conference in conjunction with the Eleventh WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference (tentatively scheduled for August 2021, Thailand); 7. WESTPAC workplan and budget for the period May 2021 – April 2023 8. Elections
1420-1440		Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
1440-1600		3.3 Recent Development of IOC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Decade of Ocean Science • IOC Draft Medium Term Strategy 4. Review of programme development 4.1 Ocean Processes and Climate in the Indo-Pacific 4.2 Marine Biodiversity, Seafood Security and Safety	6.2 WESTPAC Approach to Capacity Development for the UN Decade 6.3 WESTPAC Proposal (s) for UN Ocean Decade Actions	9. Date and place of the next Session 10. Other matters 11. Adoption of decisions and recommendations 12. Closure

* Bangkok time (ICT)

ANNEX 2

Elections Procedures and Forms

As customary, at its Thirteenth Intergovernmental Session, the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIII), Virtual, 27–29 April 2021, shall elect, namely, one Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons, for the term May 2021–May 2023.

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 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-XIII, 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) and 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

Chairperson: Vo Si Tuan (Viet Nam)
Vice-chairpersons: Fangli Qiao (China)
Kentaro Ando (Japan)
Zainal Arifin (Indonesia)

They were elected, by acclamation, at the 11th Intergovernmental Session (Qingdao, China, 21-23 April 2017) for the first term (April 2017-April 2019), and re-elected again for the second term (April 2019-April 2021).

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:

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 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]