

Recommendation SC-WESTPAC-VII.1

WESTPAC ADVISORY GROUP

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific,

Recognizing that:

- (i) the Sub-Commission has been instrumental in promoting advancements in marine scientific research, raising awareness of marine issues, developing national capacities for marine science and ocean services, and fostering regional cooperation in the Western Pacific region,
- (ii) the visibility of WESTPAC, however, has been negatively impacted by the mismatch between the Sub-Commission's agreed programmes and the resources available, as well as the declining capacity of IOC to support its regional activities through its Regular Budget,

Recalling:

- (i) IOC Resolution XXIV-11 on Enhancing the role of the Commission at the Regional Level,
- (ii) the appeal to Member States to strengthen the regional role of the Commission made by IOC Resolution XXIII-6 (Regional Cooperation in Marine Science and Technology and the Role of Regional Subsidiary Bodies),
- (iii) the conclusions of documents IOC/EC-XXXVII/2 Annex 12, "Concept Paper on the Modalities of Implementation of IOC Programmes in Regions", and subsequently IOC-XXIII/2 Annex 5, "Enhancing the Effectiveness of Regional Cooperation in Marine Science and Technology and the Role of the IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies",

Noting with appreciation the efforts that have been made to revitalize the Sub-Commission during the past two years by examining and correcting the present deficiencies, improving communications and interactions and ensuring a comprehensive programme following the IOC's High Level Objectives,

Further noting that the member states desire to establish a mechanism for providing advice to the Chairperson and the Sub-Commission, including scientific and technical review of Project Proposals submitted for adoption as WESTPAC Projects and on the development, planning and implementation of the activities of the Sub-Commission,

Decides to establish the WESTPAC Advisory Group with the Terms of Reference as given in the Annex to this Recommendation;

Requests The Member States are asked to nominate experts for the consideration of the Chairperson who, in consultation with Officers, will appoint 5 members to the Group, and provide financial and in-kind support to the work of this Group.

Annex to Recommendation SC-WESTPAC-VII.1

Terms of Reference of the WESTPAC Advisory Group

The WESTPAC Advisory Group, composed of the Officers of the Sub-Commission and up to five additional experts in relevant disciplines of marine science, has the responsibility to provide scientific and technical advice on the development, planning and implementation of the activities of the Sub-Commission.

The WESTPAC Advisory Group will:

- (i) advise the Sub-Commission through the Chairperson on all scientific and technical aspects and other matters identified by the Chairperson;
- (ii) review and assess the development, planning and implementation of the ongoing project and make necessary recommendations to the Sub-Commission accordingly;
- (iii) assist in developing and updating, as appropriate, a Scientific Strategic Plan and accompanying short- to medium-term actions plans and targets for the Sub-Commission;
- (iv) assist in developing WESTPAC programmes to be in line with IOC High-Level Objectives;
- (v) promote the support for the implementation of the Sub-Commission's activities;
- (vi) submit reports to the Sub-Commission through the Chairperson.

The Advisory Group may establish working groups as appropriate.

The Advisory Group shall be comprised scientific and technical experts selected by the officers of the Sub-Commission, taking into account balanced representation of geographical distribution of the member states, and of gender, on the basis of their personal expertise so as to provide a balanced representation of the major scientific and technical disciplines. Experts will serve in their personal capacities, not as Member State representatives. Additional experts may be consulted as needed.

One Vice-Chair of the Sub-Commission will act as the Chairperson of the Advisory Group.

The Advisory Group shall operate during intersessional periods and meet at least once a year. The WESTPAC Secretariat will provide secretariat support for the Advisory Group.

Recommendation SC-WESTPAC-VII.2

WESTPAC INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific,

Recalling its decision of its First Session that a major multi-disciplinary symposium should become a principal intersessional activity of the Sub-Commission,

Having reviewed the output and results of the Seventh IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium on the Natural Hazards and Changing Marine Environment in the Western Pacific, Sabah, Malaysia, 21-25 May 2008,

Expressing its great appreciation to the Government of Malaysia, through its National Oceanography Directorate, for having hosted it,

Having formulated its work plan for the period 2008-2010,