



UN24: 2nd Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions – from its sciences to human well beings (CSK-2)

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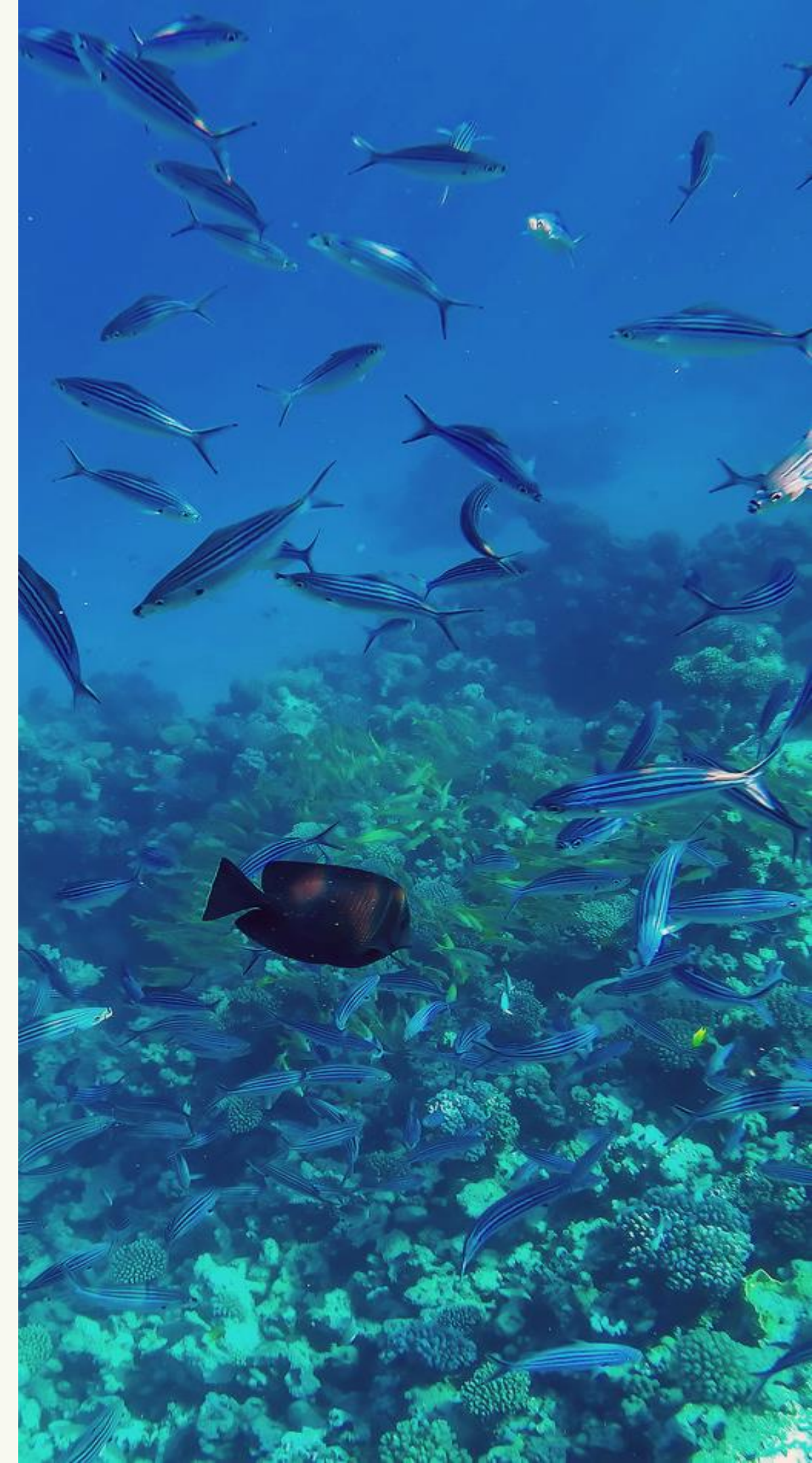
^bWPI-AIMEC, Tohoku University and JAMSTEC

Sixteenth Intergovernmental Session of the
IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XVI)
Hangzhou, China, 10-12 November 2026

