



IOC/SC-WESTPAC-VI/3s

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

**Sixth Session of the IOC Regional Sub-Commission
for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)**

Nha Trang, Viet Nam, 23–27 May 2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 48.3, SC-WESTPAC as a primary body of IOC, is required to report to the Assembly on its sessions.

This executive summary is submitted to the IOC Assembly at its 23rd session in June 2005 for endorsement. The full summary Report of the session is published in English only as IOC/SC-WESTPAC-VI/3.

I. Summary

The Sixth Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-VI) was co-hosted by the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology, National Committee of IOC for Viet Nam, Institute of Oceanography, Marine Hydrometeorological Center, and Khan Viet Corporation.

The Sub-commission reviewed the actions completed during the intersessional period [this executive summary only mentions those for which the session made additional decisions] and adopted two resolutions that create two inter-sessional working groups on the reform of programme and project structure and on the establishment of an Ocean Data and Information Network (ODIN) for WESTPAC. **The Sub-commission re-elected** the three officers: Dr Hyung-tack Huh (Republic of Korea) as Chairperson of the Sub-Commission, Professor Dang Ngoc Thanh (Vietnam) as First Vice-Chairperson, and Dr. Li Haiqing (China) as Second Vice-Chairperson. An information session addressed the latest national and regional developments regarding disaster mitigation, prevention, preparedness, and management and the role IOC and WESTPAC could play in setting up and operationalizing the Tsunami Early Warning System for the Indian Ocean (IOTWS). As emphasized by China, the tsunami event of 26 December 2004 now poses both a challenge and an opportunity for IOC to solidify its role and promote operational oceanography in the region. In facing this challenge, it should support its regional secretariat and take advantage of its strategic presence as well of the cooperation of Member States.

II. Follow-up on the Recommendations of SC-WESTPAC-V

The Sub-commission endorsed:

- (1) the formal establishment of SEAGOOS, with its operational guidelines (the geographic coverage and membership parts may yet to be modified) and priority actions with Thailand, through its Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, as host;
- (2) progress in NEAR-GOOS, especially in its database system, the successful implementation of Training Courses on NEAR-GOOS Data Management, the new Terms of Reference of the programme, the strategic plan for its second phase (2004–2008), and the establishment of working groups to implement NEAR-GOOS projects;
- (3) the successful holding of the 6th WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium (Hang Zhou, China, 19–23 April 2004), co-sponsored by State Oceanic Administration (SOA), and organized by the Second Institute of Oceanography (SIO, SOA), with 186 participants from 13 countries and international organizations, laying more emphasis on issues on marine science and oceanography in the Western Pacific, and contributions on operational oceanography and transboundary issues; and
- (4) close adherence to and judicious use of the budget of the last biennium (2004–2005), reflected in the implementation of most of the planned activities and acquisition of extrabudgetary sources at least twice that of the budget from WESTPAC Regular Programme.

Reform of Programme and Project Structure for 2005–2008 *vis-à-vis* New Development

The Sub-Commission adopted Resolution SC-WESTPAC-VI.1, which called for the establishment of an Intersessional Working Group, guided by the ToR approved at WESTPAC-V, especially to evaluate progress on the four decisions reached in WESTPAC-V, e.g. the new

programme and project structure to offer valuable guidance on the establishment and evaluation of future programmes; upgrading and redefinition of some of the projects as programmes under WESTPAC; the need for the Sub-Commission to have a clear strategy on its relation to the global programme of the IOC, with the governing bodies of the IOC undertaking a critical appraisal of the long-term strategic role of the Sub-Commission, through the Sub-Commission; and to draw up a document that outlines the guiding principles and the Terms of Reference through the establishment of an Intersessional Working Group on Structure and Modus Operandi of the WESTPAC Programme.

