



UN 42: The WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference & UN Ocean Decade Regional Conferences (2021-2030)

Wenxi Zhu and all contributing partners
IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific &
Decade Coordination Office for the Western Pacific

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

WESTPAC International Scientific Conferences & Intergovernmental Sessions since 1986



Host Country	International Scientific Symposium/Conference	Host Country	Intergovernmental Session
		China	Sixteenth Session, Hangzhou China, 10-12 November 2026
		Japan	Fifteenth Session, Tokyo, Japan, 11-13 March 2025
Philippines Manila, 20-23 April 2027	12 th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference & 3 rd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference <i>"From Knowledge to Action: Connecting Science, Policy, and Society for a Resilient Western Pacific"</i>	Indonesia	Fourteenth Session, Jakarta, Indonesia, 2-5 April 2023
Thailand Bangkok, 22-25 April 2024	Eleventh WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference & 2 nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference <i>"Accelerating Ocean Science Solutions for Sustainable Development"</i>	Bangladesh	Thirteenth Session 22-25 April 2021, Virtual
Thailand Bangkok, 25-26 Nov 2021	UN Ocean Decade Kickoff Conference for the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas	Philippines	Twelfth Session Manila, the Philippines, 2-5 April, 2019
Indonesia Yogyakarta, 2020	Eleventh WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference (cancelled due to the COVID pandemic)	China	Eleventh Session Qingdao, China, 21-23 April 2017
China Qingdao, 17-20 April 2017	Tenth IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Conference <i>"Advancing Ocean Knowledge, Fostering Sustainable Development: from the Indo-Pacific to the Globe"</i>	Thailand	Tenth Session Phuket, Thailand, 12-15 May 2015
Vietnam Nha Trang, 22-25 April 2014	Ninth IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium <i>"A Healthy Ocean for Prosperity in the Western Pacific: Scientific Challenges and Possible Solutions"</i>	Republic of Korea	Ninth Session Busan, Republic of Korea, 9-12 May 2012
Republic of Korea Busan, 28-31 March 2011	Eighth IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium <i>"Ocean Climate and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Pacific"</i>	Indonesia	Eighth Session Bali, Indonesia, 10-13 May 2010
Malaysia Sabah, 21-25 May 2008	Seventh IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium <i>"Natural Hazards and Changing Marine Environment in the Western Pacific"</i>	Malaysia	Seventh Session Sabah, Malaysia, 26-29 May 2008
China Hangzhou, 19-23 April 2004	Sixth IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium <i>"Challenges for Marine Science in the Western Pacific"</i>	Vietnam	Sixth Session Nha Trang, Vietnam, 23-27 May 2005
Republic of Korea Seoul, 27-31 August 2001	Fifth IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium <i>"Ocean Science at the Dawn of a new Millennium"</i>	Australia	Fifth Session Fremantle, Australia, 9-13 September 2002
Japan Okinawa, 2-7 February 1998	Fourth IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium <i>"Role of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development"</i>	Republic of Korea	Fourth Session Seoul, Republic of Korea, 22-26 Mar 1999
Indonesia Bali, 22-26 Nov. 1994	Third IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium <i>"Sustainability of the Marine Environment: Review of the WESTPAC Programme, with Particular Reference to ICAM"</i>	Japan	Third Session Tokyo, Japan, 26 February – 1 March 1996
Malaysia Penang, 2-6 December 1991	Second IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium <i>"Marine Science and Management of Marine Areas of the Western Pacific"</i>	Thailand	Second Session Bangkok, Thailand, 25-29 January 1993
Australia Townsville, 1-6 Dec 1986	First IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium <i>"Marine Science in the Western Pacific: the Indo-Pacific Convergence"</i>	China	First Session Hangzhou, China, 5-9 February 1990

WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium

(renamed as “International Marine Science Conference ” in 2014)



