IOC Circular Letter No 2749

(Available in English only)

9 January 2019

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: Twelfth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XII), Manila, the Philippines, 2–5 April 2019

On behalf of Mr Vo Si Tuan, WESTPAC Chairperson, I have the pleasure of inviting you to participate in the Twelfth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XII), which will be generously hosted by the Government of the Philippines from 2 to 5 April 2019 in Manila, the Philippines.

The session will bring together national competent governmental agencies and marine 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. At this session, WESTPAC will first review its present strategic directions and associated activities, and then deliberate on and come up with concrete action plans towards future strategic and programmatic developments in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).

WESTPAC has an extensive agenda for its session (annexed hereafter) scheduled over four days (tentatively including one day for field study). It is essential for delegations to focus their work on guidance, vision and practical actions for the future actions of the Sub-Commission and report on past activities only in writing well in advance of the session. Delegates are encouraged to prepare their comments based on the documentation prior to the session for brief constructive discussions at the meeting.
At this session, WESTPAC Member States will elect their Officers, namely, one Chairperson and two or three Vice-chairpersons, for the next biennium. Elected Officers may be re-elected for one additional term of office. Information about the election procedure and the prescribed nomination forms are annexed hereafter. Nominations should be sent preferably in advance of the session and not later than the end of the first day of WESTPAC-XII, i.e. 2nd April 2019 to me with copy to Wenxi Zhu, Head of the WESTPAC Office. As a reminder, Chairperson Vo Si Tuan (Vietnam) and Vice-Chairpersons Fangli Qiao (China), Zainal Arifin (Indonesia) and Kentaro Ando (Japan) were elected by acclamation at the 11th session of WESTPAC (Qingdao, China, 21–23 April 2017).

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) and IOC calendar of meetings 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 Wenxi Zhu, Head of WESTPAC Office (w.zhu@unesco.org, or fax: +66 2 143 9245), at your earliest convenience but no later than 20 February 2019, with a copy to 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

Twelfth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific
(WESTPAC-XII)
Manila, the Philippines, 2–5 April 2019

PROVISIONAL AGENDA
(V 1.0)

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, 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 for 2022–2029

4. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT
   4.1 PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELEVENTH WESTPAC INTERNATIONAL MARINE
       SCIENCE CONFERENCE (TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 2020,
       INDONESIA)
   4.2 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 2030 AGENDA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
       GOALS, PARTICULARLY SDG 14 (OCEAN), AT NATIONAL LEVEL, AND THE
       CONTRIBUTION OF WESTPAC VIA ITS TWO VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS:
       OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
   4.3 PREPARATIONS FOR THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE NORTH PACIFIC,
       UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE

5. REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND
   WORKING GROUPS FOR MAY 2017–APRIL 2019
   5.1 OCEAN PROCESSES AND CLIMATE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC
       5.1.1 North East Asian Regional-GOOS
       5.1.2 South East Asian Regional-GOOS
           5.1.2.1 Monsoon Onset Monitoring and its Social and Ecosystem Impacts
                   (MOMSEI)
           5.1.2.2 Ocean Forecasting System (OFS)
           5.1.2.3 Monitoring the Ecological Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Coral
                   Reef Ecosystems
5.1.3 Air-Sea Interaction in the Kuroshio Extension and its Climate Impact
5.1.4 South China Sea Fluvial Sediments and Environmental Changes
5.1.5 Upwelling Studies through Ocean Data Integration towards Sustaining Ocean Health and Productivity
5.1.6 Indo-Pacific Ocean Environmental Variations and Air-Sea Interactions
5.1.8 Intersessional Working Group on the Feasibility Study on the Second Cooperative Study of the Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions

5.2 MARINE BIODIVERSITY, HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS, SEAFOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY
5.2.1 Coral Reef Conservation and Restoration
5.2.2 Coral Resilience to Climate and Anthropogenic Impact (Formerly referred to as “Coral Reef under Climate and Anthropogenic Perturbations”)
5.2.3 DNA Taxonomy and Recruitment Monitoring of the Coral Reef Marine Organisms
5.2.4 Marine Toxins and Seafood Safety
5.2.5 Harmful Algal Blooms
5.2.6 Ocean Remote Sensing for Coastal Habitat Mapping
5.2.7 Regional Study on Marine Endangered Species (Mammals and Sea Turtles) in Tropical Asia for Effective Conservation
5.2.8 Harmful Jellyfish Research Network
5.2.9 Marine Microplastic Research and Monitoring

5.3 ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE OF EMERGING OCEAN SCIENCE ISSUES
5.3.1 WG 005: Ocean Oxygen Network
5.3.2 WG 006: Energy and Materials Exchange Between Land and Open Ocean

5.4 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR MARINE SCIENCE, OBSERVATIONS AND SERVICES
5.4.2 Development of the IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers, and Establishment of new RTRCs
5.4.3 IOC Regional Training and Research Centre on Ocean Dynamics and Climate (RTRC-ODC)
5.4.4 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 2017–APRIL 2019

6. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES

7. WESTPAC WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD MAY 2019–APRIL 2021
8. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
   9.1 ELECTIONS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION
   9.2 WESTPAC MEMBERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP
   9.3 RESOURCES MOBILIZATION

9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

10. OTHER MATTERS

11. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12. CLOSURE
ANNEX 2

Elections of the Officers of the WESTPAC

At its Twelfth Intergovernmental Session, the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XII), Manila, the Philippines, 2–5 April 2019, shall elect the Officers of the WESTPAC, namely, one Chairperson and two or three Vice-Chairpersons, for the term May 2019–May 2021.

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 Officer in Rule of Procedure 17. The time limit of a mandate is the time between two sessions—usually two years—according to Article 7.2 of the IOC Statutes.

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 WESTPAC-XII, 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 38.2).

Should voting be necessary, decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the valid votes cast (Technical arrangements 2.17(iv)), 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: ……………………………………………………………………………

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seconder 1</th>
<th>Seconder 2</th>
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<td>Member State of the WESTPAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name in capitals</td>
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<td>Position</td>
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<td>Signature</td>
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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

[NAMES]

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]