IOC Circular Letter No. 2675  
(English only)  
5 July 2017

To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with the IOC in the Western Pacific

Cc : Permanent Delegates/Observers Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States in Western Pacific; National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States in Western Pacific IOC; Other IOC Member States IOC and WESTPAC Officers

Subject: WESTPAC Training Course on Molecular Taxonomy based on Single DNA Barcoding and Metabarcoding – IOC Regional Training and Research Center on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health, Jakarta, Indonesia, 25 September–6 October 2017

Action required: To nominate one or more participants to the Training Course, preferably no later than 31 July 2017

You may recall that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission endorsed in 2008 the “IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers” initiated by its Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC). The initiative aims to improve regional capability and capacity on marine science in a sustainable and systematic manner, through the establishment of IOC Regional Training and Research Centres (RTRCs) in national oceanographic institutes or universities, and regular provision of training and research opportunities in their domains of focus to young scientists mainly from developing countries within and outside the region.

Thanks to the strong commitment of the Government of Indonesia and after satisfactory evaluation, a Regional Training and Research Centre on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health (hereinafter referred to as “MarBEST Centre”) was inaugurated in the Research Centre for Oceanography–Indonesian Institute of Sciences (RCO-LIPI) on 17 October 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The MarBEST Centre is committed to addressing the “taxonomic impediment” in tropical marine biodiversity studies in view of the declining numbers of taxonomic specialists on specific organisms.

As an initial activity, the MarBEST Centre conducted its first training course on Crustacean Taxonomy at the MarBEST Center Building on the Pari Island, Jakarta, Indonesia (17–29 October

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2016), with the objective of enhancing the capacity of scientists and lectures in the Western Pacific and adjacent regions for taxonomic research on tropical marine biota, especially for crustacean taxonomy.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the second training course at the MarBEST Centre is being scheduled from 25 September to 6 October 2017 upon the kind invitation of the Government of Indonesia. It will focus on Molecular Taxonomy based on Single DNA Barcoding and Metabarcoding. Following the constructive suggestions and overwhelming expression of interest received from the previous trainings, this training course will last for two weeks with the number of trainees limited to 25.

The course is primarily targeted at young researchers and lecturers from universities and research institutions from Member States in the Western Pacific and adjacent regions, including ASEAN countries, and various stakeholders engaged in marine conservation and environmental protection. Priority will be given to young scientists and junior technical staff who have knowledge and/or working experience in molecular marine taxonomy.

Given the limited financial resources available, some of the most qualified applicants may receive financial support upon request after careful selection by a committee established jointly by Indonesia and WESTPAC. Details and updated information regarding this course will be made available at the WESTPAC website (http://iocwestpac.org) and the Indonesian Institute of Science website (http://lipi.go.id).

On behalf of IOC, I encourage you to nominate one or more qualified experts to join the course using the attached application form. Applications should be sent before 31 July 2017 to Ms Hilda Novianty (hildanovianty2012@gmail.com), with a copy to Ms Rianta Pratiwi (pratiwiafriadi@gmail.com), and Ms Nachapa Saransuth (n.saransuth@unesco.org).

I take this opportunity to thank you once again for your cooperation and look forward to the active participation of suitable trainees from your country in this training course.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (2):
I. General Information on the Training Course
II. Application Form
ANNEX I

WESTPAC TRAINING COURSE ON MOLECULAR TAXONOMY BASED ON SINGLE DNA BARCODING AND METABARCODING
UNESCO/IOC Regional Training and Research Center on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health
Jakarta, Indonesia 25 September – 6 October 2017

GENERAL INFORMATION

Introduction

The UNESCO/IOC Regional Training and Research Center on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health (hereinafter referred to as “MarBEST Center”) was inaugurated on 17 October 2016 at the host institute of the Research Center for Oceanography-Indonesian Institute of Sciences (RCO-LIPI), Jakarta, Indonesia. The Agreement on the MarBEST Center establishment was signed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, at the Eleventh Intergovernmental Session of UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XI) in Qingdao, China in April 2017.

The MarBEST Center offered its first training course on Crustacean Taxonomy right after the MarBEST Center’s launch in October 2016. The training covered ocean biosystematics, crustacean species identifications and techniques, and scientific writing skills for publications. The first training course of MarBEST Center reached to more than 30 trainees from 10 countries.

