



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC), c/o the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources of Thailand
9th Floor, the Government Complex Building B, 120 Chaengwattana Road, Lak Si, Bangkok 10210, Thailand
<http://iocwestpac.org> - fax: +66 (0)2 143 9245 - contact phone: +66 (0)2 141 1287-89 - E-mail: w.zhu@unesco.org

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

WESTPAC Workshop on
Harmful Jellyfish Sampling Protocol and Data Analysis in the Western Pacific

5-7 December 2017, Penang, Malaysia

Action required: To nominate suitable experts to the workshop, preferably no later than
15 October 2017

I am delighted to inform you that the WESTPAC Workshop on “Harmful Jellyfish Sampling Protocol and Data Analysis in the Western Pacific” will take place in Penang, Malaysia, 5-7 December 2017. The workshop will be kindly hosted by the Centre for Marine & Coastal Studies (CEMACS), Universiti Sains Malaysia.

As an initial step, this workshop was designed to: (i) establish a research network among scientists and institutions in the region; (ii) share and review existing jellyfish monitoring and research initiatives/techniques; (iii) identify the knowledge gaps and capacity need for harmful jellyfish monitoring and research; and (iv) standardize, if feasible, jellyfish monitoring, sampling and identification methods.

To this end, I encourage you to nominate suitable scientist(s) from your country with rich experience in jellyfish research or monitoring. Ideally, they should be able to lead and/or carry out jellyfish research and monitoring programme in their countries for moving forward. To facilitate your nomination, the concept paper of the workshop and the application form to be filled in are attached hereafter.

Given the limited financial resources available, a joint committee will be established for the selection of most suitable participants that would be provided with financial support. Updated information on the workshop will be made available, in due course, at the WESTPAC website (<http://iocwestpac.org>).

I would appreciate your assistance in providing details of suitable experts from your country by sending application forms duly completed to Ms Orathai Pongruktham at the WESTPAC Office (o.pongruktham@unesco.org), with a copy to Ms Nachapa Saransuth (n.saransuth@unesco.org) and Prof Dr Aileen Tan (aileen@usm.my) before **15 October 2017**.

I would take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Wenxi ZHU
Head, IOC Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

- Enclosures (2):
- I. Concept Paper on “**Enhancement of Sustainable Harmful Jellyfish Research & Networking in the Western Pacific**”
 - II. Application Form

ANNEX I

Concept Paper
Enhancement of Sustainable Harmful Jellyfish Research & Networking in WESTPAC Region

Justification

The occurrences of jellyfish in massive number (jellyfish blooms) have caused a lot of undesirable socio-economic impacts. They impede fishing trawling operations, damage fishing gears, interrupt the operation of desalination plants and clog coastal power plants. In addition, it is also reported that the blooms are also perilous to swimmers with the effects of a jellyfish sting ranging across the species from painless to tingling to agony and death.

Considering the negative impacts of jellyfish blooms, and our limited knowledge on the distribution, diversity, trends and environmental triggers of jellyfish blooms, it is imperative to examine our present knowledge, identify gaps and challenges, strengthen scientific collaborations and build capacity for jellyfish research .

To this end, the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) established, at its 11th Session (21-23 April 2017, Qingdao, China), a regional programme with a view to assisting its member states to sustainably enhance harmful jellyfish research and network in the Western Pacific and provide scientific guidance for remediation measures.

Workshop Objectives

The first regional training workshop entitled “Harmful Jellyfish Sampling Protocol and Data Analysis in the Western Pacific” aims to

- establish a jellyfish monitoring and research network among scientists, institutions, and agencies in the region;
- share and learn from each other the existing jellyfish monitoring and research approaches, and further develop regional capability of research and monitoring on jellyfish in the region;
- identify challenges and gaps in monitoring and assessing impacts of jellyfish and jellyfish blooms;
- discuss the possibility of developing a jellyfish joint monitoring plan, and a joint research on jellyfish diversity, distribution and abundance.

Proposed follow-up Workshops.

Based on outputs of this workshop, the second regional workshop, expected to be organized about 8 months later, will focus on identification of harmful jellyfish from selected taxonomic groups focusing on enhancing regional capacity and encouraging young scientist participation in jellyfish researches.

The third workshop, one year after the second one, will be convened to discuss on the awareness and education programme on harmful jellyfish for local schools and related tourism industry stakeholders. This third workshop aims to promote the involvement of the local

communities on jellyfish issues and build community network in the WESTPAC region where the local knowledge, experience and scientific data on harmful jellyfish can be shared.

Toward the end of the programme, a publication on “WESTPAC Field Guide of Harmful Jellyfish in the Western Pacific Region” will be produced.

Tentative Program for the first workshop

The three-day workshop will comprise of plenary sessions and breakout sessions.

During plenary sessions, invited keynote presentations will be given about jellyfish sampling protocols, present practices of harmful jellyfish monitoring, and basic knowledge of harmful jellyfish identification.

In addition, the national experts nominated and/or identified from each country will be invited to provide reports on

- Major issues on harmful jellyfish in the respective countries
- Research and monitoring efforts of the harmful jellyfish.
- Related activities that have been carried out on education and awareness (if any).
- Perspectives of a regional networking to collaboration on harmful jellyfish related aspects.

The participants will break into several groups (probably by sub-regions) to have detailed discussions about gaps, challenges, and opportunities and to initiate a cooperative regional network to monitor and conduct research on the occurrences and impacts of harmful jellyfish.

Qualification of invited experts

Preferably two scientists will be invited from each country. Ideally, *they should have experience conducting jellyfish research and monitoring, and are able to lead and carry out jellyfish research and monitoring in their countries moving forward.*

ANNEX II

**WESTPAC Workshop on Harmful Jellyfish Sampling Protocol &
Data Analysis in the Western Pacific**
Penang, Malaysia, 5 - 7 December 2017

APPLICATION FORM

The would nominate the following expert to participate in the workshop.

First name		<input type="checkbox"/> Dr / <input type="checkbox"/> Mr / <input type="checkbox"/> Ms
Family name		
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Nationality		
Date of birth		
Education level	<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> Master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Graduated from: Major:	
Job title		
Affiliation		
Years of experience in current job		
Address		
Tel. number(s)		
Fax number(s)		
Email(s)		
Contact person, in case of emergency		
Dietary Restriction	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> No pork <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify	
Major and/or Research Area		
Any Training Courses/Workshops attended before, related to this workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify their titles: (a) (b)	

Self-descriptions and brief statement of research activities that is linked to this workshop, and related publication if any (**This part is crucial for qualifying, so separate pages could be annexed to this form**)

Please provide with name and E-mail address of two referees whom can be contacted to support your application

Referee #1	Name	
	Job title	
	Affiliation	
	Email	
	Tel	
Referee #2	Name	
	Job title	
	Affiliation	
	Email	
	Tel	

Financial assistance

- Nominee could cover his/her own expense.
- Nominee would apply for the financial assistance.
 - Fully (including round trip airfare, accommodation);
 - On airfare only in the amount of US\$_____;
 - On accommodation only.

Date:
(Signature of Head/Director of the Institution)

Please return the completed form with his/her CV (with a 2-inch photo), by fax or e-mail to the following address before **15 October 2017**:

Ms Orathai Pongruktham
IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
Fax: +66 2 143 9245; E-mail: o.pongruktham@unesco.org

With a copy to:

Ms Nachapa Saransuth
IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
Fax: +66 2 143 9245; E-mail: n.saransuth@unesco.org

and

Prof Dr Aileen Tan, Centre for Marine & Coastal Studies (CEMACS),
Fax: +60 46533500, E-mail: aileen@usm.my