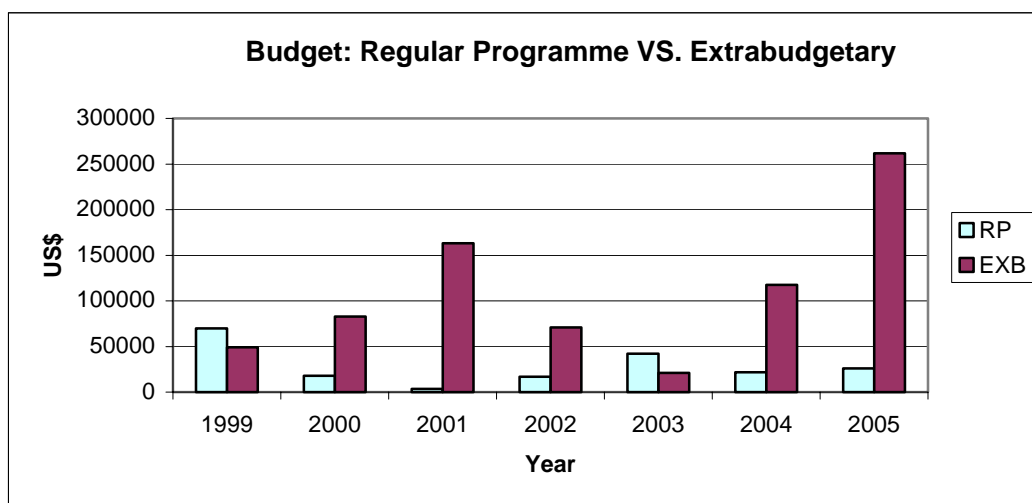
All recommendations from WESTPAC-V which were not accomplished substantially during the intersessional period will form a part of the ToR of the group, including making recommendations regarding the specific responsibilities of WESTPAC in the regional and global tsunami initiatives of IOC; and reaching a decision regarding the relationship —technical and administrative— between WESTPAC-HAB and IPHAB and this be written to guide future actions in such important programmes of IOC.

III. IOC/WESTPAC Regional Secretariat and Budget overview

Having in mind the ‘0-minimal growth’ budget in UNESCO, the Sub-commission encouraged the Office to rely more on contributions from Member States. China likewise encouraged Member States to support the WESTPAC Secretariat in Bangkok, both in scientific research and in office management. The Chinese delegation is currently exploring the possibility of strengthening its support to the office, even in non-financial terms.

The Sub-commission, expressed gratitude to the Government of Thailand for the transfer in a month or two of the IOC/WESTPAC Office from the National Research Council of Thailand, to a new annex of the Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Budget Overview, and over the last intersessional period, streamlining the decentralization of funds is now facilitated with the application of the planning tool called, SISTER, and the UNESCO-wide financial management system called FABS, which was initiated in 2002. From the figure (below), the proportional relationship between the annual Regular Programme Budget (RP) and the Extrabudgetary Funds (EB) for the years 1999–2005 can be seen:



With the exception of the years 1999 and 2003, reliance of the office on extrabudgetary sources for its programme and project operations from 1999 to 2005 increased significantly and indications are such that the trend will continue well beyond the next biennium.

It is worth noting that a total amount of US\$133,674.70 was obtained from the Japanese-Funds-In-Trust to finance WESTPAC activities for 2003–2004. Total budget of WESTPAC from the Regular Programme for the period was US\$65,195. The other extrabudgetary sources are: The Japanese-Funds-In-Trust (JFiT), Chinese Trust Fund, SIDA-SAREC, German Trust Fund, UNEP Trust Fund, UNEP/GEF, Man and Biosphere (UNESCO-MAB), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Australian Bureau of Meteorology (AUS BoM), Office of Naval Reserve (ONR), and the Sloan Foundation. The extrabudgetary allotment for 2005 is projected, to come from other sources, and to include the amount of US\$210,000 for the international post-tsunami workshop in February 2006. The Sub-Commission is grateful to WAPMERR for the US\$80,000 seed money it is providing the workshop.

