IOC Circular Letter No 2793
(Available in English and French)

To : National Official Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with IOC
cc. : Permanent Delegates / Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
      National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States

Subject : Designation of national IOC focal points for Capacity Development

Capacity Development (CD) is an essential tenet of IOC’s mission. It enables all Member States to participate in and benefit from ocean research and services which are meaningful drivers to sustain development and human welfare on the planet. The vision contained in the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2015–2021 identifies capacity development as the primary catalyst through which IOC is achieving its four high level objectives in the current IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2014–2021.

In October 2018, the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development organized a first “Capacity Development Needs Assessment Survey” that assessed the capacity development requirements of member countries, specifically Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The findings reflected in document IOC/GE-CD-TT/I/3 contribute to the implementation plan of the Capacity Development Strategy of IOC. Clearly this effort gains value in time and needs to be continued and strengthened.

On this line, the IOC Assembly at its last session in July 2019, through Decision IOC-XXX/11.1 in attachment, invited the IOC Capacity Development Group of Experts to ‘repeat the CD survey at regular intervals (biannually) with additional requests to possibly include CD implementation impact monitoring/metrics and to take into account other monitoring methods such as regional reviews, science conferences, etc.’ amongst other activities.

This endeavour relies significantly on the national focal points for capacity development nominated in your countries. Some IOC Member States designated an IOC CD focal point in response to IOC Circular Letter 2738 (4 October 2018). Today we would like to repeat the request to designate an IOC CD focal point and build a larger network. You may first wish to check out the list of IOC CD focal points nominated in 2018 at https://www.oceanexpert.net/group/424 before designating one in your country. CD focal points are responsible for the coordination of their country’s participation in IOC’s capacity development activities. They will also contribute to adequately identify and assess CD requirement and needs.
Nominations should be sent to us by email addressed to p.pissierssens@unesco.org not later than 29 February 2020.

Looking forward to receiving your nominations, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Decision IOC-XXX/11.1 of the IOC Assembly at its 30th session (Paris, 26 June–4 July 2019): IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development
Decision IOC-XXX/11.1

IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development

The Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of Capacity Development as one of the six functions of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (2014–2021), enabling all Member States to participate in, and benefit from, ocean research and services that are vital to sustainable development and human welfare on the planet,

Recalling the adoption, at its 28th session, of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015–2021),

Recalling further its Decision IOC-XXIX/10.1, establishing the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development,

Welcoming the contributions of its Member States to capacity development at the global and regional level through financial and in-kind contributions,

Welcoming further the implementation, through IOCARIBE (and its CMA2 project), of a regional prototype for the IOC Clearing-House Mechanism for the Transfer of Marine Technology (CHM/TMT),

Stressing the need to share, across programmes and regions, experience and expertise in capacity development, and to coordinate efforts to increase efficiency and maximize impact,

Urges Member States to nominate an "IOC CD focal point" who will be responsible for the coordination of their country's participation in IOC's capacity development activities;

Invites the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development to:

(i) repeat the CD survey at regular intervals (biannually), possibly including CD implementation impact monitoring/metrics, also taking into account other methods such as regional reviews, science conferences, etc.;

(ii) ensure coordination of the work of the Group of Experts and its task teams with GOSR and CD aspects of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;

(iii) organize a regional conference on capacity development requirements of Pacific SIDS, alongside other meetings occurring within the region involving IOC Member States as well as other stakeholders active in the region and taking into account existing programmes and activities;

(iv) prepare a detailed and costed proposal for the development of an IOC Clearing-House Mechanism for the Transfer of Marine Technology using a hybrid model of interoperable nodes as well as a central access point, to be developed in a step-wise modular approach, in collaboration with IODE and its Project Office, and taking into account the regional prototype developed as well as evolving requirements, for submission to the IOC Executive Council at its 53rd session in 2020; such analysis should include the possibility of expanding the IOC CHM functionalities to serve other requirements such as those emerging from the BBNJ ongoing negotiations.

Calls on IOC's regional subsidiary bodies as well as regional components of global programmes to:

(i) promote contributions to the CD survey;

(ii) identify CD efforts of other organizations and seek complementary cooperation;

(iii) link with other global, regional and national processes and strengthen the relationships with philanthropic, private partnerships and other regional organizations;
Invites Member States to actively contribute to the surveys and contribute to the IOC's Capacity Development activities through financial and/or in-kind contributions.