IOC Circular letter No.2556
(Available in English only)

IOC/WWW/WESTPAC/WZ
22 December 2014

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 of 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: Tenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-X), Phuket, Thailand, 12–15 May 2015

Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure of inviting you to participate in the Tenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-X), which will be generously hosted by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; and the Thai National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Education, Thailand from 12 to 15 May 2015 in Phuket, Thailand.

The session 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 improve 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 including, inter alia, the development of a regional program on the research and monitoring of ecological impacts of ocean acidification, the development of the Indo-Pacific Ocean Observations and Services Network (IPON), and the development of IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers, etc.

…/…
A copy of the Provisional Agenda is attached for your information as Annex I. As this Intergovernmental Session covers four 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.

I would like to inform you that the Tenth Intergovernmental Session will elect the Officers of the WESTPAC, 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 proceedings at the WESTPAC-X. They can also be addressed in advance to the Executive Secretary, IOC. You may wish to take this into consideration in the selection of your delegation.

Following past practice, all working and information documents of the Session as well as the details of the venue will be forwarded to you via electronic means and posted at the WESTPAC website (http://iocwestpac.org) in due course. Kindly be reminded that participation in the Intergovernmental Session is part of national contribution to the WESTPAC and IOC will be, regrettably, unable to provide financial assistance for the participation of your delegations in the Intergovernmental Sessions.

In order to enable us to make all necessary practical arrangements with the host government, it would be very much appreciated if you could communicate in writing the names, positions and contact addresses of your representatives to Mr Wenxi Zhu, Head of IOC Regional Office for WESTPAC (w.zhu@unesco.org, or fax:+66 2 143 9245), no later than 12 March 2015, with a copy to Ms Saransuth Nachapa (saransuth@unesco.org), and Ms Thapupsorn Hnoonim (thnoonim@unesco.org).

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC

Attachments: Annex 1: Provisional Agenda for WESTPAC-X
Annex 2: Election Procedures and Forms
ANNEX I

Tenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-X)
Phuket, Thailand, 12-15 May 2015

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 IOC/UNESCO, AND ITS RELEVANCE TO WESTPAC

4. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT
   4.1 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE NINTH WESTPAC INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM IN 2014, NHA TRANG, VIETNAM
   4.2 WESTPAC APPROACH TO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
   4.3 TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUB-COMMISSION
   4.4 PREPARATIONS FOR THE TENTH WESTPAC INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM 2017, QINGDAO, CHINA

5. REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND WORKING GROUPS FOR MAY 2012 - MAY 2015
   5.1 OCEAN PROCESSES AND CLIMATE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC
      o North East Asian Regional-GOOS
      o South East Asian Regional- GOOS, Including Ocean Forecasting Demonstration (OFD), and Monsoon Onset Monitoring and its Social and Ecosystem Impacts (MOMSEI)
      o Response of Marine Hazards to Climate Change
      o Air-Sea Interaction in the Kuroshio Extension and its Climate Impact
      o South China Sea Fluvial Sediments and Environmental Changes
   5.2 MARINE BIODIVERSITY, HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS, SEAFOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY
      o Marine & Coastal Biodiversity and Conservation
      o Coral Reef under Climate and Anthropogenic Perturbations
2

- 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

5.3 ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE OF EMERGING OCEAN SCIENCE ISSUES

- WG 001: Asian Dust and its Impact on Ocean Ecosystems
- WG 002: World Ocean Assessment
- 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 Centers, related to the draft IOC Capacity Building Strategy
- IOC Regional Training and Research Centre on Ocean Dynamics and Climate

5.5 RECOMMENDATION OF WESTPAC ADVISORY GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND WORKING GROUPS FOR MAY 2012 - MAY 2015

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

- DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL PROGRAM TO MONITOR THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ON CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS
- UPWELLING STUDIES THROUGH OCEAN DATA INTEGRATION TOWARDS SUSTAINING OCEAN HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY
- INDO-PACIFIC OCEAN ENVIRONMENTAL VARIATIONS AND AIR-SEA INTERACTIONS
- DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDO-PACIFIC OCEAN OBSERVATIONS AND SERVICES NETWORK (IPON)

7. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES

8. WESTPAC WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR MAY 2015 - MAY 2017

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, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUMMARY REPORT

12. CLOSURE
ANNEX 2

Elections of the Officers of the WESTPAC

The Tenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-X), Phuket, Thailand, 12-15 May 2015, shall elect the Officers of the WESTPAC, namely, one Chairperson and two Vice-chairpersons, for the term May 2015 – May 2017.

The Chairperson shall declare the opening and closing of each session, direct the discussions and ensure observance of the Rules of Procedure, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The Chairperson shall rule on points of order and, subject to these Rules, shall control the proceedings and maintain order and shall strive to work by consensus (Rule 38).

The Vice-chairpersons assist the Chairperson in his/her functions and substitute him/her where necessary.

The Chairperson and the Vice-chairpersons of an IOC Subsidiary Body shall not remain in his/her mandate more than two successive terms (as 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 last WESTPAC Session (WESTPAC-IX, 9-12 May 2012, Busan, Republic of Korea).

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-X, 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/her 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

Member State of the WESTPAC ………………………………………………………………………

Name in capitals ………………………………………………………………………

Position ………………………………………………………………………

Signature ………………………………………………………………………

Seconder 2

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: ………………………………………………………………………………………

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<th>Seconder 1</th>
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Date sent to the IOC Secretariat

Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat

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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]