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3 September 2012

To: Member States of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)
Cc: Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of WESTPAC
Other national coordinating bodies for liaison with the IOC
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States

Subject: Nominations of experts for the WESTPAC Advisory Group

Sir/Madam,

I wish to draw your attention to Recommendation SC-WESTPAC-VII.1 on the WESTPAC Advisory Group, which was adopted by the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) at its seventh Intergovernmental Session (Sabah, Malaysia, 26–26 May 2008) and was subsequently endorsed by the IOC Executive Council at its forty-first Session (Paris, UNESCO HQ, 23 June–2 July 2008).

In line with the Recommendation, the WESTPAC Advisory Group was first formed with the following composition: Dr Yasuwo Fukuyo (Chair of the WESTPAC Advisory Group), Dr Zhanhai Zhang, Dr Nor Aieni Haji Mokhtar, Dr Fangli Qiao, Dr Yutaka Michida, Dr Ir. John I. Pariwono and Dr Maitree Duangsawasdi. During the period 2008–2012, the WESTPAC Advisory Group provided scientific and technical advice to the Sub-Commission on the development, planning and implementation of its activities.

Pursuant to decision of WESTPAC at its ninth Session (Busan, Republic of Korea, 10–13 May 2012) on the re-selection of new WESTPAC Advisory Group, I now invite nominations of experts for the Advisory Group whose Terms of Reference are annexed to this letter.

.../...
Kindly note that the WESTPAC Advisory Group, “composed of the Officers of the Sub-Commission and up to five additional experts in relevant disciplines of marine science”, will be selected on the basis of their personal expertise with due consideration to the geographical representation. Knowledge of and experience in IOC, its WESTPAC and other international programmes will be an asset. Additional expert(s) may be invited as resource person(s) if necessary to attend the meetings of the WESTPAC Advisory Group.

To enable the new WESTPAC Advisory Group to conduct its work in a timely manner, nominations should be communicated to Mr Wenxi Zhu, Head of the IOC Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC Office) (w.zhu@unesco.org), at your earliest convenience, but not later than 21 September 2012. Resume of nominees and other necessary supporting documents should be sent to the same address by 28 September 2012. I would like to thank you again for your cooperation. In the meantime, should you have any inquiries please do not hesitate to contact us.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

Attachment: Terms of Reference of the WESTPAC Advisory Group
Terms of Reference of the WESTPAC Advisory Group

The WESTPAC Advisory Group, composed of the Officers of the Sub-Commission and up to five additional experts in relevant disciplines of marine science, has the responsibility to provide scientific and technical advice on the development, planning and implementation of the activities of the Sub-Commission.

The WESTPAC Advisory Group will:

- advise the Sub-Commission through the Chairperson on all scientific and technical aspects and other matters identified by the Chairperson;
- review and assess the development, planning and implementation of the ongoing project and make necessary recommendations to the Sub-Commission accordingly;
- assist in developing and updating, as appropriate, a Scientific Strategic Plan and accompanying short- to medium-term actions plans and targets for the Sub-Commission;
- assist in developing WESTPAC programmes to be in line with IOC Medium-Term Strategy and High-Level Objectives;
- promote the support for the implementation of the Sub-Commission’s activities;
- submit reports to the Sub-Commission through the Chairperson.

The Advisory Group may establish working groups as appropriate.

The Advisory Group shall be comprised of scientific and technical experts selected by the Officers of the Sub-Commission upon the recommendation of IOC National Focal Points for WESTPAC, taking into account balanced representation of geographical distribution of the member states, and of gender, on the basis of their personal expertise so as to provide a balanced representation of the major scientific and technical disciplines. Experts will serve in their personal capacities, not as Member State representatives. Additional experts may be consulted as needed.

One Vice-Chair of the Sub-Commission will act as the Chairperson of the Advisory Group.

The Advisory Group shall operate during intersessional periods and meet at least once a year. The IOC Regional Office for the Western Pacific will provide secretariat support for the Advisory Group.