Summary Outline



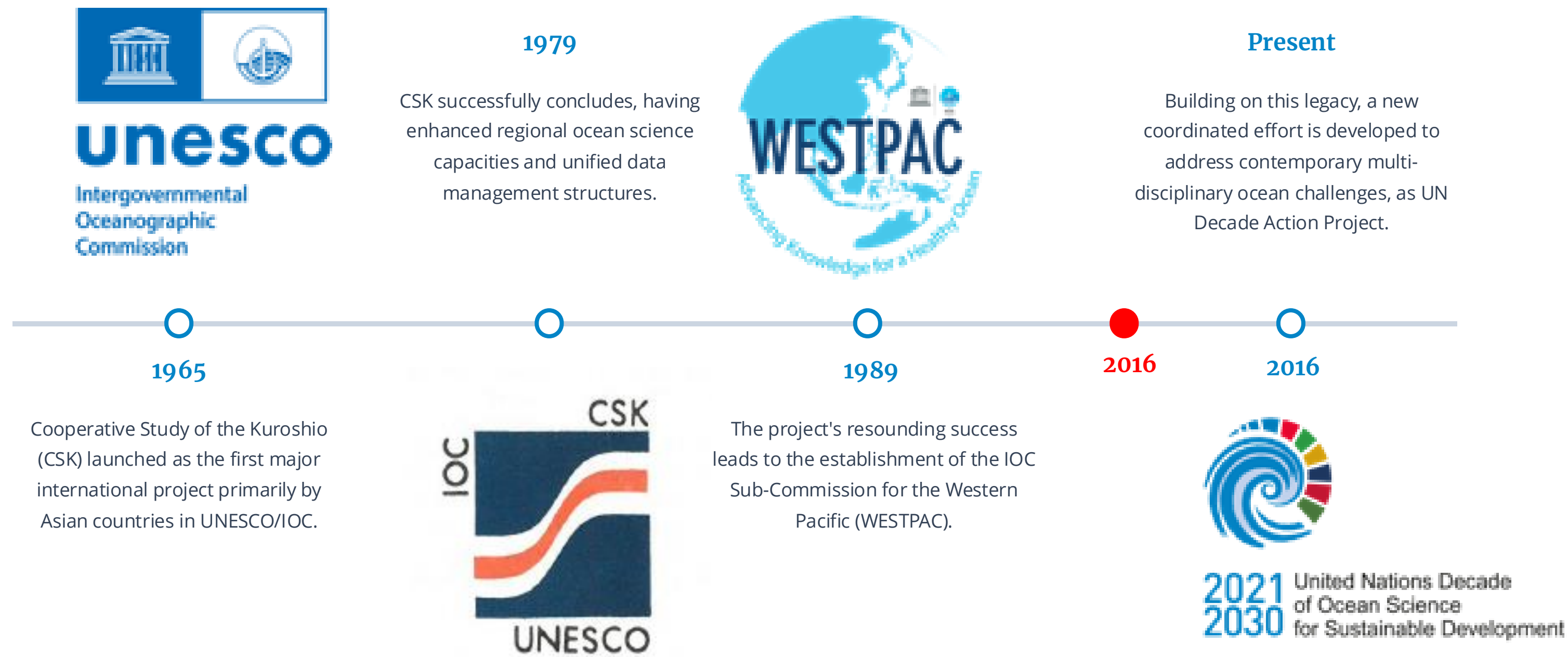
1. **Justification and duration**
2. **Objectives**
3. **Major activities and outputs** (particular those accomplished during 2025-2026)
4. **Anticipated activities and outputs in 2027**
5. **Biennial workplan and budget for 2028-2029**, structured around the IOC HLOs
6. **Strategic recommendations** for future development



1. Justification and project duration



Legacy of the CSK Programme (1965–1979 & after)



1. Justification and duration

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Half-Century of Scientific Advancements Since the Cooperative Study of the Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions (CSK) Programme - Need for a new Kuroshio Research

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Physical View

Ocean Dynamics & Scale Interactions
Air-Sea Interaction

Biogeochemistry View

Carbon Sink & Acidification
Nutrient Transport
Material Tracking

Biology & Fisheries View

The Kuroshio Paradox
Migratory Species
Biodiversity Hotspot
Fisheries Management

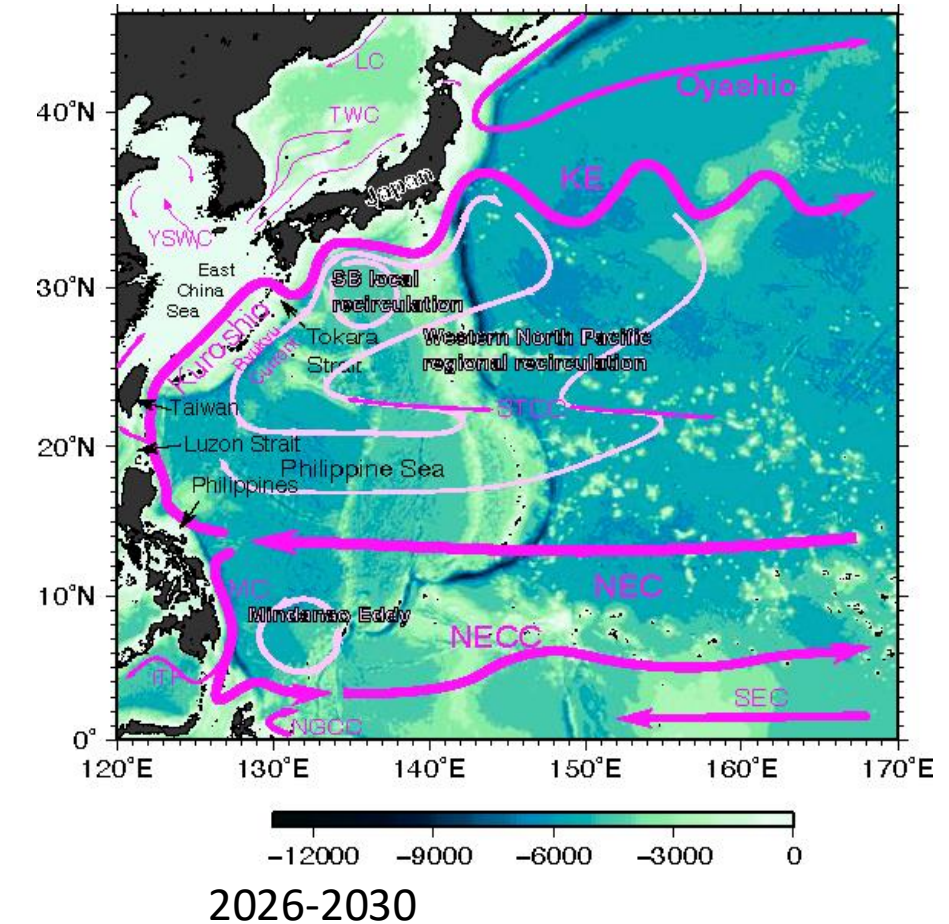
Current Gaps and Barriers

Fragmentary Approach
Biogeochemical Processes
Transboundary Constraints
Multi-scale Dynamics

