Progress report of WESTPAC Working Group for Regular Process

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Rationale and Objective

The WESTPAC Working Group “Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment” was established in 2010 on the Eighth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific.

(WG-Regular Process)
Rationale and Objective

Objective

- Facilitate the operation of Regular Process in WESTPAC region,
- Improve the communication of member states,
- Find and deliver regional requirements in regular process.

Chairpersons

Dr Juying Wang (China)
Dr Chul Park (Korea)

Members of Group of Experts for the Regular Process
Rationale and Objective

Terms of Reference:

- **Identify opportunities for promoting and linking the regional RP with other efforts**, and initiatives under the framework of WESTPAC sub-commission, and encourage existing mechanisms and resources to involve in RP project at both global and regional level.

- Follow-up with the developments of the Regular Process on global level, and deliver related information to member state;

- Provide WESPTAC member states with **technical support in marine environmental assessment**, including methodology and progress of the Regular Process, so that promote capacity building of WESPTAC region;

- **Promote the cooperation** of member states, especially in the area of data and information sharing.
Introduction of Regular Process

Progress of WG-Regular Process

Problems and commendations
Introduction of Regular Process

First 5-year cycle (2010-2014)

Preparatory phase
- Proposals for modalities

Start-up phase
- "Assessment of Assessments" (A/64/88)

Outline of the WOAi
- Operationalization: Framework, First cycle (2010-2014), Modalities

1st phase of 1st cycle
- A set of options for the WOA I

2nd phase of 1st cycle
- Assessment report of the WOA I

Finishing report
- Behind schedule
Management mechanisms

General Assembly

Secretariat

Ad Hoc Working Group of the whole

Group of Experts

Pool of Experts

DOALOS

Bureau

3 Member States per Regional Group Co-Chair

609 experts Criteria (A/66/189)

Website – www.worldoceanassessment.org
Assessment report of WOA I

Totally seven parts and 57 chapters (finished draft)

I. Summary for decision-makers
II. The Context of the Assessment
III. Ecosystem Services
IV. Cross-cutting issue – food security
V. Other human activities
VI. Biodiversity and habitats
VII. Overall evaluations

Two cycles reviewing (from member states) and over 4800 comments

According to the meeting of the Group of Experts convened in April 26, the comments were considered in the meeting and the revised assessment report is proposed to be submitted to the DOALOS by the end of May.
Progress of WG-RP since 2010

(1) reviewed and evaluated the existing assessments and built existing assessments inventory in the WESTAPC region.

Total: 127 Assessments:
- International organization/projects: 99
- National: 22
- Database: 6

These fruits were posted on the DOLOAS website
Progress of WG-RP since 2010

(2) helped to build a website to disseminate products and promote communication.

It served as communicating platform for the Member States, the Group of Experts and the secretariat of the regular process.

exhibit relevant progress and achievement of the regular process and better push forward development and implementation of the regular process
Progress of WG-RP since 2010

(3) Provided substantial technical support to the 2nd workshop in Eastern and South-eastern Asian Seas in support of the Regular Process (Sanya workshop, 2012)

- Identified short term and long term regional capacity building needs,
- Made valuable suggestions to outline of the first integrated assessment report and other important technical files,
Progress of WG-RP since 2010

designed and printed brochure about Sanya workshop.

Then the brochure was disseminated in Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole and met with wide approval and admiration.
Progress of WG-RP since 2010

(4) made contribution to the regional scientific and technical capacity building workshop convened in Bangkok, Thailand in 2012.

- Introduced conditions of the existing regional assessments and information gap in the South China Sea to the workshop.

- Provided comments and recommendations on assessment methodology, the indicators and grade division of condition and trends in biodiversity and ecosystem health.
Problems Encountered

Regular Process differed from AoA (preliminary project of RP) *in working mechanism*. The activity plan of WG-RP was made based on AoA mechanism in 2010.

For example, the way to organize assessment are very different.

Based *on area* or based *on issue*?
AoA report was organized in regions and East Asian seas is one of 21 regions.
Problems Encountered

The RP assessment was organized in chapter and every chapter is about different issue.

there is corresponding writing team for each chapter.

Lead member  (group of experts)
Convenor      (pool of experts)
Author        （drafting）

commentator  （internal reviewing）
*other members from pool of experts take the task as peer reviewer
Problems Encountered

WOA I is behind schedule, which disturb the implementation of WG in certain degree.

At the first stage, WOA I focused on building a set of option for finishing the first integrated assessment report. The assessment was started only from 2013.

Further, drafting of WOA I assessment report is behind schedule.
Problems Encountered

The financial support for the WG-regular process was limited.

working methods of WG: to convene the regional technical workshop and conduct training courses.

Financial support is VERY limited.
Recommendations to next step

The first cycle of world ocean assessment (WOA I) has reached the final stage. The full text of assessment report is expected to be finished.

Recommendations 1

The East Asian Seas are rich in natural resources. They sustain 30 percent of the world’s coral reef and mangroves and represent one of the world’s centers for tropical marine biodiversity. But there still exist data and information gaps in this region (some data gaps has been identified in the Sanya workshop and been incorporated in the first integrated assessment report of RP) It is recommended that member states should do efforts to fill these gaps and make preparation for the next cycle assessment of RP under the organization and coordination of WESTPAC Commission.
Recommendations to next step

Recommendations 2

The workshop held in Thailand gained a great success, which produced useful fruits for the RP. It is recommended that more workshops or training courses like that should be convened to solve the capacity building problems identified in the Sanya workshop as conduct of marine habitat mapping to inform management of ecosystems, ecosystem-based fisheries assessment and Long-term and well-planned biodiversity assessments, etc. The objective is providing valuable data and methods to RP.
Recommendations to next step

Recommendations 3

Prompting participation of member states to the RP substantially. During the implementation of the WOA I, we found that the participation of member states to the regular process is obviously not enough especially for the developing country in the WESTPAC region. So, in the next cycle, IOC Sub-commission for the Western Pacific should aim at improving participation substantially of member states and promote the capacity building in essence.
Many Thanks

Steve Curtis

Alexander Vershinin