IV. Review of Programmes and Projects 2003–2005

Eleven programmes and projects under the six major thrusts of WESTPAC were reviewed on the basis of their accomplishments:

- (i) Ocean Ecosystem and Biodiversity
- (ii) WESTPAC-HAB
- (iii) Atmospheric Inputs Study
- (iv) International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Pacific (IBCWP)

- (v) Global Oceanographic Data Archaeology and Rescue Project in the Western Pacific (GODAR-WESTPAC). **The Sub-commission proposed** to locate historical data sampled in WESTPAC waters by non-WESTPAC countries and invite these countries to make them available to WESTPAC and to actively promote the project at the level of individual scientists and institutions in the WESTPAC region. In order to ensure the long-term development of regional exchange and dissemination of oceanographic data in the WESTPAC region, the project considers the development of ODIN (Ocean Data and Information Network) for the WESTPAC region

- (vi) International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE). **The Sub-Commission expressed its strong interest** in developing an Ocean Data and Information Network (ODIN) for the WESTPAC region and **recommended** the establishment of an in-session working group to develop an ODIN-WESTPAC. **It adopted Resolution SC-WESTPAC-VI.2**. **The Sub-Commission further recommended**, although acknowledging the decision of the IODE Programme to abolish the RNODC and IODE Coordinators systems, maintaining the RNODC-WESTPAC as an interim measure, at least until the establishment of an ODIN-WESTPAC.

- (vii) NEAR-GOOS [see section II]

- (viii) SEAGOOS

- (ix) Pacific Islands-GOOS

- (x) Gulf of Thailand Co-operative Study (GoT). Subject to availability of funds **the Sub-commission endorsed** the following: GoT be integrated with SEAGOOS; the MoC between SEA START RC and WESTPAC Secretariat be extended according to Article VI of the MoC;

IOC to support editorial and review of the “Oceanographic Processes in Southeast Asian Waters” text book by Matthias Tomczak and allocate budget to publish the hardcopies (2,000 soft cover copies for \$10,000, source to be identified); develop an online teaching module based on regional material (\$5,000); and SEA START RC to continue support the SEA regional oceanography activities of WESTPAC especially through the GEF funded IW:LEARN SEA Regional Learning Center.

(xi) Ocean Remote Sensing Programme (ORSP). Two projects have been carried out in the intersessional period: the New Generation Sea Surface Temperature (NGSST) Project and the Red-Tide Monitoring Project. It proposed a new project, tentatively named "Ocean Colour Project", as the third ORSP project, with no cost to the Regular Programme budget. The Red-tide Monitoring Project will be terminated and its activity will be taken over by this new project.

Four NGSST meetings and one NGSST working group meeting were held in 2003–2005 to discuss the user requirements of the high-resolution regional SST product, and identify its potential users and applications, to establish a regional SST data server for methodology development and new SST product generation, to discuss the implementation plan of NGSST development/generation and related researches in the southern WESTPAC, to undertake research and development of NGSST coastal version, and to promote the HRPT data exchange with the policy of “free use of the exchanged data”.

The Sub-Commission endorsed the report and the **proposed** new project of the Ocean Remote Sensing Programme.

V. IOC/WESTPAC Strategy and Implementation Plan for Capacity-building

The Sub-Commission endorsed the “Draft IOC/WESTPAC Strategy and Implementation Plan for Capacity-building”. **It noted** that the plan is a strategy and a platform, essential in guiding the region where it wants to go and to identify the most effective tools that link CB programmes of the region with those of the IOC. It is also a very strategic effort due largely to the limited resources available. Most important is the cooperation and support expressed by countries and organizations in favour of its implementation. A set of performance indicators has been developed to evaluate and monitor progress of each activity in the plan.

VI. Cooperation

There have been no confirmations of attendance from invited representatives of **organizations and programmes of the UN System**. However, the WESTPAC Secretariat pursue the cooperation with UNEP/GEF, UNESCO-MAB, UNESCO-CSI, UNESCAP.

With the progress made by WESTPAC on collaborative efforts with regional organizations/programmes, partnerships with PICES, PEMSEA, SOPAC, SEA START RC) exist and new and potential partnership is being pursued with others e.g. Census of Marine Life, CoML; Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, ADPC; World Agency for Monitoring Earthquake and Risk Reduction, WAPMERR; The Nature Conservancy Indonesia, TNC.

In addition the IOC Executive Secretary emphasized that a partnership with IOC/WESTPAC in UNDP/GEF Project (2005–2009): Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) may be in place because of the close similarities in activities.

