



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of UNESCO)**

**Eleventh Intergovernmental Session of the IOC  
Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XI)  
Qingdao, China, 21-23 April 2017**

Item **3.1** of the Provisional Agenda

**STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

In accordance with rule of procedure 8.1(a), the Chairman of WESTPAC delivers an oral statement on recent developments in the work of the Sub-Commission and perspectives for the coming years, and beyond.

1. I took my role as the Chairman of IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) since 2012. It is my good time to work with colleague and friend in the region. I learn and gain a lot of experience during my period of WESTPAC's Chair. I would like to thank to all of member state of the WESTPAC to give me an opportunity. The strong support of the WESTPAC member states is very importance to make the WESTPAC to be stronger and stronger. I believe that our spirit will bring the progresses of scientific value to serve our social and economy of the member state and region. As we all know very well that the impacts of climate change, degradation of marine environment and resources become the issues in most countries around the globe including our region. Those issues could not be solved by any countries. It need cooperation at the national level and among the countries within and outside region. The project/programme and activities of WESTPAC have been well progressing and implementing to serve the need of member states and even beyond the region to the globe, especially the global programme under the leadership of UNESCO-IOC.

2. During the last decade, WESTPAC activities have been increasing rapidly. The growth of the WESTPAC also generated a lot of data and information and marine knowledge to support the economic growth of the countries and region. It makes the WESTPAC to be one of the most successful and outstanding among the IOC's Regional Subsidiary Bodies. This successful was build up on the failure and successful in the past.

3. I believe that under the leadership of the new officers, we as member state of the IOC and WESTPAC will keep continuing support the WESTPAC. As we know that ocean play very important role on climate, food security, and economy. We need to be well understand its status and change to help us to be well plan for using and protecting the ocean. The implementation of UN on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) was taken with willingness by the member state to implement. The SDG14 (left below the water), is directly related to the ocean. Some of their targets have been implementing under WESTPAC's project/programme for some time, especially on the technology and knowledge transfer which is one of very concern and strong request by countries in the region. The WESTPAC has been keeping continue to provide capacity building in all programme/project as a key activity. Especially, the establishment of two Regional Training and Research on Ocean Dynamic and Climate in Qingdao, China, and on Marine Biodiversity in Jakarta, Indonesia, is one of the model for capacity building under IOC. The capacity building could not be successes without contribution and strong support from the member state. I believe that in the way of the WESTPAC's operation will be able to serve the need of the member states and can get support to keep it to be maintained. However, there are still many challenge issues for the WESTPAC to keep addressing existing issues on one hand and establish neues on emerging issues under the framework of WESTPAC? With the mechanism are using by the WESPACT, such as advisor group, regular communication by correspondent or face to face meeting, site visit, strong support of member state and close cooperation etc., will be able to cross those problems. I sincerely expect that member states will continue their strong ownership over WESTPAC as they have been doing so in the past. I could not miss pointing out one of very important engine driving WESTPAC, i.e., the WESTPAC office, especially Mr Wenxi Zhu and his staff who have been working diligently behind the success of WESTPAC. They are the greatest assets of WESTPAC and IOC. In this sense, I believe all countries in the region would join me in urging IOC to take effective motivation measures to keep them for WESTPAC and IOC.

4. Finally, I would like to thank all member countries, friends and colleagues who are providing strong support to me during my 5 years of the Chairman of WESTPAC. I enjoy working together with all of you. It was my wonderful period and will be in my memory forever. I do promise I will keep contributing to and working with WESTPAC.