Sixth WESTPAC Summer School on
Monsoon Onset Monitoring and its Social & Ecosystem Impacts (MOMSEI)

MOMSEI Summer School–VI, Phuket, Thailand, 26-30 October 2015

ANNOUNCEMENT

I. BACKGROUND

Asian Monsoon plays a significant role in the agriculture and the livelihood of people in the wider Southeast Asian Basin and its neighboring countries since it brings huge amount of rainfall to this region. Naturally, Asian Monsoon exhibits complex multiscale variability. Once it deviates from its normal pattern (i.e. climate mean condition), it causes severe disasters such as floods and droughts, even resulting in the severe disruption of agricultural production and the displacement of inhabitants. This July of 2015 witnessed the torrential monsoon rainfall over South Asia and Southeast Asia, especially in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar. In addition, the extraordinary late monsoon onset leads to an extended persistence of high sea surface temperature, increasing the risk of coral bleaching, as seen in the massive coral bleaching event in 2010. In this sense, it is vital to improve the understanding, monitoring and predicting capability on monsoon onset and its seasonal march in the wider Southeast Asia region for societal and ecosystem benefits.

To this end, in view of the fact that the Asian Monsoon is evidently influenced by and coupled with the ocean, the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) initiated one pilot project entitled “Monsoon Onset Monitoring and its Social and Ecosystem Impact (MOMSEI)” in 2009 within its South East Asian Global Ocean Observing System (SEAGOOS) with objectives to improve the understanding, monitoring and forecasting of Asian monsoon and its multi-scale variability at regional level with a focus on air-sea interaction processes over the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, where Asian Summer Monsoon is firstly established, and multidisciplinary studies on the potential linkage of anomalous monsoon onset with its impact on marine ecosystem.

In light of the increasing demand of capacity building, five MOMSEI summer schools were organized, respectively in Qingdao, China on 26-30 July 2010, in Phuket, Thailand on 15-19 August 2011, in Qingdao, China on 6-10 August 2012, in Terengganu, Malaysia on 19-23 August 2013 and in Jakarta, Indonesia on 9-13 September 2014, to enhance the knowledge of young scientists from the region on monsoon science. In particular, besides the participants from MOMSEI participating
countries, the previous MOMSEI Summer Schools also received trainees from countries bordering the Bay of Bengal, such as India, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka, in close cooperation with the GEF/FAO Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project.

Building on the success of and strong interests received from the previous five summer schools, WESTPAC decided to organize its sixth MOMSEI Summer School in Phuket, Thailand, 26-30 October 2015, with the kind host of Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) and Thailand-China Joint Laboratory for Climate and Marine Ecosystem.

II. DATE AND VENUE

The Sixth Summer School will take place on 26-30 October 2015, Phuket Marine Biological Center with detailed address as below.

Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC)
51 Moo 8, Vichit, Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand

III. TRAINING CONTENTS

The MOMSEI Summer School-VI will mainly consist of four lecture sessions and a brainstorming session. In addition to lectures given by invited experts, each trainee is required to make a 10-15 minute presentation on their research and suggestions on future cooperation during the brainstorming session, with a view to providing feedbacks on future development of MOMSEI project and MOMSEI Summer School, and further exploring new ideas for collaborative activities among institutes and countries in the region.

Lectures were preliminarily arranged as below:

**Session 1: Asian Monsoon Climate**

Lecture-1: Basic aspects of climate: from paleo-, modern to future climate
-- Prof Richard Lindzen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

Lecture-2: How well models could simulate and predict Asian Monsoon?
-- Dr Laurent Zhaoxin Li, LMD, Univ. Paris 6, France

**Session 2: Regional Oceanography in the Indian Ocean**

Lecture-3: Key ocean and climate processes in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea
-- Dr Weidong Yu, First Institute of Oceanography, SOA, China

Lecture-4: Biological-physical interactions and modeling
-- Dr Rubao Ji, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, USA
Session 3: Biochemical, Biological Processes and Fishery Resources

Lecture-5: Biochemical process and its link with monsoon forcing
-- Dr Cabell Davis, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, USA

Lecture-6: Sampling methods in zooplankton ecology
-- Dr Cabell Davis, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, USA

