IOC Circular Letter No 2649
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IOC/WESTPAC/WZ
15 February 2017

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
Secretary-General, ASEAN
Directors, UNESCO Offices in Bangkok, Jakarta, Beijing

Subject: Eleventh Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XI), Qingdao, China, 21–23 April 2017

I have the pleasure of inviting you to participate in the Eleventh Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XI), which will be generously hosted by the State Oceanic Administration of China and National Commission of China for UNESCO from 21 to 23 April 2017 in Qingdao, China.

The session, to be held immediately after the Tenth WESTPAC International Scientific Conference (17–20 April 2017, Qingdao, China), will bring together national competent governmental agencies and scientific communities, aiming to improve science-policy interface, advance international cooperation on marine science, observations and service, and to enhance institutional capacities to address critical challenges to sustainable development in the Western Pacific and its adjacent regions. The session will review present WESTPAC strategic directions and associated activities, deliberate on and come up with concrete action plans towards the future strategic and programmatic development of WESTPAC, particularly taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A copy of the Provisional Agenda is attached for your information as Annex I. As this intergovernmental session covers three days with quite an extensive agenda, it will be essential for delegations to focus their work on guidance, vision and practical actions for further shaping the future of the Sub-Commission. Therefore, we would like to request that reporting on past activities be done well in advance in writing and that delegates study working documents and prepare their comments prior to the session for brief constructive discussions at the meeting.

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At this session, WESTPAC Member States will elect the Officers of the Sub-Commission, namely, one Chairperson and two Vice-chairpersons, for the next biennium according to the attached procedure (see Annex 2). Nominations shall be accepted till the end of the first day of WESTPAC-XI, i.e. 21st April 2017. They can also be addressed in advance to the IOC Executive Secretary. You may wish to take this into consideration in the selection of your delegation.

Following past practice, working and information documents for the session as well as the details of the venue will be forwarded to you via electronic means and will be posted at the WESTPAC website (http://iocwestpac.org) in due course. As is customary for intergovernmental meetings, participants are required to secure their own financial support to attend this session.

In order to enable smooth practical arrangements with the host government, I invite you to communicate in writing the names, positions and contact addresses of the members of your delegations to Mr Wenxi Zhu, Head of WESTPAC Office (w.zhu@unesco.org, or fax:+66 2 143 9245), at your earliest convenience but no later than 10 March 2017, with a copy to Ms Orathai Pongruktam (o.pongruktam@unesco.org), and Ms Nachapa Saransuth (n.saransuth@unesco.org).

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

“[signed]”

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (2): Annex 1: Provisional Agenda
Annex 2: Elections Procedures & Forms
ANNEX 1

Eleventh Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XI)
Qingdao, China, 21-23 April 2017

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. OPENING

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION
   2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
   2.2 DESIGNATION OF RAPPORTEUR FOR THE SESSION
   2.3 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 BUDGET OVERVIEW, INCLUDING THE OPERATION OF THE WESTPAC OFFICE
   3.3 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN UNESCO, IOC, AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO WESTPAC

4. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT
   4.1 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TENTH WESTPAC INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE (17-20 APRIL 2017, QINGDAO, CHINA)
   4.2 THE FUTURE OF IOC, AND THE ROLE OF WESTPAC IN THE "IOC’S ROADMAP"
   4.3 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG, PARTICULARLY SDG 14, AT NATIONAL LEVEL, AND CONTRIBUTION OF IOC AND WESTPAC

5. REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND WORKING GROUPS FOR THE PERIOD MAY 2015 - APRIL 2017
   5.1 OCEAN PROCESSES AND CLIMATE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC
      o North East Asian Regional-GOOS
      o South East Asian Regional-GOOS
         - Ocean Forecasting System (OFS)
         - Monsoon Onset Monitoring and its Social and Ecosystem Impacts (MOMSEI)
         - Monitoring the Ecological Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Coral Reef Ecosystems
      o Air-Sea Interaction in the Kuroshio Extension and its Climate Impact
      o Upwelling Studies through Ocean Data Integration towards Sustaining Ocean Health and Productivity
      o South China Sea Fluvial Sediments and Environmental Changes
      o Indo-Pacific Ocean Environmental Variations and Air-Sea Interactions (IPOVAI)
5.2 MARINE BIODIVERSITY, HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS, SEAFOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY
   - Marine & Coastal Biodiversity and Conservation
   - Coral Reef under Climate and Anthropogenic Perturbations
   - DNA Taxonomy and Recruitment Monitoring of the Coral Reef Marine Organisms
   - Marine Toxins and Seafood Safety
   - Harmful Algal Blooms
   - Ocean Remote Sensing for Coastal Habitat Mapping
   - Regional Study on Marine Endangered Species (Mammals and Sea Turtles) in Tropical Asia for Effective Conservation

5.3 ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE OF EMERGING OCEAN SCIENCE ISSUES
   - WG 003: Mapping Harmful Jellyfishes
   - WG 004: Marine Renewable Energy Technology Development

5.4 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR MARINE SCIENCE, OBSERVATIONS AND SERVICES
   - Development of the IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centres
   - IOC Regional Training and Research Centre on Ocean Dynamics and Climate (RTRC-ODC)
   - IOC Regional Training and Research Center on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health (RTRC-MarBEST)

5.5 RECOMMENDATION OF WESTPAC ADVISORY GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND WORKING GROUPS FOR THE PERIOD MAY 2015–APRIL 2017

6. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEW PROGRAMME/PROJECT PROPOSALS, AND/OR NEW WESTPAC WORKING GROUPS AND THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE

7. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES

8. WESTPAC WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD MAY 2017 - MAY 2019

9. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
   9.1 ELECTIONS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION
   9.2 WESTPAC MEMBERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP
   9.3 RESOURCES MOBILIZATION

10. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

11. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12. CLOSURE
**ANNEX 2**

**Elections of the Officers of the WESTPAC**

At its Eleventh Intergovernmental Session, the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XI), Qingdao, China, 21-23 April 2017, shall elect the Officers of the WESTPAC, namely, one Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons, for the term May 2017– May 2019.

The Chairperson shall preside over the sessions of the Sub-Commission (Rule 38), 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 each 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. This is the limit established for an IOC Chairperson, Rule 17.2. The time limit of a mandate is two years according to Article 7.2 of the IOC Statutes. Kindly note, the present WESTPAC Chair and two Vice-Chairs were elected at the Ninth WESTPAC Session (WESTPAC-IX, 9-12 May 2012, Busan, Republic of Korea), and re-elected at the Tenth WESTPAC Session (WESTPAC-X, 12-15 May 2015, Phuket, Thailand).

**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-XI, 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 on the first day of the meeting by close of business.

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 38.1).

Should voting be necessary, decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the members present and voting (Rule 43.16), by secret ballot.
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  ……………………………………………………………
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

…………………………………… …………………………………..
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]