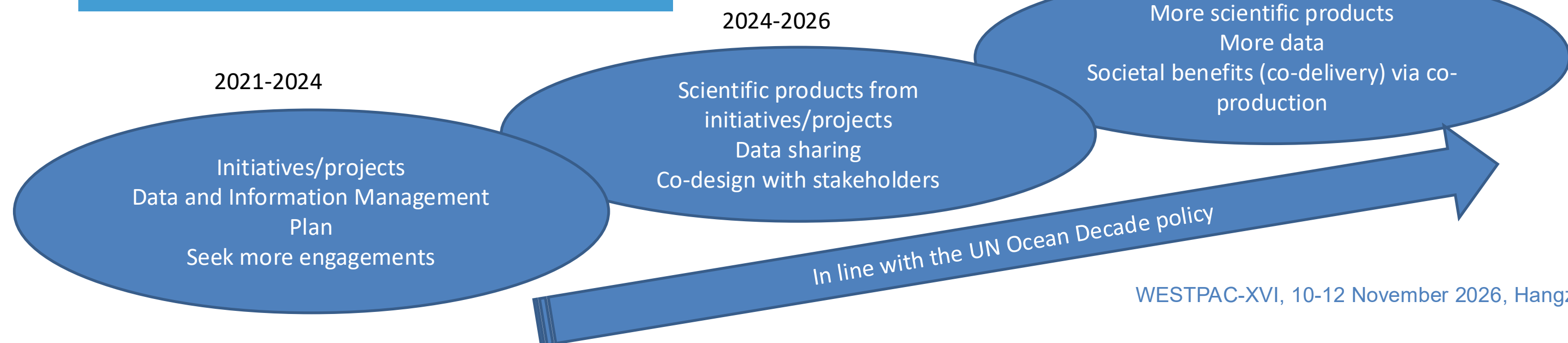
2. Objectives

Objective 1: to understand the Kuroshio and its impact on global and regional **weather and climate**, with a societal outcome to achieve improved regional weather **forecasts** and climate **predictions**;

Objective 2: to understand the Kuroshio in relation to its marine **ecosystem**, with a societal outcome to achieve better management of regional **fisheries** and **aquaculture** along the Kuroshio and in its adjacent regions.



April 2021 – December 2030



3. Major Activities and Outputs

CSK-2 Programme Management

April 2021; Dec. 2021; Established by 13th WESTPAC Inter-Governmental Session
[1st ISG \(International Steering Group\) meeting \(on-line\)](#), followed by UN Ocean Decade submission

April 2022; July 2022; Registered as UN-24, Science Action Plan, Data & Info. Manage Plan.
[2nd ISG meeting \(on-line\)](#), Call for projects

Feb. 2023; [3rd ISG meeting @Thailand](#)

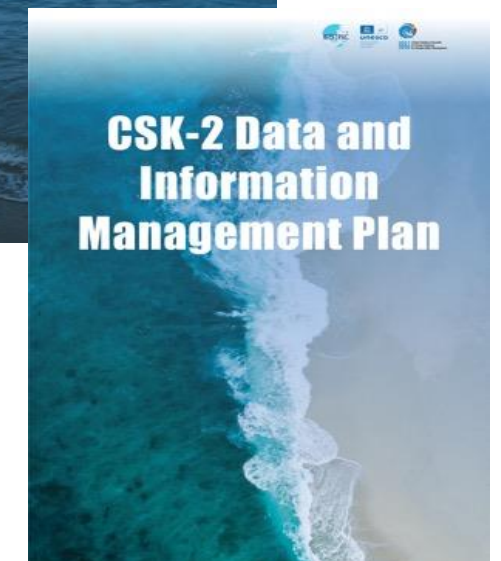
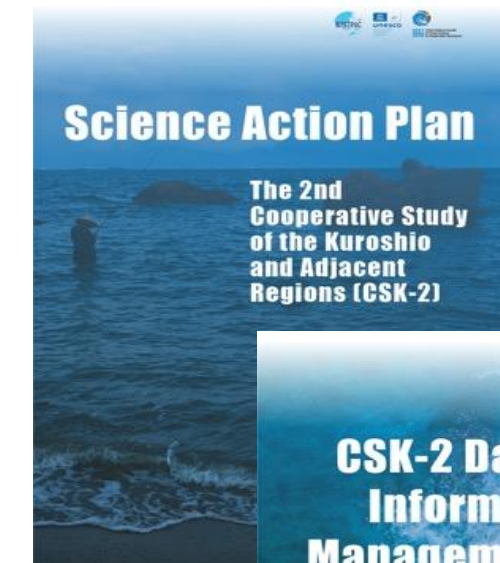
Dec. 2023; [4th ISG meeting @China](#)

April 2024; CSK-2 workshop in the 2nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference
11th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference @Thailand

Nov. 2024; [5th ISG meeting @Japan](#)

Mar. 2025; CSK-2 Support Office hosted by Laoshan Laboratory officially endorsed at the 15th WESTPAC Intergovernmental Session

Nov. 2025; [6th ISG meeting @Republic of Korea](#)



3rd ISG meeting



4th ISG meeting



5th ISG meeting



6th ISG meeting

3. Major Activities and Outputs



CSK-2 Scientific exchanges



**1st international Scientific Symposium
in BKK, Thailand**



**2nd International Scientific Symposium
in Sendai, Japan**



**3rd international Scientific Symposium in
Jakarta, Indonesia**

WESTPAC-XVI, 10-12 November 2026, Hangzhou, China

3. Major Activities and Outputs

CSK-2 ECOP Capacity Building

2nd COOPERATIVE STUDY OF THE

KUROSHIO AND ITS ADJACENT REGIONS (CSK-2)

1st ECOP WEBINAR

Connecting Early-Career Ocean Professionals for a Better Understanding of the Kuroshio System

WEBINAR SCHEDULE

July 30, 2026 (GMT+9)