As per the Agreement, “the objectives of the Center shall be to enhance the regional research capacity and capability on marine taxonomy and promote long-term assessment of ecosystem health through, among others, provisions of regular training courses in English once a year to students, young researchers and lecturers mainly from the developing member states of IOC in the Western Pacific.”

To this end, with the constructive suggestions and overwhelming interests received from the previous training course, this Training Course on Molecular Taxonomy based on Single DNA Barcoding and Metabarcoding will be held on 25 September – 6 October 2017.

Objectives and Scope of the Training course

This training course is designed to develop the capacity of member states in the Western Pacific (suitable candidates from outside the region will also be welcome), who are involved in molecular taxonomy of marine organisms. The training will cover topics related to Molecular Taxonomy based on Single DNA Barcoding and Metabarcoding study of various marine organisms in the tropical region including marine vertebrate, invertebrate (Insects, Mollusk, Polychaeta & Annelids, Crustaceans, Coelenterate, Cnidarians, Echinoderms), marine planktons, marine bacteria and virus, and marine plants (algae and sea grass).

Expected Outcomes

In addition to establishing the regional network of marine diversity research, the trainees are expected to improve their understanding of Molecular Taxonomy based on Single DNA Barcoding and Metabarcoding study.

Date and Venue

The training course will be conducted from 25 September to 6 October 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia. More information about this center and this training course can be found on the websites of WESTPAC (http://iocwestpac.org) and Indonesian Institute of Science (http://lipi.go.id).
Lecturers and Agenda for the Training Course

Experienced experts on molecular taxonomy of marine organisms within and outside the region will serve as lecturers of this training course. Lecturers and tentative training topics are listed as follows. Detailed agenda for the training course will be updated on the websites of WESTPAC (http://iocwestpac.org) and Indonesian Institute of Science (http://lipi.go.id).

Lecturers

Assoc Prof Dr Suchana Chavanich¹
Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Prof Forest Rohwer²
San Diego University, USA

Prof Dr Youn Ho Lee³
Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST), Republic of Korea

Dr Philip Borsa⁴
Institute of Research for Development (IRD), France

Dr Christopher Meyer⁵
Natural Museum, USA

Dr Nicholas Hubert⁶
Institute of Research for Development (IRD), France

Dr Albert Chokona⁷
South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB), South Africa

Dr Satoshi Yamamoto⁸
Kobe University, Japan

Dr Takahiro Yonezawa⁹
Fudan University, China

Dr Hagi Yulia Sugeha¹⁰
Research Center for Oceanography (RCO)-LIPI, Indonesia

Dr Irma Shita Arlyza¹¹
Research Center for Oceanography (RCO)-LIPI, Indonesia

Dr Yopi¹²
Research Center for Biotechnology- LIPI, Indonesia

Tentative Training Topics

Lectures
a. Present Status of Marine Biodiversity in the Indo-Pacific¹
b. Cell Biology: Structure and Function²
c. Introduction of Molecular Genetics³
d. Progress of Molecular Taxonomy on Marine Vertebrate⁴
e. Progress of Molecular Taxonomy on Marine Invertebrate⁵
f. Single DNA Barcoding in Invertebrate⁶
g. Single DNA barcoding in Vertebræ-Fish⁷
h. Environment-DNA/Meta-Barcoding-Fish⁸
i. Environment-DNA/Meta Barcoding- Plankton³
j. Practical Guide: Genetic data analysis in single DNA barcoding study⁷
k. Practical Guide: Genetic data analysis in metabarcoding study⁸
l. Practical Guide: Genetic data analysis in Molecular Phylogenetic & Evolution⁹
m. Practical Guide: Total DNA extraction and Gel Electrophoresis Procedures¹⁰
n. Practical Guide: PCR and Real Time PCR Procedures¹¹
o. Practical Guide: DNA Single Sequencing & NGS Procedures¹²
Field Sampling

a. Collecting genetic material at Pari Island, Indonesia
b. Total DNA extraction from environmental DNA samples at Pari Island, Indonesia

Genetic Laboratory Works

a. Total DNA extraction from individual sample at Genetic Lab of RCO-LIPI
b. PCR analysis at Genetic Lab of RCO-LIPI
c. RT PCR analysis at Genetic Lab of RCO-LIPI
d. DNA sequencing analysis at Genetic Lab of Research Center for Biotechnology-LIPI

Working Language

The training course will be conducted in English.