VII. Programme and Budget for 2006–2007 WESTPAC Action Plan

The Sub-Commission recommended a prioritization of the programmes and projects. This prioritization will be based on performance and delivery of ‘products’, i.e., meeting the objectives, with the greatest positive impact on the thrust and policy of IOC. Thence, WESTPAC programmes and projects will be rated ‘high’, ‘medium’, and ‘low’. As a result, highest priority will be given to activities within the mandate of the two Intersessional Working Groups e.g. reform of the programme and project structure, and ODIN-WESTPAC. Lowest priority will be given to those without significant results or information for the session.

The Sub-Commission endorsed the actions and likewise emphasized the need to develop some formal ‘principles’ to guide the prioritization process.

Resolution SC-WESTPAC-VI.1

REFORM OF PROGRAMME AND PROJECT STRUCTURE

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific,

Recalling:

- (i) Recommendation SC-WESTPAC-V.1 concerning the Programme and Reform of Programme and Project Structure,
- (ii) The Decision of the 5th Session of WESTPAC to draw up a document that outlines the guiding principles and Terms of Reference for an Intersessional Working Group on Structure and Modus Operandi of the WESTPAC Programme,
- (iii) IOC Resolution XXII-1 from the 22nd Assembly on the Guidelines for the Establishment of Decentralised Offices, including regional project and Programme Offices,
- (iv) The introduction at the 37th Session of the IOC Executive Council of the Concept Paper on the Modalities of Implementation of IOC Programmes in Regions,

Noting the need for programme structures that ensure efficient and effect implementation and execution of WESTPAC projects, consistent with the Programme objectives of both WESTPAC and IOC,

Acknowledging the need for WESTPAC to be responsible for the governance and rules of procedures of its programmes, including requirements for establishment and implementation of projects, and for monitoring and evaluating projects,

Decides to establish an inter-sessional working group with the terms of reference as given in Annex V of IOC/SC-WESTPAC-V, and again annexed in the Summary Report of the session;

Decides that the Working Group will be composed of Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, South Pacific Member States (to be represented by SOPAC), Thailand, USA, Vietnam and Chaired by the WESTPAC Chairman, with the Head of the Secretariat as Technical Secretary;

Instructs the Technical Secretary of the Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific to give this action high priority and to ensure that the Working Group has available all relevant documentation and Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions of the Sub-Commission need to perform its tasks, and provide all the necessary support to ensure the Working Group is able to discharge its responsibilities;

Requests the Working Group to provide a Report to the Chair of WESTPAC by end of 2005.

Resolution SC-WESTPAC-VI.2

**ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OCEAN DATA AND INFORMATION NETWORK (ODIN)
FOR WESTPAC**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific,

Noting that data and information management capacity is not available in all WESTPAC member countries,

Acknowledging the need for ocean data and information management capacity at the national and regional levels to support relevant national, regional and international scientific and operational marine programmes,

Considering that the IODE Committee, during its 18th Session decided to abolish the system of IODE Responsible National Oceanographic Data Centres and the system of IODE Regional Coordinators,

Noting with appreciation the active and long-time support of JODC (Japan) to the region through its hosting of the RNODC-WESTPAC, its role as IODE Regional Coordinator for the WESTPAC region, its active support of GODAR-WESTPAC and its contribution to capacity building through organization of data management training courses within the framework of NEAR-GOOS,

Noting that other ODIN networks have been established and have contributed substantially to increasing national data and information management capacity as well as to promoting regional cooperation and development of regional data and information products and services,

Decides to establish an open-ended inter-sessional working group that will:

- (i) Elaborate the requirements for an enhanced data and information capability for the WESTPAC region, including:
 - a. Development of National Oceanographic Data (and Information) Centres and establishment of related networks;
 - b. Training in applying standard formats and methodologies for marine data and information management;
 - c. Development and maintenance of national, and regional metadata, information and databases; and
 - d. Development and dissemination of marine data and information products and services, within a multi-use/multi-purpose framework, as appropriate.
- (ii) Provide options for the establishment of an ODIN project in the region, including the overall rationale, the modalities for cooperation, the specific objectives, and possible partners;
- (iii) Provide, as appropriate, a project proposal for an Ocean Data and Information Network for the region including a possible work plan, deliverables, timelines and required resources.

Decides that the Group will be composed of representatives from Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Viet Nam, the IODE Chair and Secretariat, and SEAGOOS and NEAR-GOOS representatives. The group shall be chaired by Japan.