Australia, 1986



Malaysia, 1991



Indonesia, 1994



Japan, 1998

Korea, 2001



Korea, 2011



Malaysia, 2008



China, 2004



Vietnam, 2014
About 550 participants



China, 2017
About 700 participants



Thailand, 2024
About 1200 participants



Regional Planning Workshop, Japan, 2019



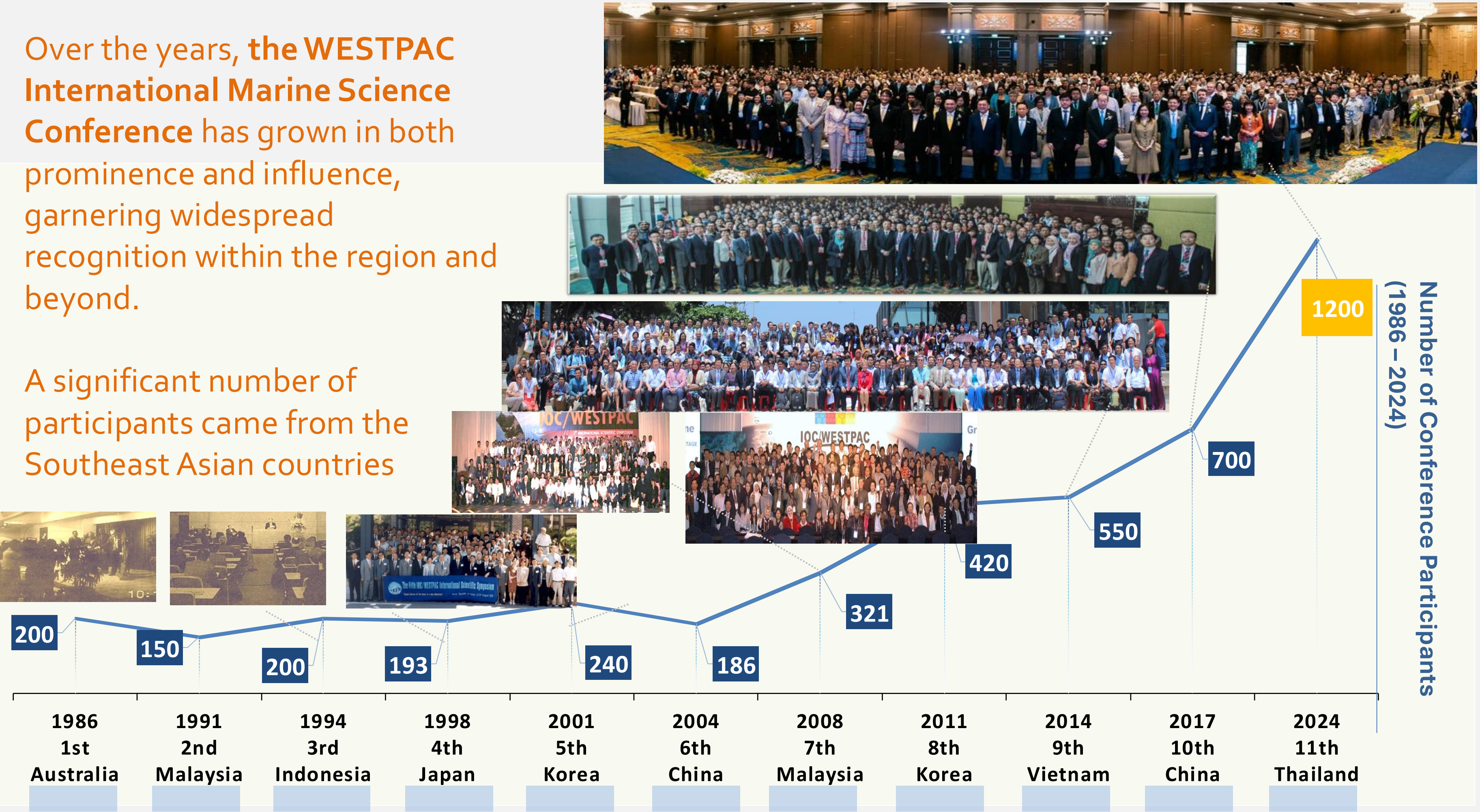
Regional Dialogue on Co-designing Ocean Science for the Ocean We Want, Online, 2020



UN Ocean Decade Kickoff Conference for the Western Pacific, Online, 2021

Over the years, the **WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference** has grown in both prominence and influence, garnering widespread recognition within the region and beyond.

A significant number of participants came from the Southeast Asian countries

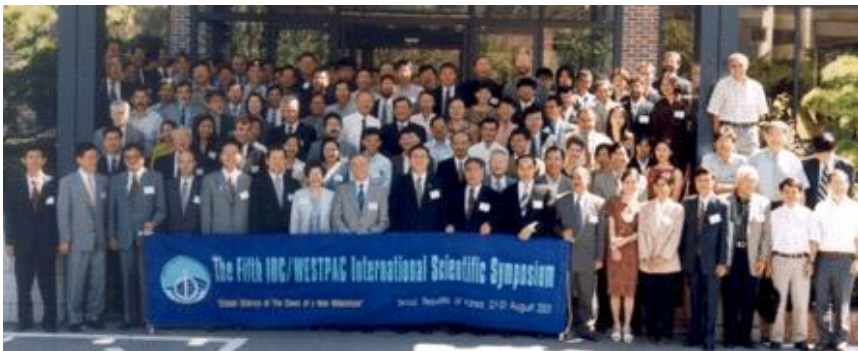


Historical milestones and growth



1986–1998 | Building the scientific community

The symposia rotated through **Townsville(1986), Penang (1991), Bali (1994), and Okinawa (1998)**. The 1998 symposium attracted approximately 193 participants and featured 80 presentations and six workshops, demonstrating an expanding programme beyond conventional scientific presentations



