

Abstract

SESSION 1:

A Decade of Partnerships in Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia: Synergies and Achievements

WORKSHOP 1.3:

Coastal and Ocean Governance in the Seas of East Asia: From Nation to Region

Advancing Marine Science for Coastal and Ocean Governance in the West Pacific

Vo Si Tuan

Vice Chair
IOC/WESTPAC



Wenxi Zhu

IOC/WESTPAC

The Western Pacific and its adjacent regions are of vast social and economic importance with over 70% of the population living in and relying economically on coastal areas, and more than half of the world's annual merchant tonnage traversing here. Meanwhile, the ocean in the region is among the richest and most productive in the world as a home to some 70% of the world's coral species, and is universally recognized as one major influence on the global climate system. Given that the Western Pacific and its adjacent regions are vital to human welfare and their development efforts, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO established the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) in 1989. WESTPAC with 22 member states recently is committed to fostering cooperation among scientists, institutes and countries in the Western Pacific and adjacent regions in the study of the ocean, in order to assist countries in sustainably managing their ocean and coastal biodiversity and resources, protecting coastal populations, and maintaining ecosystem services in line with their own priorities and needs. Recently WESTPAC has coordinated a series of projects/programmes under three prior themes, including: ocean processes and climate in the Indo-Pacific; ecosystem health; and marine biodiversity and seafood security and safety. The Sub-Commission endorsed adaptive and self-driven approaches to capacity development in the region with guiding principles to prioritize the inclusion of capacity development as one of key components in WESTPAC programmes in order to attain their research goals, focus on regional and national needs, and foster North-South and South-South cooperation. In this sense, it is meaningful for WESTPAC and PEMSEA to strengthen their partnership in order to build scientific knowledge and apply that knowledge for societal benefit and improve management and governance through science-based advice.



THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2015
16-21 November 2015 • Danang, Vietnam

Global Targets Local Benefits

Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

About Vo Si Tuan:

Mr Tuan is a Senior Scientist of the Institute of Oceanography of Vietnam Academy of Science & Technology. He is a recognised expert on marine biology and in public awareness raising through his wide range of publications, lectures and guidelines on marine ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, fisheries biology and protected area management. Dr. Tuan was Vice Director of Institute of Oceanography, Viet Nam during 2001 – 2005 and then appointed as the Senior Expert of Division of Global Environmental Facility Coordination of United Nations Environment Programme from January 2005 to January 2008. He returned to the Institute of Oceanography and was appointed as Vice Director during 2008 – 2013 and then Director of the Institute since 2013. He is elected as Vice - Chair of IOC/WESTPAC for 2012-2017. He is also Associate Professor on marine ecology.