

The first workshop of WESTPAC WG006 was held.

Sixteen experts from eight countries in the East and Southeast Asia gathered in Fukuoka, Japan, on 26 October 2017, for the first workshop of WESTPAC WG006 “A framework for cooperative studies in the Western Pacific Marginal Seas: Energy and materials exchange between land and open ocean”.

The objectives of this workshop are mainly to exchange information and to discuss future cooperative studies. In particular, we tried to:

- 1) share current information of national scientific activities, including current and potential international cooperative research programs around the marginal seas in East and Southeast Asia,
- 2) exchange information of research cruises in the marginal seas and berths available for cooperative researches,
- 3) identify potential common interests and develop international cooperative research programs, and
- 4) exchange information of scientific activities of young-generation scientists in each country, particularly for field studies.

After introduction of activities and future plans on international cooperative studies in each country, research activities were categorized into 5 groups, considering location of marginal seas, that is,

- 1) Okhotsk Sea (OS),
- 2) Marginal Sea surrounded by Japan, Korea and Russia (MSJKR),
- 3) East China Sea (ECS),
- 4) South China Sea (SCS) and
- 5) material exchange and transport with the Kuroshio, eddies and mixing (ETK).

In each group, common research interests and possible participants to make cooperative research groups were listed and a leader was nominated. Through the collection of the common research interests in each group, it was suggested that detailed discussion would be necessary in individual areas and two sub-sessions, the northern and southern parts of northwestern Pacific region, was separately held.

The discussion in the northern part sub-session was led by Jae Hak Lee and summarized by Guebuem Kim. In the sub-session, a long-term monitoring was proposed as a cooperative study in the central and outer shelf regions of the ECS, named PEACE I and II areas, respectively. Objectives of the monitoring are to understand long-term changes in physical conditions and water quality influenced by Changjiang river-water and Yellow Sea deep water in the ECS. Scientists from Korea, Japan and China could take part in the monitoring every year. Cooperative studies for long-term changes in physical and biogeochemical conditions in association with climate change and human forcing are also expected in the MSJKR, for which scientists from Russia, Korea and Japan would be involved.

Discussion in the southern part sub-session was led and summarized by Noor Azhar Mohamed Shazili. The theme common to Southeast Asia countries is “Material Mixing from Land to Marginal Sea to Open Ocean, including Hypoxia and Eutrophication”. In this sub-session, possibilities of funding for cooperative research

cruises and other activities were discussed. Various information to seek funding were exchanged.

Venue and hosts of the next workshop were discussed at the end of the workshop. Max Zhao from Ocean University of China agreed to host the meeting in Qingdao, China in 2018. Participants were requested to recommend and nominate at least one young scientist to participate in the next workshop.