Instructs the WESTPAC Technical Secretary to provide the necessary support to the Group as a matter of high priority; the Group will work by email;

Invites other Groups and Projects of WESTPAC and other relevant organizations to nominate contact points for discussion/liaison;

Instructs the Group to submit its report to the Chair of WESTPAC by the end of 2005.

Appendix 1:

AGENDA

- 1. OPENING**
- 2. ADMINISTRATION**
 - 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
 - 2.2 DESIGNATION OF RAPPORTEUR FOR THE SESSION
 - 2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION
- 3. REPORT ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMME EVALUATION**
 - 3.1 REPORT ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES
 - 3.1.1 **Follow-up on Recommendations of SC-WESTPAC-V**
 - 3.1.2 **Sixth IOC/WESTPAC Scientific Symposium**
 - 3.1.3 **WESTPAC in IOC Global Programme Activities**
 - 3.1.4 **Operation of IOC Regional Secretariat for WESTPAC**
 - 3.1.5 **Budget Overview**
 - 3.2 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN IOC, UNESCO RELEVANT TO WESTPAC
 - 3.2.1 **Cross-cutting Projects**
 - 3.2.2 **General Policy Considerations**
- 4. REVIEW OF PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS FOR 2003-2005**
 - 4.1 SCIENCE FOR OCEAN ECOSYSTEM
 - 4.1.1 **Ocean Ecosystem and Biodiversity**
 - 4.2 MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
 - 4.2.1 **WESTPAC-HAB**
 - 4.2.2 **Atmospheric Inputs Study**
 - 4.2.3 **Biological Effects Monitoring Studies of Marine Pollution**
 - 4.3 OCEAN AND CLIMATE
 - 4.3.1 **Paleo-currents**
 - 4.3.2 **Ocean Dynamics and Climate**
 - 4.4 OCEAN SERVICES
 - 4.4.1 **International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Pacific (IBCWP)**
 - 4.4.2 **Global Oceanographic Data Archaeology and Rescue Project in the Western Pacific (GODAR-WESTPAC)**
 - 4.4.3 **International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE)**
 - 4.5 OPERATIONAL OBSERVING SYSTEMS
 - 4.5.1 **NEAR-GOOS**
 - 4.5.2 **SEAGOOS**
 - 4.5.3 **PI-GOOS**
 - 4.6 INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMMES
 - 4.6.1 **Gulf of Thailand Co-operative Study**
 - 4.6.2 **Ocean Remote Sensing Programme**
- 5. CAPACITY BUILDING, TEMA, AND PUBLIC AWARENESS**
 - 5.1 Draft IOC/WESTPAC Strategy and Implementation Plan for Capacity-Building
 - 5.2 Update on the development of the Regional Graduate School of Oceanography for SE Asia
- 6. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**
 - 6.1 ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES OF THE UN SYSTEM
 - 6.2 REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS / PROGRAMMES, OTHERS
- 7. REFORM OF PROGRAMME AND PROJECT STRUCTURE FOR 2005-2008 VIS-À-VIS NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

- 7.1 IMPLICATIONS OF A REVISED PROGRAMME STRUCTURE
- 7.2 PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2005-2008 WESTPAC ACTION PLAN

- 8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- 9. INPUTS OF WESTPAC TO THE 23RD SESSION OF THE IOC GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- 10. OTHER MATTERS**

- 11. ELECTIONS**

- 12. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**

- 13. ADOPTION OF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14. CLOSURE**

**Appendix 2: PRIORITIZED Programmes, Projects and Budget
(in USD) for IOC/WESTPAC: 2006–2007**

(The activities of the two Inter-sessional Working Groups (Programme and Project Structure; ODIN-WESTPAC) are given the highest priority, to be accomplished end of 2005. Their conduct of business is through emails)