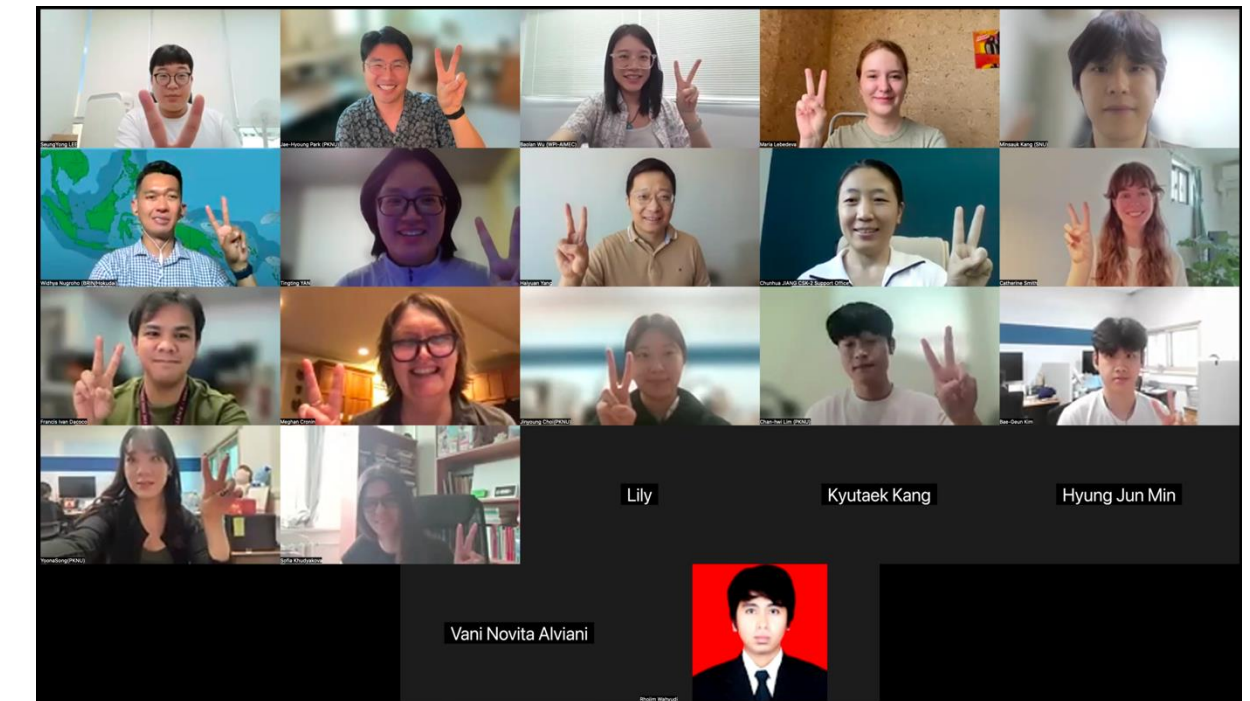
- 10:00 – 10:15 Introduction to CSK-2
Dr. Ken Ando
JAMSTEC; WPI-AIMEC, Tohoku University
- 10:15 – 12:00 Research Presentations
15 min/speaker: 12 min talk + 3 min Q&A
- 12:00 – 13:00 Discussion Session

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Important or unresolved scientific questions related to the Kuroshio and its adjacent seas
- How ECOP activities can contribute to CSK-2
- What kind of support ECOPs would like from CSK-2
- Suggestions for improving future CSK-2 ECOP Webinars

WEBINAR CONVENORS

Jae-Hyoung Park (Pukyong National University)
Baolan Wu (WPI-AIMEC, Tohoku University)
SeungYong Lee (Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology, KIOST)



3. Major Activities and Outputs

CSK-2 Outreach and Communication

- Global Western Boundary Current session in **Asia Oceania Geoscience Society (AOGS)**
- Introduction of CSK-2 activity in a public session at **Japan Geoscience Union (JpGU) 2025**
- **Asia Marine Educators Association (AMEA) with ECOPs Ocean Literacy Conference 2025 Japan**
- Introducing CSK-2 at **Pan-CLIVAR meeting and CLIVAR Pacific Regional Panel (September 2025)**.



AMEA conference on August 5, 2025, at Sasakawa Peace Foundation

3. Major Activities and Outputs

CSK-2 Result analysis and Outputs



No.	Title of the initiative	Name of PI
#1	Observations in the origin region of the Kuroshio	Akira Nagano
#2	Kuroshio Extension Observatory (KEO)	Meghan Cronin
#3	Time series observations of Kuroshio variability in the East China Sea	Hanna Na
#4	Climatic hotspot3: Habitable Japan: Sustainability of atmospheric and oceanic environment as a survival basis of island country Japan	Eitaro Oka
#5	Physical and Biogeochemical Dynamics in the Kuroshio-Oyashio Extension Regions and their impacts on Climate and Fisheries	Zhaohui Chen
#6	Dynamical and ecological interaction between the Kuroshio and coastal circulation	Kiyoshi Tanaka
#7	Subthermocline currents and eddies in the NEC-Kuroshio-MC region	Linlin Zhen
#8	Kuroshio Edge Exchange and the Shelf Ecosystem (KEES)	Feng Zhou
#9	The Role of Ocean Dynamic for Fish Recruitment Process in the Coral Triangle Region	Augy Syahailatua
#10	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Along the Northern Pacific Seaboard, Philippines	Angel B. Encarnacion
#11	Banggai Upwelling Dynamics and Ecosystem Experiment (BUDEE)	Agus S. Atmadipoera
#12	Ocean circulation at the Pacific Entrance of the Indonesian Throughflow	Dongliang Yuan
#13	Amami-Kuroshio project: Baseline assessment of subtropical environment of Amami Islands along the Kuroshio and its influence to the biosphere and humanosphere	Yusuka Yokoyama
#14	The impact of Kuroshio intrusion on Multi-timescale variations of marine heatwaves in the South China Sea	Yun Qiu

3. Major Activities and Outputs

CSK-2 Result analysis and Outputs

Two rounds of result analysis covering progress of 14 endorsed projects and the overall CSK-2 programme completed in 2025-2026; resulting in **16 reports**.