2001–2011 | Expanding regional collaboration

Conferences in **Seoul (2001) , Hangzhou (2024), Sabah (2028), and Busan (2011)** strengthened international scientific cooperation. The 2011 symposium in Busan attracted **more than 340 scientists** from 18 countrie



2014 | A major transition — Nha Trang, Vietnam

With **550 participants** from 21 countries, the ninth symposium emphasized scientific challenges and **possible solutions** for ocean health and prosperity. In 2014, the event was renamed the WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference, reflecting its growing scale and significance



2017 | Strengthening science for sustainable development

The tenth conference in Qingdao brought together over **700 participants** from 21 countries, with 22 scientific sessions and eight workshops, under the theme **Advancing Ocean Knowledge, Fostering Sustainable Development**.



2021–2027 | From knowledge to action

The 2024 Bangkok conference and the forthcoming Manila conference strengthen co-design, partnerships, and the development of actionable ocean science initiatives.



2nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference & 11th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference

"Accelerating Ocean Science Solutions for Sustainable Development"



Bangkok, Thailand: 22 - 25 April 2024



WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference: From Scientific Exchange to Ocean Science Solutions



- *Advance ocean knowledge and innovation through scientific exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration.*
- *Strengthen scientific capacities, prompt South-South and North-South cooperation, particularly among early career ocean professionals and developing countries.*
- *Bridge science, policy, and society to inform decision-making and address pressing regional ocean challenges.*
- *Catalyze partnerships and transformative ocean science actions to advance sustainable ocean development.*



Conference Structure



7 Keynotes

Invited speakers of different ocean stakeholder groups shared their insider knowledge and fresh perspectives in the frontier line of Ocean research, governance, management and public engagement.

25 Scientific Sessions & 1 Special Forum

Provide opportunities to present, share and exchange the latest scientific knowledge, identify knowledge gaps, and explore transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable ocean and livelihoods in the region.

Special Forum on the South China Sea, held in collaboration with UNEP/GEF SCS SAP project.

13 Decade Action Workshops

Bring together Action partners, review their development progress, catalyze new partnerships, and deliberate on action plans, enhance the co-develop and co-design process of the Decade Actions.

1 Townhall & 8 Side Events

Gathers regional ocean professionals and experts, to develop a better understanding of the Vision 2030, share perspectives and actionable recommendations in the region, and foster engagement of partners and stakeholders in the Decade development and implementation,.

8 Side Event showcasing the latest development in ocean science and technology in the region.

11 Decade Action Incubators

Serves as an interactive forum to catalyze partnerships, strengthen dialogue from ocean knowledge generators to knowledge users, initiate co-designing processes, and facilitate the development of potential Decade programmes or projects.

6 Young Scientist Award 2024

5 Outstanding Scientist Award 2024

9 Winners of the Photo Competition on Coral Reef Restoration 2024

42 Travel Grant Recipients

**Early Career and Mid-Career Ocean Professionals Statement
Bangkok Declaration**



Anticipated activities and outputs in 2027



IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)
Advancing knowledge and cooperation for a healthy ocean and prosperous society

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**12th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference
& 3rd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference**

"From Knowledge to Action: Connecting Science, Policy, and Society for a Resilient Western Pacific"

Manila, the Philippines, 20–23 April 2027

**The Conference Website Now Open for
Registration and Abstract Submission**

A more detailed update on the preparations and key developments will follow under Agenda Item 5.1.

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
CROSS-CUTTING — RSC GOVERNANCE, SESSIONS, AND MEMBER STATE COMMUNICATION									
Cross-cutting G.1 : RSC session organization and intergovernmental process management									
G.1.1									
G.1.2									
Cross-cutting G.2: Member State communication, reporting and workplan monitoring									
G.2.1									
G.2.2	Preparation of the 4 th UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference and 13 th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference (to be held in 2030)	Conference programme developed, and website operational					10,000	15,000	

Building on great memories, stepping into bold actions





Thank You