



Senior Governmental Officials Roundtable on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

(0900-1040, UTC+7, 5 April 2023, Jakarta)

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[The IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific \(WESTPAC\)](#) advances the Ocean Decade strategically through a strong partnership among its Member States bordering the Western Pacific and the eastern Indian Oceans. The ever-growing collaborative activities of the Sub-Commission over the recent decades reflected substantive partnerships among marine scientists, institutions and Member States in the region in tackling various environmental, social and economic challenges, through enhanced cooperation in ocean research, innovations, and capacity development. It is worth mentioning, a network of Regional Research and Training Centers (RTRCs) addressing various ocean priority issues also demonstrated commitments of Member States to collectively nurture the next generations-our Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs).

The Sub-Commission organized [the UN Ocean Decade Kickoff Conference for the Western Pacific and adjacent areas](#) in November 2021. As an initial effort, it aimed to catalyze partnerships among various ocean stakeholder communities 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.

As the Ocean Decade enters its third year, thus there is a need to review its progress, identify challenges and seek new opportunities, develop meaningful partnerships and cooperation needed for further catalyzing ocean science solutions to ocean sustainability and sustainable economy.

On the occasion of [the 14th Intergovernmental Session of the Sub-Commission](#) (4-7 April 2023, Jakarta), we would like to organize a Senior Governmental Officials Roundtable (SGOs Roundtable) to facilitate the exchange and cooperation among Member States in the region in advancing the “Science we need for the ocean we want”.

Objectives

The SGOs Roundtable, chaired by the host country, will bring together senior officials from



national competent agencies in the region, as a follow up to [the high-level commitments at the UN Ocean Decade Regional Kickoff Conference for the Western Pacific](#) (25–26 November 2021).

The roundtable will share progress and exchange views on the development and implementation of the Ocean Decade, and seek new opportunities for advancing ocean science development and cooperation among member states in the region.

The Roundtable discussion will also provide guidance and input to the Sub-Commission in mobilizing actions that will contribute to the Ocean Decade, and ultimately the sustainable development of ocean, marine and coastal resources in the region.

Tentative programme and outcome

The detailed programme is under development. The SGOs Roundtable is envisaged to be held around two hours, consisting of keynote(s), chairperson's statement, national reports by SGOs, and roundtable discussions.

The Roundtable is expected to come up with a joint SGOs statement/declaration. It highlights the role of ocean to all countries in the region, the importance of advancing ocean science development and cooperation, and outlines concrete actions in the UN Ocean Decade to achieve the sustainable development.