Overall results of activities

- ☐ By August 2026, a total of 113 scientific papers have been published or accepted, among which 29 papers were produced in 2025 and 2026.
- ☐ In-situ observations constitute the most prominent element of CSK-2 with at least 9 of the projects are involved in (or plan to conduct) in-situ measurements of physical and biogeochemical fields.
- ☐ 3 projects conduct data analysis as a core approach using observational and model data available on public domain.
- ☐ 3 projects conduct numerical modelling.
- ☐ 1 project performs data collection through community/institutional survey.

3. Major Activities and Outputs



CSK-2 Result analysis and Outputs

Objective 1: Understanding the Kuroshio and its impact on global and regional weather and climate

1.1. Physical oceanography

10 Projects (#1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #12 and #14)

1.2. Biogeochemistry (from the view of the interaction between physical processes and biological processes)

Biogeochemical processes interact with ocean-climate physics.

6 Projects (#1, #2, #4, #5, #8 and #13) have biogeochemistry components

1.3. Impacts on weather and climate

Data from many of the projects are applicable to study the impact of the ocean on weather and climate processes;

3 Projects (#5, #12 and #14) carry out targeted activities on the issue.

3. Major Activities and Outputs

CSK-2 Result analysis and Outputs

Objective 2: Understanding the Kuroshio in relation to its marine ecosystem (focusing on impact to marine ecosystem)

Project #2: Kuroshio Extension Observatory (KEO)

Project #4: Northwestern Pacific cruises conducted under PacifiKER

Project #8: a link between algal blooms in Shubei Shoal (southwestern Yellow Sea) and “cold patches” (SST lower than the surrounding waters)

Project #9: Cruises conducted in the Indonesian Seas reveal microplastic contamination and distribution of mesopelagic fish larvae in the Banggai Sea

Project #10: undertakes stock assessments and reproductive biology studies of commercially important finfish species in the northern Pacific seaboard of the Philippines

Project #13: unveils carbon dynamics of mangrove forests in Amami Island.

Project #14: In-situ investigations to evaluate the ecological impacts of extreme temperature events in SCS

3. Major Activities and Outputs

CSK-2 Result analysis and Outputs



How CSK-2 engages stakeholders and serves the society

Project #5: Its coordinated multi-disciplinary observations map favourable fishing grounds and migration corridors, revealing drivers of fish stock changes. Its data supports distant-water fisheries and adaptive management, safeguarding the KOE region supplying >25% global marine catch.

Project #6: Local fishers and fisheries firms supply vessels, infrastructure and local knowledge for project observations and receive ocean and ecological data in return. Ferry operators, government agencies and universities establish low-cost long-term monitoring. The outputs directly support government decision-making and policy development for coastal adaptation and marine resource management. Forecasts and monitoring data are shared openly via websites and outreach activities with researchers, students and the public.

Project #10: Profiled and supported 599 Municipal Fishing Associations, 225 Aquaculture Associations, 97 Fisheries Post-harvest and Marketing Associations, and 13 Indigenous People Groups to evaluate socio-economic conditions and enhance community resilience; Collaborated with 5 Commercial Fishing Associations, 4 Integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Councils, 4 NGOs, 12 State Colleges and Universities, and various LGUs to empower institutional capabilities and policies.

