



Acronym: WESTPAC
Full Name: IOC SUB-COMMISSION FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC
Website: www.unescobkk.org/special-programmes/westpac/
Established: 1977
Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Areas of expertise: Development and promotion of international oceanographic research programmes; development of educational and training programmes and technical assistance; sharing of ocean data, knowledge and information; and effective planning of a global ocean observing system.

Main Partners and collaborations: Nord Pacific Marine Organization (PICES), Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC).

Short Description:

In 1965, the IOC began with a regional programme in the Western Pacific. Afterwards, a Regional Committee for the Western Pacific was established in 1977. Initially emphasis of the tasks of the committee was on fundamental research.

In 1989 the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific was transformed into the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC). Its main task was to develop, coordinate and implement regional marine scientific research programmes, ocean observations and services, data and information management and capacity building, all these in the context of priority interests of the Member States in the region.

Main activities:

The WESTPAC main activities are:

- Development and promotion of international oceanographic research programmes.
- Effective planning for the establishment and co-ordination of operational regional components of a global ocean observing system.
- Development of educational and training programmes and technical assistance essential for marine research and systematic observations of the ocean and its coastal zone, especially in developing countries.
- Sharing of ocean data, knowledge and information obtained from research, observation and monitoring with emphasis on the proper interpretation and management.

Contact:

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