



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



The UN Ocean Decade Kickoff Conference for the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas

25-26 November 2021, Online

Join the collective global movement, engage with various ocean stakeholders in the region, and develop ocean science solutions for the ocean we want!

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) (hereinafter referred to as the UN Ocean Decade) is upon us. We cordially invite you to join the UN Ocean Decade Kickoff Conference for the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas, which will take place online during 25-26 November 2021.

The ocean covers over 70% of the planet, providing enormous benefits to sustain humanity and the planet Earth. To protect and preserve the ocean and all it sustains, the UN Ocean Decade provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to strengthen international cooperation needed to develop scientific research and innovative technologies that can connect ocean science with the needs of society.

The Regional Kickoff Conference will mark the launch of the UN Ocean Decade in the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas, and represent the beginning of the region-wide efforts in a substantive development and implementation of Decade Actions. It aims to catalyze partnerships among various ocean stakeholder communities¹ in the region,

and initiate co-design of transformative ocean science solutions to the Ocean Decade Challenges in order to achieve the Ocean Decade Outcomes.

The two-day conference will be composed of:

- a. a high-level segment featuring high level commitments from UN agencies, governments, business and private sectors, and other stakeholder groups; and
- b. a series of interactive side events entitled “Decade Action Incubators” aiming to facilitate the development of potential Decade Actions such as Decade Programmes and Projects, and key cross-cutting issues including capacity development and Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs).

The Conference is organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO through its Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC), and hosted by the Government of Thailand through its Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, in partnership with a wide range of partners in the region.

Would you like to participate?

Please register [here](#) to receive further information.

Would you like to organize a side event for Decade Action Incubator?

Please submit your proposal [here](#).

Contact us:
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<https://ioc-westpac.org>

¹ including academia and research (natural and social science), UN bodies and international organizations, governments, industry and business sectors, NGOs and civil society, the media, philanthropic and corporate foundations, local communities, and early career ocean professionals (ECOPs)



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Call for proposals for Decade Action Incubator

The UN Ocean Decade Kickoff Conference for the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas presents a unique opportunity for various ocean stakeholders in the region, to organize side events aiming to catalyze partnerships, and initiate co-design of transformative ocean science solutions to the Ocean Decade Challenges in order to achieve the Ocean Decade Outcomes.

The side event entitled “Decade Action Incubator” will serve as an interactive forum to catalyze partnerships, strengthen dialogue from ocean knowledge generator to knowledge user, initiate co-designing processes, and facilitate the development of potential Decade Actions such as Decade programmes¹, Decade projects², and key cross-cutting topics including capacity development and Early Career Ocean Professionals.

Ocean stakeholders, including scientists, policymakers, philanthropic foundations, UN agencies, governments, NGOs and civil society, and private and business sectors, are invited to submit their proposals by 8 October 2021

Each side event will run for a period of two hours.

Decade Action Incubators, as an integral part of the Decade Regional Kickoff Conference, will be organized virtually on 25-26 November 2021, except 1300-1500 pm, 25 November 2021.

The submission shall be made by filling out the event [application form](#), providing a detailed description of the event, and how the event would contribute to one or more of the societal outcomes and challenges of the Decade.

Selection criteria for Decade Action Incubator

The basic criteria for selection include the following:

- Alignment with the vision and mission of the Ocean Decade, and contribution to the societal outcomes and challenges of the Ocean Decade;
- Generation of transformative ocean science³ in comparison to what has been done before;
- Promotion of multidisciplinary, solution-oriented approach;
- Engagement of broad stakeholders, including private sector and major groups, and promotion of their interactions and actions;
- Consideration given to gender balance and geographic representation in the choice of speakers and panelists

The proposed Decade Action Incubator shall address one or more of the ten Ocean Decade Challenges as follows:

- Understand and beat marine pollution
- Protect and restore ocean ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainably feed the population
- Develop a sustainable and equitable ocean economy
- Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change
- Increase community resilience to ocean hazards
- Expand the Global Ocean Observing System
- Create a digital representation of the Ocean
- Capacity development, Knowledge and Technology for All
- Change Humanity’s Relationship with the Ocean

³ The notion of transformation is central to the Decade. The Decade, both in terms of action and outcomes, needs to move beyond business as usual to a true revolution in ocean science. The different ways in which the transformative nature of the Decade will manifest include the promotion and facilitation of ocean science that:

- uses the 2030 Agenda as a central framework to identify and address the most pressing societal questions related to SDG14 and related SDGs;
- is co-designed and co-delivered in a multi-stakeholder environment to be relevant and responsive across the entire value-chain from knowledge generation, to applications and services to use of science for solutions;
- is solutions-focused and contributes to a wide variety of potential solutions including policy, decision-making, management or governance frameworks, or technology development and innovation;
- where needed, is big, audacious, forward-looking, and spans geographies;
- reaches across disciplines and actively integrates natural and social science disciplines;
- embraces local and indigenous knowledge as a key knowledge source;
- is transformative because of who is doing it or where it is being done- including in both less developed and developed countries;
- strives for generational, gender and geographic diversity in all its manifestations;
- is communicated in forms that are widely understood across society and that trigger excitement about the ocean and behavior change; and
- is shared openly and available for re-use.

¹ A Decade programme is typically global or regional in scale and will contribute to the achievement of one or more of the Ocean Decade Challenges. It is long-term (multi-year), interdisciplinary and will consist of component projects and potentially enabling activities

² A Decade project is a discrete and focused undertaking. It may be regional, national or sub-national and it will typically contribute to an identified Decade programmed