3. Major Activities and Outputs

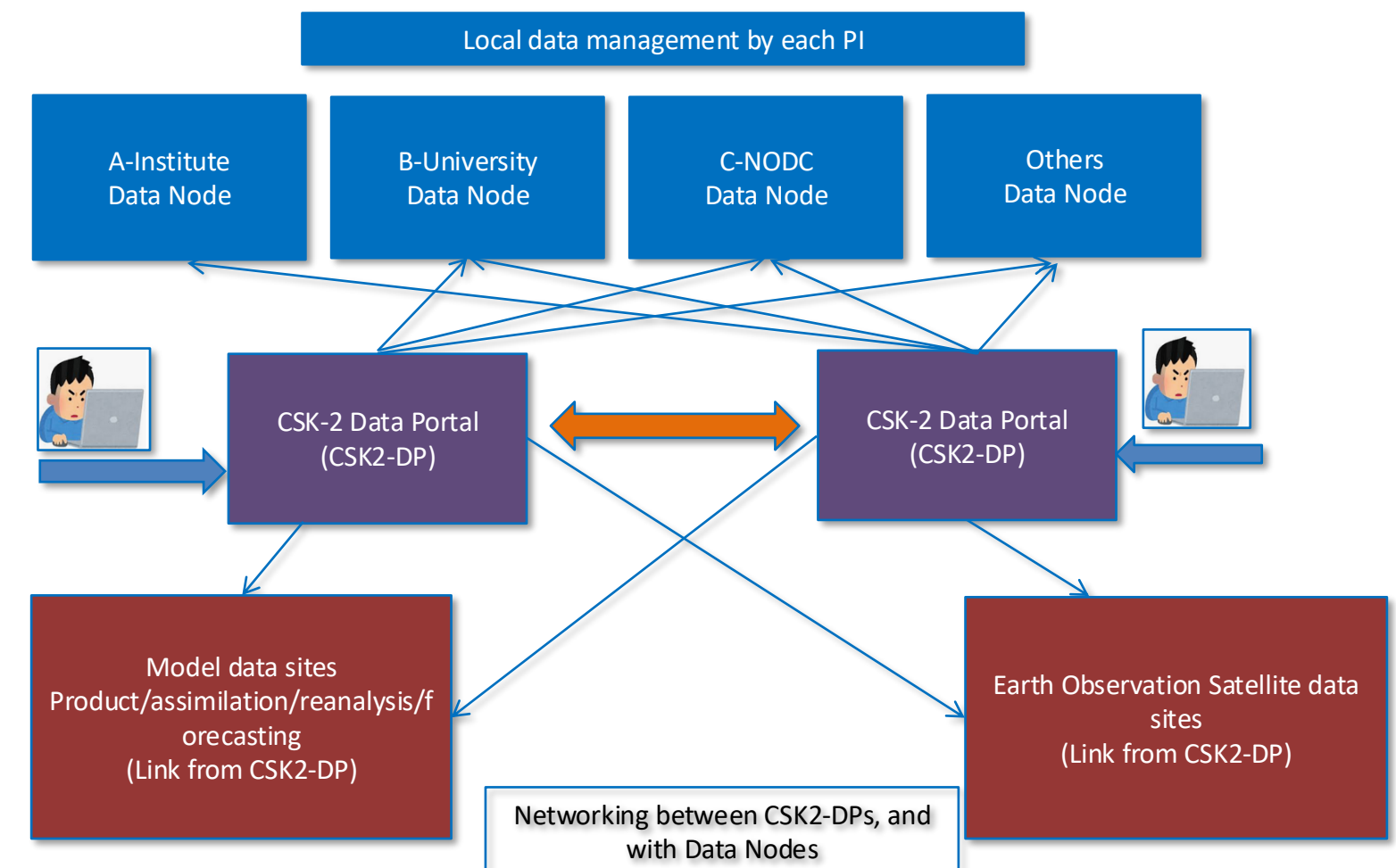
CSK-2 Data Management

- Guideline
The Data and Information Management Plan (DIMP)
- Data Nodes
7 Projects have shared their data via their data nodes
- Data Portal
 - The Phase 1 Data Portal is established with all data nodes integrated.
 - The design of Phase 2 search function, discussed in ISG-6 meeting, is under development.



Part I HOME

Data Portal for the CSK-2 Programme



Data sites of the CSK-2 Endorsed Projects

The data links of the existing projects have been aggregated and shown here:

Project 1: Observations in the Kuroshio's Origin

Akira Nagano from Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology

Data Site:

Data observed by this mooring buoy is open at the PHSMO website:
<https://www.jamstec.go.jp/ipobs/PhBuoy/>. Latest data (real-time data in Phase 5 of the PHSMO mooring buoy) and dissolved oxygen concentration data (Phases 1-4) are open on the website.

Project 2: The Kuroshio Extension Observatory (KEO)

Dr. Meghan F. Cronin¹, Dr. Makio Honda², Dr. Adrienne Sutton¹ with contributions from Patrick Berk³, Nathan Anderson³, and Dongxiao Zhang³
¹NOAA/PMEL, ²JAMSTEC, ³UW/CICOES

Data Site:

The NOAA KEO surface mooring is nominally located at 32.3°N 144.6°E (temporarily unoccupied at the time of this report, September 2025).

• The JAMSTEC KEO sediment trap nominal position is 32.4°N 144.4°E.

4. Anticipated activities and outputs in 2027



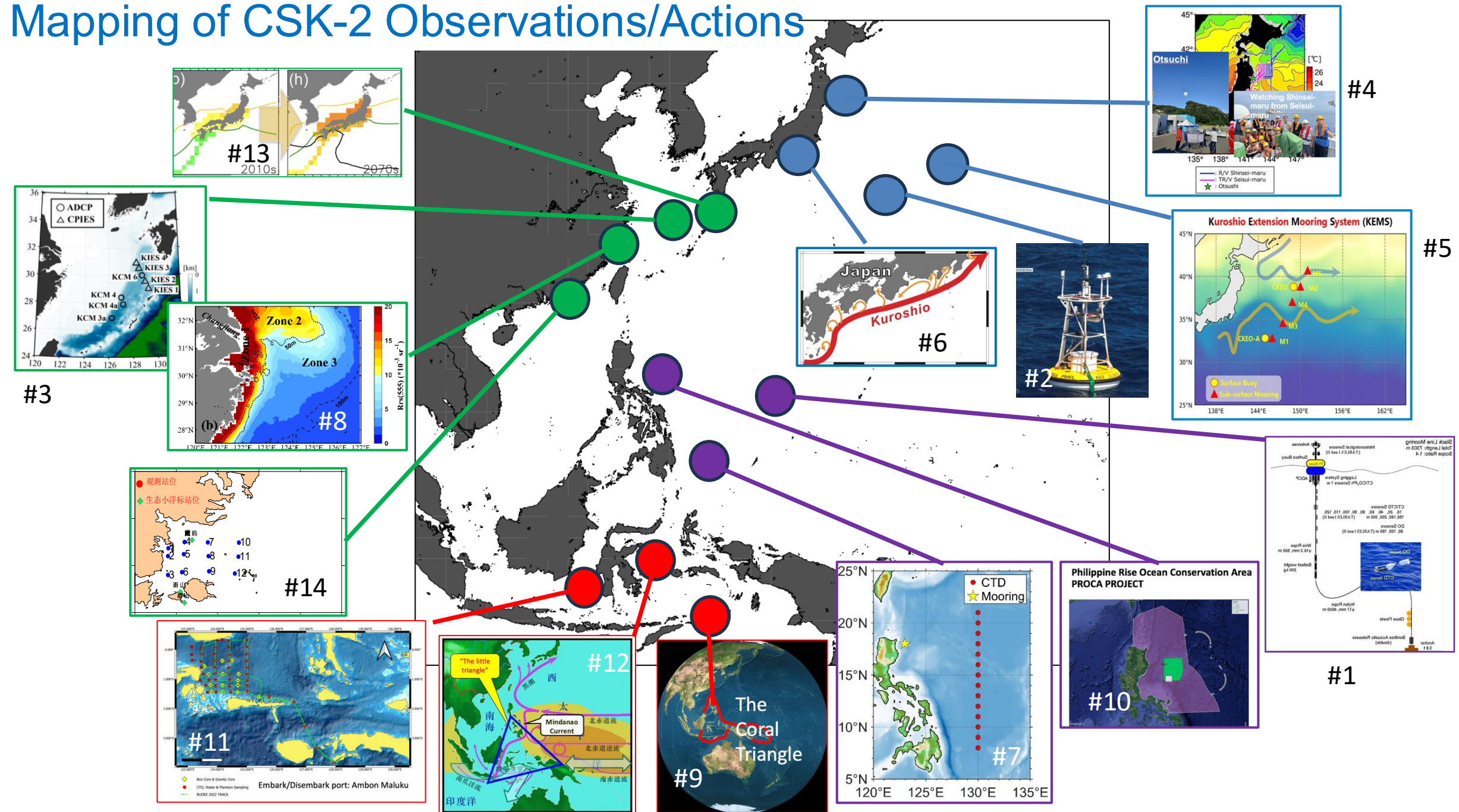
Proposed events on the 12th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference & 3rd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference scheduled for 20-23 April 2027 in Manila

