

Report to the plenary session: NDCs forum

Room: Jirap

1700-1900, UTC+7, 5 April 2023, Jakarta

1. The side event of NDCs forum was open by the co-chairs *Yutaka Michida and Youn-Ho Lee* with welcome remarks and comments on the purpose of the side event.
 - brainstorming on the National Decade Committee (NDC)
 - sharing experiences on the operation of NDC
 - taking lessons on how to facilitate developing Decade Actions and engaging diverse ocean communities and stakeholders in the Decade
2. As an introduction of NDC, *Julian Pierre BARBIÈRE* from the Decade Coordination Unit in IOC gave a talk on NDC development and the operational guidelines,
 - emphasizing that engagement and coordination at the national level is essential in Decade with respect to ensuring nationally relevant ocean science priorities, working across science-policy-society interface, and influencing funding for ocean science
 - pointing out that NDC plays a critical role as a connection between national actors and the global Decade community
 - informing that Decade Coordination Unit mentors NDC establishment and provides a manual of best practices and on-line NDC community network, Ocean Decade Network
3. Representatives of NDCs of 6 member states presented brief introductions on their established NDCs covering composition, functions, operations, activities, challenges, and opportunities, which were followed by active discussion among the participants in the side event. The NDC speakers were,
 - *Wang Antao* from China
 - *Augy Syahailatua* from Indonesia
 - *Michda Yutaka* from Japan
 - *Youn-Ho Lee* from Republic of Korea
 - *Suree Satapoomin* from Thailand
 - *David Legler* from USA
4. Several points drawn from the presentations and discussions
 - The structure and composition of NDCs are different with each other reflecting the situation of each country.
 - NDC plays an essential role in the Decade coordination framework by functioning as the national platform for interfacing ocean science-policy-society, promoting development of national Decade Actions, engaging diverse ocean communities in the Decade, and connecting national ocean stakeholders with global communities.
 - Government's recognition and incorporation of the Decade into its ocean policy as well as the financial support to the Decade Actions seems to be the driving force to promote the UN Ocean Decade at the national level.
5. Challenges that most NDCs are facing:
 - Recognizing the endorsement value as a Decade Action;
How to serve or give incentives to owners and potential proponents of Actions, even at as early as developing and preparing stage?

- Attracting and engaging diverse communities or stakeholders into the Ocean Decade such as Industries, ECOPs, NGOs as well as diverse disciplines of academia, policy makers, and government agencies;
- Mobilizing all the collaboration potential in the ocean sector
- Securing financial and human resources;
Limited awareness of the fiscal authorities within the Government as well as of the public and ocean stakeholders with regard to the necessity of ocean science and the Ocean Decade for sustainable development
- Networking NDCs of different countries and connecting the national actors within the region as well as with global ocean communities
- Incorporating the Ocean Decade into the national policy and budget framework