	Implementation Year	
	2006	2007
1. WESTPAC/HAB <i>PC: Yasuwo Fukuyo</i>		
Strategic Planning Workshops <i>PL: Fukuyo</i>	No budget required	
Training Through Research (TTR) Project <i>PL: Azanza</i>	17,000 JFiT	17,000 JFiT
Three Research Group Activities of TTR <i>PL: Azanza</i>		
Establishment of Portal Sites of WESTPAC-HAB <i>PL: Azanza</i>	Funding source: IOC Paris	
Red Tide Monitoring using Satellite Image <i>PL: Furuya</i>	Outside funding available	
Dissemination of CDs and Publications	Outside funding available	
Establishment of a network of national focal points <i>PL: Fukuyo</i>	Outside funding available	
GEOHAB Information <i>PL: Furuya</i>	Funding source to be identified	
Interaction with other projects on HAB <i>PL: Fukuyo</i>	Funding source to be identified	
Development of HAB Monitoring in Tsunami Affected Area <i>PL: Fukuyo</i>	Funding source to be identified	
2. Ocean Remote Sensing Programme <i>PC: H. Kawamura</i>		
NEAR-GOOS Working Group on New Generation Sea Surface Temperature	5,000 JFiT	
Coordination of “New Generation Sea Surface Temperature Project” and its further development for the Seas of Southeast Asia concerning regional capacity building	8,000 JFiT	
Ocean Colour Project	4,000 RP	4,000 RP

	Implementation Year	
	2006	2007
3. NEAR-GOOS <i>PC: Takashi Yoshida</i>		
NEAR-GOOS Working Group on Data Management	10,000 JFiT	
NEAR-GOOS Coordinating Committee	5,000 RP	5,000 RP
SEAGOOS Coordinating Committee	5,000 RP	5,000 RP
4. NEAR-GOOS Data Management Training Course <i>PC: Teruo Kanazawa</i>		25,000 JFiT
5. SEAGOOS <i>PC: Somkiat Khokiattiwong</i>		
Real-Time Sea Level Observing System for SEAGOOS Region <i>PL: Anond Snidvongs</i>	5,000 RP	
New Generation Sea Surface Temperature for the Seas of Southeast Asia <i>PL: H. Kawamura</i>	5,000 RP 5,000 JFiT	
Expert System for Disaster Risk Management <i>PL: K. Edilashvili</i>	WAPMERR	
Editorial and Publication of Hard Copies of "Oceanographic Processes in Southeast Asian Waters" <i>PL: Anond Snidvongs</i>	Funding source to be identified	
Development of an interactive teaching module on regional oceanography of Southeast Asia <i>PL: M. Tomczak</i>		2,000 RP
6. Gulf of Thailand Co-operative Study <i>PC: Anond Snidvongs</i>	No budget required	
7. GODAR-WESTPAC <i>PC: Teruo Kanazawa</i>	25,000 JFiT	
8. IODE/ODIN-WESTPAC <i>PC: Peter Pissierssens</i>	Funding source to be identified	
9. Ocean Ecosystem and Biodiversity <i>PC: Miguel D. Fortes</i>		
WESTPAC Biodiversity Forum/Programme Committee Planning Meeting follow-up (Feb. 2006)	No funding required	2,000 RP
International Workshop on Post-Tsunami Assessment of Ecosystem and Biodiversity (Feb. 06)	2,000 RP 80,000 WAPMERR Other funding sources to be identified*	

	Implementation Year	
	2006	2007
Joint Regional Training Courses/Workshops on WESTPAC Biodiversity: one on Assessment (2006), another on Management (2007)	5,000 JFiT Other funding sources to be identified	5,000 JFiT Other funding sources to be identified
10. Atmospheric Inputs Study <i>PC: Jing Zhang</i>	2,000 RP	2,000 RP
11. Paleo Currents <i>PC: Wang Pinxian</i>	2,000 RP	2,000 RP
12. IBCWP <i>PC: Hou Wenfeng</i>	2,000 RP	2,000 RP
13. Biological Effects Monitoring Studies of Marine Pollution <i>PC: Jae Ryoung Oh</i>	2,000 RP	2,000 RP
14. Ocean Dynamics and Climate <i>PC: Bo Qiu</i>	2,000 RP	2,000 RP
15. Public Awareness and Information	1,500 RP	1,500 RP
16. 7th Scientific Symposium		5,000 RP 10,000 JFiT
17. WESTPAC-VII		10,000 RP
18. Running Cost of WESTPAC	3,000 RP	3,000 RP
Total RP	40,500	47,500
Total JFiT	75,000	57,000

*7,000 additional funding from JFiT Japanese Fiscal Year 2004.