Registered Action Number	Proposals- “Decade Action ”	Brief descriptions
CSK-2 Scientific Session A1	Unveil the Kuroshio and its Role in Climate and Ocean Ecosystems: Observational and Modelling Perspectives on Multi-scale Variability and Multi-disciplinary Aspects of the Kuroshio (II)	A major western boundary current, the Kuroshio, exhibits energetic features and transport water, heat, salt, nutrients, and living organisms through complex interactions of physical and biogeochemical processes. The Kuroshio has been recognized as a “hotspot” from the perspective of various processes, including fronts, eddies, meanders, and air–sea interactions from physical views. These processes and their dynamics have significant impacts on climate system and marine ecosystems as well as the coastal societies. This session seeks scientific contributions from observational and modeling studies, including the multi-scale variability and multi-disciplinary aspects of the Kuroshio spanning sub-seasonal to multi-decadal and turbulent to basin scales; their interactions with the Indian Ocean and the marginal seas in the Pacific and Indian oceans; frontal processes, and air-sea interaction; and their contribution to marine biodiversity and productivity. This session is expected to establish more comprehensive and feasible strategies for observation systems and numerical model development.
CSK-2 Workshop W2	UN 24: Taking the Pulse of the Kuroshio – Review and Our Way to Future	Under the guidance of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC), this workshop is convened to advance CSK-2, the endorsed UN Ocean Decade Action UN24, through four synergistic pillars. The first pillar will review programme-wide progress, including overall achievements, regional cooperation, progress of endorsed projects, data management, ECOP capacity development, and other key areas. The second pillar will focus on strengthening existing partnerships and fostering new collaboration with regional observing networks, data-user communities, ECOP networks, relevant international organizations, other Ocean Decade Actions, and key stakeholders, ensuring that CSK-2 science remains demand-driven and operationally relevant. The third pillar will facilitate the co-design of a roadmap towards 2030, formulate recommendations for future project calls, and reaffirm CSK-2’s sustained contribution to the Ocean Decade in the Western Pacific and globally. The final pillar will consist of a dedicated CSK-2 International Steering Group (ISG) business session to consider programme governance, priorities, and follow-up actions arising from the preceding discussions.

4. Anticipated activities and outputs in 2027

1. Scientific papers to be published from endorsed projects/initiatives
2. Some data nodes in operation
3. Data portal Search Function to be in operation
4. The 7th ISG meeting and rotation of ISG members as well as co-chairs

Mapping of CSK-2 Observations/Actions



5. Biennial Workplan for 2028-2029

- Detailed outline of planned activities, and deliverables for the next intersessional period

No.	Activity / Output Description	Expected Result / Output	Y1-1st H	Y1-2 nd H	Y2-1st H	Y2-2 nd H	IOC RP Budget (USD)	XB Required (USD)	Lead Responsibility
HLO 1 — HEALTHY OCEAN AND SUSTAINED OCEAN ECOSYSTEM SERVICES									
Expected Result 1.1 (Sub-obj. 1.1): Regional ocean biodiversity and ecosystem observations and FAIR data strengthened									
1.1.2	Based on the IODE data policy, collect metadata to promote regional ocean data portal and data nodes construction in line with the IODE data portal and boost ecological data sharing for Kuroshio and its adjacent regions.	CSK-2 Data Portal and Data Nodes strengthened for Inter-project cooperation and cooperation with external actions. Open-access datasets for the Kuroshio ecosystem have expanded, and Member States retrieve CSK-2 resources via the CSK-2 Data Portal search engine.	•	•	•	•	/	44,000 (one half of data portal construction expense)	CSK-2 Support Office (Laoshan Laboratory), Project PIs and MS

5. Biennial Workplan for 2028-2029



- Detailed outline of planned activities, and deliverables for the next intersessional period

No.	Activity / Output Description	Expected Result / Output	Y1-1st H	Y1-2nd H	Y2-1st H	Y2-2nd H	IOC RP Budget (USD)	XB Required (USD)	Lead Responsibility
HLO 1 — HEALTHY OCEAN AND SUSTAINED OCEAN ECOSYSTEM SERVICES									
Expected Result 1.2 (Sub-obj. 1.2 + 1.3): Scientific knowledge for ecosystem management developed and ecosystem-based management applied									
1.2.1	•Support CSK-2 research networks and scientific partnerships, consolidate and provide results on Kuroshio ecosystem; •Facilitate understanding of regional fisheries and aquaculture along the Kuroshio and in its adjacent regions by using the scientific knowledge and data obtained from several on-going CSK-2 sub-projects focusing on the coastal and Kuroshio interactions.	MS , make use of CSK-2 ecosystem scientific knowledge for better management of regional fisheries and aquaculture along the Kuroshio and in its adjacent regions. The knowledge and data include: • Ecosystem baseline information; • Research findings on environmental stressors including ocean acidification and microplastics; • Insights into how the Kuroshio system shapes marine habitats and governs the distribution of key fishery species. These knowledge and datasets products are generated by CSK-2 sub-projects, co-developed and shared with a range of stakeholders, including national marine and fisheries authorities, research groups, local government agencies and local fisherfolk. The research community apply these outputs to characterise environmental drivers of fish stocks, map critical marine habitats, and assess ocean-related risks to aquaculture. The results support policy-making in collaboration with government agencies, and help local fisherfolk advance sustainable fishery development.	•	•	•	•	/	20,000 (10,000*one staff salary/year*2 years)	CSK-2 support office (Laoshan Laboratory)