Trainees

Trainees will be selected mainly from WESTPAC member states with priority given to those young scientists and junior technical staff who have experience in molecular taxonomy of marine organism and/or have doctoral degrees in related major. The applicants should have a good command of English.

Qualification for Candidates:

1. Young researchers, lecturers and marine conservation managers (under 40 years old as of 1 July 2017) of IOC-WESTPAC member countries including ASEAN countries.

2. Candidate shall meet at least one of the criteria below:

   2.1 Holding bachelor, master and/or doctoral degree in molecular biology (please provide a copy of graduation certificate with the application)
   2.2 Minimum 1 year of work experience in molecular biology (please provide a formal letter of notification from the head of institute with the application)
   2.3 Attending a previous training related to molecular biology (please provide a training certificate with the application)

Financial Assistance for Participants

Financial support will be provided to trainees who are in need, particularly those from developing countries. A selection committee will be set-up with a view to selecting the most qualified participants among applications to receive financial assistance. The information filled in the attached application form will be of great help for the selection process.

Deadline for Application

The filled-in application form shall be sent to Ms Hilda Novianty with a copy to Ms Rianta Pratiwi, and Ms Nachapa Saransuth at the following addresses no later than 31 July 2017. All applicants will be informed of the final selection result no later than 7 August 2017. A certain number of self-funded applicants will be also selected to take part in this training course.

Visa

Selected trainees traveling to Indonesia probably need to apply for entry visa to Indonesia in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. Please check the visa requirements with the Embassy/Consulate of Indonesia in your country and apply for it as soon as possible. The local secretariat (Ms Hilda Novianty and Ms Rianta Pratiwi) will be glad to provide you any assistance upon your request.
Contacting Information

Ms Hilda Novianty
Technical Implementing Unit (TIU) – Pari Island
Indonesian Institute of Sciences
E-mail: hildanovianty2012@gmail.com

Ms Rianta Pratiwi
Research Center for Oceanography, Indonesian Institute of Sciences
E-mail: pratiwafriadi@gmail.com

Ms Nachapa Saransuth
Programme Assistant
UNESCO/IOC Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
Tel: +66 2 141 1288
Fax: +66 2 143 9245
E-mail: n.saransuth@unesco.org
ANNEX II

WESTPAC TRAINING COURSE ON MOLECULAR TAXONOMY BASED ON SINGLE DNA BARCODING AND METABARCODING
UNESCO/IOC Regional Training and Research Center on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health
Jakarta, Indonesia 25 September – 6 October 2017

APPLICATION FORM

The Government of ………………………………………………………………………. proposes the nomination of the following trainee to participate in the Training Course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First name</th>
<th>□ Dr / □ Mr / □ Ms</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family name</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>□ Male □ Female</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nationality</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of birth</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education level</td>
<td>□ Bachelor □ Master □ PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduated from:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Major:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor/Advisor:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job title</td>
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<td>Affiliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years of experience in current job</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tel. number(s)</td>
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<td>Fax number(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email(s)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact person, in case of emergency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dietary Restriction</td>
<td>□ None □ No pork □ No beef □ Bachelor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Other, please specify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major and/or Research Area</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Previous Training Courses/Workshops attended and related to this training course</td>
<td>□ No □ Yes, please specify the workshop titles:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(b)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Self-descriptions and brief statement of research activities that is linked to this training course, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referee #1</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Tel</th>
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</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referee #2</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Tel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Financial assistance

- [ ] I could cover my expense.
- [□] I would apply for the financial assistance.
  - [□] Fully (including round trip airfare, accommodation);
  - [□] On airfare in the amount of US$_____
  - [□] On accommodation.

Date: ……………………………… .................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................. ………………………………

(Signature of Head/Director of the Institution)

Please return the completed form with your CV (with a 2-inch photo), by fax or e-mail to the following addresses before **31 July 2017**:

**Ms Hilda Novianty**
Technical Implementing Unit (TIU) – Pari Island
Indonesian Institute of Sciences
E-mail: hildanovianty2012@gmail.com

**With a copy to:**

**Ms Rianta Pratiwi**
Research Center for Oceanography, Indonesian Institute of Sciences
E-mail: pratiwiafriadi@gmail.com

**Ms Nachapa Saransuth**
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