



Side event

National Decade Committees Forum

(Tentatively 1630-1830, UTC+7, 5 April 2023, Jakarta)

Draft dated 1 March 2023

[The UN Ocean Decade Regional Kickoff Conference for the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas](#) (25-26 November 2022) featured high level commitments from national government agencies, research communities/academia, business and private sectors, and other stakeholder groups; and represented the beginning of the region-wide efforts in a substantive development and implementation of Decade Actions towards achieving the Ocean Decade Outcomes: 1) A clean ocean, 2) A healthy and resilient ocean, 3) A productive ocean, 4) A predicted ocean, 5) A safe ocean, 6) An accessible ocean, and 7) An inspiring and engaging ocean.

Since then, significant progress has been achieved in the region, with active participation and contribution of Member States and various partners. The National Decade Committee (NDC), as an essential element of the Decade coordination framework, is supposed to play an instrumental role in engaging national stakeholders and facilitating national contributions to the Decade as well as promoting awareness and interest.

As the Ocean Decade enters its third year, the 14th Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (4-7 April 2023, Jakarta, Indonesia) offers a good opportunity to bring together Member States in the region, particularly those who have established or have the intention to establish their NDCs, to share their experience and lessons learnt in the NDC development, and discuss how NDCs further demonstrate their value in the Ocean Decade.

Objectives

The NDCs Forum, as a side event to the Session and to be co-chaired by the NDCs in Japan and Korea, aims to:

- Share present status and facilitate dialogues among Member States about the NDCs development and their activities;
- Identify challenges and opportunities for NDCs development;
- Analyze, from the NDCs' perspectives, gaps between the current implementation status and Decade Challenges and societal outcomes;



- Make suggestions to the Decade Coordination Unit, and the Decade Coordination Office in the region on how to enhance Decade coordination at regional and national levels.

Tentative agenda

1. Brief introduction to the NDCs development and the NDC operational guidelines (10 mins) -Julian
2. NDCs briefs by China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Thailand, USA and others, including its composition, functions, operations, activities, challenges and opportunities (8-10 mins each, limit the total time within 60 minutes)
3. Open discussions and sharing of NDCs' perspectives and suggestions on the Ocean Decade development at national, regional and global levels, including the gaps between the current implementation status and Decade Challenges and societal outcomes- (40-50 mins)
4. Wrap-up (Yutaka Michida and Youn-Ho Lee)