5. Biennial Workplan for 2028-2029

- [Detailed outline of planned activities, and deliverables for the next intersessional period](#)

No.	Activity / Output Description	Expected Result / Output	Y1-1st H	Y1-2nd H	Y2-1st H	Y2-2nd H	IOC RP Budget (USD)	XB Required (USD)	Lead Responsibility
HLO 3 — RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONTRIBUTION TO ITS MITIGATION									
Expected Result 3.1 (Sub-obj. 3.1+3.2): Regional ocean-climate observations, data and scientific knowledge enhanced									
3.1.1	Based on the IODE data policy and GOOS strategy, promote regional ocean data portal and data nodes construction and boost data sharing to improve understanding of Kuroshio and its adjacent regions. Support and strengthen regional and global partnerships on Ocean Observation by contributing to OceanObs'29 to shape the next decade of global ocean observing.	CSK-2 Data Portal and Data Nodes strengthened in line with the IODE data policy. Open-access datasets for the Kuroshio and adjacent regions have expanded, and Member States use the data to improve regional weather forecasts and climate predictions. OceanObs'29 convened	•	•	•	•	/	58,000 (44,000,the other half of data portal construction expense+ 14,000,OceanObs'29)	CSK-2 Support Office (Laoshan Laboratory), Project PIs and MS

5. Biennial Workplan for 2028-2029

- [Detailed outline of planned activities, and deliverables for the next intersessional period](#)



No.	Activity / Output Description	Expected Result / Output	Y1-1st H	Y1-2nd H	Y2-1st H	Y2-2nd H	IOC RP Budget (USD)	XB Required (USD)	Lead Responsibility
HLO 3 — RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONTRIBUTION TO ITS MITIGATION									
Expected Result 3.1 (Sub-obj. 3.1+3.2): Regional ocean-climate observations, data and scientific knowledge enhanced									
3.1.2	Organize scientific symposium for knowledge exchange and dissemination of Kuroshio-related scientific findings. CSK-2 will invite relevant stakeholders to the symposium for co-production and co-delivery of the knowledge and data obtained from the sub-projects along the Kuroshio and the partner research communities. Support and strengthen regional and global partnerships on climate change in collaboration with the International CLIVAR Project office (ICPO) and GOOS-related Decade Actions.	Scientific understanding of the Kuroshio and its impact on global and regional weather and climate disseminated to MS including: • Understanding of seasonal to inter-annual variations along the Kuroshio path and interactions with coastal phenomena of physical and biogeochemical processes, which are associated with ENSO and relevant climate modes. • Multi-year time series of subsurface temperature, salinity, and dissolved oxygen in the Kuroshio and its adjacent region. Kuroshio-related Ocean-climate knowledge products such as simulated marine environmental conditions, AI generated temperature and salinity products will be produced collaboratively with the operational agencies in each member states and regional GOOSs. These knowledge products are available to all CSK-2 member states including China, Indonesia Japan, Philippines, Russia, Republic of Korea, United States of America, Viet Nam. For these countries, the datasets and scientific insights help operational agencies monitor long-term ocean variability, detect climate-driven marine anomalies, and improve marine environmental forecasting.					24,000 (travel cost for 2 officers from WESTPAC office)+20,000 (travel support for 10 persons)	81000 (7,000 one symposium expense +30 participants*2000 travel expenses+14,000 CLIVAR)	Core RP allocation, MS, Ocean University of China&CSK-2 Support Office (Laoshan Laboratory)
			•	•	•	•			

5. Biennial Workplan for 2028-2029

- [Detailed outline of planned activities, and deliverables for the next intersessional period](#)

No.	Activity / Output Description	Expected Result / Output	Y1- 1st H	Y1- 2 nd H	Y2- 1st H	Y2- 2 nd H	IOC RP Budget (USD)	XB Required (USD)	Lead Responsibility
UN OCEAN DECADE (2021-2030) — REGIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND DECADE ACTIONS									
Expected Result D.1: [Regional Decade Actions endorsed and implemented]									
D.1.1	Monitor CSK-2 Progress, facilitate coordination among all stakeholders and other relevant Decade Actions such as SynObs, DITTO, COSMEC, consolidate results and conduct result analysis on CSK-2 outcomes and development pathways.	CSK-2 action on track; progress reported as required, better synchronized results such as “from comprehensive observation to comprehensive predictions” in the action via collaborations.	•	•	•	•	/	30,000 (15,000 one staff salary /year*2 years)	CSK-2 support office (Laoshan Laboratory)
D.1.2	Organize International Steering Group session, ECOP meetings and regional group meetings, workshops and other events to strengthen partnerships and engage potential contributors	CSK-2 events organized and partnerships explored and strengthened		•		•	48,000 (8000 travel cost for 4 officers from WESTPAC office+40,000 travel support for 20 persons)	134,000 (7,000 one meeting expense*2+30 participants*20 00 travel expenses*2)	Core RP allocation; MS

6. Strategic recommendations for future development

- ☐ Sustain coordinated research on the Kuroshio and its adjacent regions, coordinate endorsed projects to conduct multi-platform observations to capture key physical and ecological processes;
- ☐ Boost scientific outputs and deepen integrated result analysis for better understanding of the Kuroshio system;
- ☐ Develop the CSK-2 Data Portal, improve metadata and quality control, and provide search function to advance data sharing;

6. Strategic recommendations for future development

- Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation with governments, climate forecasting agencies, fisheries enterprises and fishing communities. Translate research outputs into evidence base for marine policy formulation, ecological conservation and sustainable fisheries to deliver tangible societal benefits.

The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want

- Enhance engagement with operational agencies of member states;
- Foster sustained dialogues with diverse stakeholders;
- Initiate co-design (or re-design) processes with targeted stakeholder groups.

