

The present status of UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

*Yutaka Michida¹

1. Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute University of Tokyo

United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (hereafter the Decade) was launched on January 1, 2021, through the Resolution A/RES/75/239 of UNGA at its 75th Session in December 2020. The Decade was initially proposed to UNGA by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, aiming at intensively promoting ocean sciences towards the effective achievements of UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly its SGD-14 'Life below water.' The Decade defines in its implementation plan seven societal outcomes for the 'ocean we want' to be realized at the end of the Decade. The outcomes includes, 'a clean ocean', 'a healthy and resilient ocean', 'a productive ocean', 'a predicted ocean', 'a safe ocean', 'an accessible ocean', and 'an inspiring and engaging ocean.' Although some of the related activities such as the global kick-off meeting in Berlin scheduled to be held in May 2021 have been cancelled or postponed because of COVID-19 pandemic, the Decade commenced officially with the first call for actions announced and has been carried out basically as scheduled. Ocean research community of not only natural science but also socio-economic fields is actively preparing and implementing related studies, projects and programs contributing to the Decade at global, regional, and national levels. Japanese ocean community also has actively been participating in the global planning discussions and recently established the National Decade Committee by the end of March 2021, which was required in the Implementation Plan of the Decade to have in each IOC Member State. There are recognized some cross-cutting keywords as priorities in successful Decade implementation toward expected achievement of SDGs, including 'involvement of multi-stakeholders', 'engagement of early career professionals', 'promotion of ocean literacy initiatives', and 'enhancement of capacity development activities'.

Keywords: UN Decade of Ocean Science