Lecture 7: The Marine CO2 system and Ocean Acidification
-- Dr Zhaohui Aleck Wang, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, USA

Lecture 8: Coral reefs under climate change and ocean acidification
-- Dr Anne Cohen, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, USA

Session 4: Advance marine science development and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

Lecture-9: Efforts and perspectives of UNESCO/IOC and its WESTPAC
-- Mr Wenxi Zhu, Head of WESTPAC Office, Bangkok, Thailand

Lecture-10: Experience learnt from the development of South East Asian-GOOS (SEAGOOS)
-- Dr Somkiat Khokiatiwong, Chair of WESTPAC

The Summer School will be conducted in English. Detailed program will be sent to all selected participants in due course.

IV. TRAINEES

This Summer School is open to young scientists and management officials from WESTPAC member states with priority given to those having scientific background on oceanography, or climate, or marine biology and ecosystem. The applicants should have a good command of English.

V. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION

WESTPAC will provide limited financial support for trainees mainly from developing countries. A selection committee will be set-up to select the most qualified participants for financial assistance.

Applicants are required to send their CVs, the filled-in application forms (see appendix 1), no later than 12 September 2015, to Ms Nachapa Saransuth (n.saransuth@unesco.org) and Ms Kingkanjana Sangtunchai (kingkanjana.pouy@gmail.com), with a copy to Mr Wenxi Zhu (w.zhu@unesco.org), Head of UNESCO/IOC Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC Office), Bangkok, Thailand.

All applicants will be informed of the final selection result no later than 18 September 2015. A certain number of self-funded applicants will be also selected to take part in this summer school.
VI. VISA

Information on visa requirement and procedure can be found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand at http://www.mfa.go.th/main/en/services/123

Participants requiring an entry visa to Thailand are strongly advised to apply for it with the Thai Embassy or Consulates in your country as soon as possible in order to secure the required entry visa prior to your departure.

The Local Secretariat and the WESTPAC Office will be glad to provide you any assistance if needed.

VII. TRANSPORTATION

The Phuket International Airport is located 45.6 kilometers away from the hotel and the training venue. Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) will provide assistance on local transportation service between the Airport and the hotel, the hotel and the training venue.

All participants are required to send their itinerary and passport information to the Local Secretariat (kingkanjana.pouy@gmail.com) for the pick-up/drop-off service.
APPENDIX 1

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MOMSEI Summer School-VI, Phuket, Thailand, 26-30 October 2015

APPLICATION FORM

The .................................................... would nominate the following trainee to participate in the summer school.

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<th>First name</th>
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<td>Family name</td>
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<td>Education level</td>
<td>☐ Bachelor ☐ Master ☐ PhD</td>
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<td>Graduated from:</td>
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<td>Years of experience in current job</td>
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<td>Contact person, in case of emergency</td>
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<th>Dietary Restriction</th>
<th>☐ None ☐ No pork ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Other, please specify</th>
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<th>Major and/or Research Area</th>
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<th>Any Training Courses/Workshops attended before, related to MOMSEI</th>
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Self-descriptions on research activities and related publications (at least 400 words),

Please provide with name and E-mail address of two referees whom can be contacted to support your application

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<th>Referee #1</th>
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<td>Referee #2</td>
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Financial assistance
☐ Nominee could cover his/her own expense.
☐ Nominee would apply for the financial assistance.
  ☐ Fully (including round trip airfare, accommodation);
  ☐ On airfare only in the amount of US$_____;
  ☐ On accommodation only.

Date: ……………………………….   ……………………………………………………...
(Signature of Head/Director of the Institution)

Please return the completed form with his/her CV (with a 2-inch photo), by fax or e-mail to the following address before **12 September 2015**:

Ms Nachapa Saransuth
IOC Regional Office for WESTPAC
Fax: +66 2 143 9245; E-mail: n.saransuth@unesco.org

and

Ms Kingkanjana Sangtunchai
Phuket Marine Biological Center
Fax: +66 76 391 127, E-mail: kingkanjana.pouy@gmail.com

**With a copy to:**
Mr Wenxi Zhu, IOC Regional Office for WESTPAC
Fax: +66 2 143 9245; E-mail: w.zhu@unesco.org