IOC Circular Letter No. 2485
(Available in English)

To: Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC of IOC Member States in the WESTPAC region
IODE National Coordinators for Oceanographic Data Management in the WESTPAC region
IODE National Coordinators for Marine Information Management in the WESTPAC region

Cc: Co-Chairs of the IOC Committee on IODE
Permanent Delegations/Observer Missions to UNESCO and National Commissions of IOC Member States in the WESTPAC region

Subject: IODE National Coordinators for Data Management/ IODE National Coordinators for Marine Information Management (WESTPAC Region)

Sir, Madam,

Through this Letter we would like to invite you to provide or confirm the names and addresses of the IODE national coordinator for data management and IODE national coordinator for marine information (library) management in your country. Regarding the IODE national coordinator for marine information management we also refer to the web page http://www.iode.org/nc-mim where the revised terms of reference for this national coordinator are provided.

We recall that during its 22nd Session (11–15 March 2013), the IODE Committee noted with regret the low level of activity of the Ocean Data and Information Network for the Western Pacific region (ODIN-WESTPAC) and urged Member States to accept the invitation to work together in this region.

In order to stimulate activity the following work plan was adopted by the Committee:

1. Confirm national focal points for Data Management and Marine Information Management. Send a Circular Letter to both IOC national focal points and IODE national coordinators for data management and for marine information management. Responses to be requested by end May 2013.
2. ODINWESTPAC Working Group meeting proposed to be held in NMDIS, China, in the 4th quarter 2013; invite Chair IOC/WESTPAC, Head IOC/WESTPAC Office and representative from IODE. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the development of a strategy for the ODINWESTPAC project, identify activities for the region, and develop a work plan for intersessional period.

3. Prepare a draft agenda by end June 2013 to be discussed by Working Group members at the IOC Assembly. Final agenda to be agreed and distributed by end July 2013.

4. A training course proposed for 2014 with details to be decided at Working Group meeting of 2013.

5. Organize a short workshop (1/2 to 1 day) on ODINWESTPAC activities at the IOC WESTPAC Scientific Symposium, Na Trang, Viet Nam in 2014.

6. Promote the implementation of the IODE QMF (Quality Management Framework) for all National Oceanographic Data Centres (NODC) in ODINWESTPAC

The current Circular Letter represents action 1 of the work plan. As soon as we have received responses from all WESTPAC Member States we will then be able to proceed with the planning of the ODINWESTPAC Working Group meeting.

In order to enable us to proceed with the work plan in a timely fashion, we will appreciate your reply not later than 30 May 2013. Responses should be sent to Mr Peter Pissierssens, Head of the IOC Project Office for IODE (e-mail: p.pissierssens@unesco.org or fax: +32-59-79 52 20).

Looking forward to a successful Session I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO