

## Opening Remarks

PICES 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Governing Council Meeting

San Diego, California, USA

November 12, 2016

Carmel Lowe

Canadian Governing Council Member

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Madam Chair, colleague Governing Councillors, PICES staff, other attendees

On behalf of my colleague Canadian Council member, Dr. Arran McPherson, who sends her regrets at not being able to attend, and our colleagues Darlene Smith and Kim Houston who are in attendance today, I would like to acknowledge how pleased we are to be with you here at this 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. Foremost we would like to extend a very special thank-you to the United States, the local organizing committee, NOAA and the PICES secretariat for making this special event so memorable. The venue is wonderful, the organization and running of the event has been excellent, and the science that we have heard throughout the past week has been really excellent.

The theme for this 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting:

### **Celebrating the past and imagining the future**

is particularly relevant. There have been some significant accomplishments over the PICES years including the development of modelling frameworks that not only integrate what were once distinct physical and biogeochemical models but also to include higher trophic levels. And there have been the advances in our ability to observe and understand changes in large-scale atmospheric and ocean patterns across the Pacific that led to the development of the concept of ecosystem regime shifts that has become a scientific underpinning of fisheries management. Looking forward, the accomplishments of FUTURE to date and the objectives it strives to achieve in the remaining four years offer the promise of taking our understanding of the cause and effects of ecosystem changes to a whole new level of understanding.

The Science conference this week has been full of presentations of the highest caliber science in a wide variety of topics. New collaborations no doubt have been formed and existing ones strengthened. Hearing from Young Scientists at each session was a highlight for me and I hope that many of them are here 25 years from now, mentoring and teaching the next generation of scientists.

This week here in the United States has ushered in a change, recall that last year at the annual meeting in China, Canada elected a new federal Government too. Our new Government has demonstrated a very strong commitment to evidence-based decision making and ensuring that our evolving understanding of ecosystems and climate change are considered in all their decisions. To demonstrate this commitment, we have seen increased investments in science in general and in particular ocean science. These investments are intended to ensure the health of our fish stocks, to support sustainable aquaculture, and to strengthen our ability to assess and mitigate cumulative effects from various ecosystem stressors. Just this week while we are here they have

provided further funding to ensure Canada had a strengthened ability to respond to threats in our marine environment. So for us, these are very exciting time and will allow us to increase our contributions to PICES objectives in the coming years.

With that Madam chair, we look forward to our discussions today and tomorrow concerning the business of our organization.

Thank you

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Haiwen Zhang

China Governing Council Member

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Distinguished Madam chair, executive secretary and all the GC members and colleagues, Good Morning:

We are very glad to be here, the beautiful sunny city—San Diego of US to join the 2016 annual meeting of PICES. This annual meeting is quite special with the celebration of PICES 25 years anniversary. This is a really good chance for all scientists and decision-makers from member states to review the past 25 years, and design the blueprint of the PICES future. We are confident that all are satisfied with the past achievements and bright future of PICES. In order to celebrate PICES 25 anniversary, we printed a brochure this year and shared with all of GC members and secretariat today just before the GC meeting.

To take this opportunity, I would like to express our appreciation for the local organizer for their hospitality and good job to hold such a great event, and the excellent work by the PICES Secretariat, which are the base to guarantee everything going smoothly.

As we know, PICES is getting more and more attractive during the past 25 years, one indicator is that more and more scientists from 6 member States and other countries and organizations to participate in the meeting. China, as one of the member States, joined PICES at the very beginning and keep efforts to make our contribution and fulfill our responsibilities. This year Chinese participants reach an abroad maximum, nearly 90 registered, although 13 could not come here due to visa problem.

Finally, I wish the GC meeting have great success and all of our colleagues in the health and smooth work!

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Junichiro Otaka

Japan Governing Council Member

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Madam Chair,

Distinguished members of the Governing Council of PICES,

On behalf of Japanese delegation, first I would like to give my sincere appreciation to the Government of the United States, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Secretariat of PICES, for all the work to prepare for this annual meeting at San Diego, which commemorates 25 years anniversary of PICES in wonderful hospitality. As a delegate of one of the original member states of PICES, I'm proud of the splendid scientific achievements over the 25 years' history of PICES.

We are delighted that the Wooster Award came to Dr. Seiichi Saito, professor of Hokkaido University, and the POMA Award came to the 137° East Longitude Transect Observation conducted by Japan Meteorological Agency, in this commemorative opportunity. As Japan has made its effort to the development of marine science, it is committed to continue such effort to the future.

Oceans have been gaining more and more attention in the context of international politics for the recent years. The G7 Science and Technology Ministers meeting, which Japan hosted this May, highlighted "the Future of the Seas and Oceans" as one of the main agenda, and emphasized in its communique the importance of science-based management, conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources. This was further endorsed by the leaders in the G7 Ise-Shima Summit.

The ocean is now broadly recognized as a key driver of sustainable human wellbeing, as a source of economy, food, energy, environment, innovation, among others. In this perspective, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development last year, which includes "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development" as one of its 17 goals. Japan is putting forth its best possible efforts to implement this Agenda under the Headquarters lead directly by our Prime Minister.

Furthermore, the Paris Agreement adopted in COP21 last December required us to strengthen systematic observation of the climate system. Japan has made its best efforts to tackle climate change including scientific activity, and will continue to do so.

The theme of PICES 2016 is "Celebrating the Past, Imagining the Future." The future of the ocean is now a primary interest of the worlds' leaders. I hope PICES will advance further its excellent scientific activities, and also mobilize its full capacity to play a key role in the area of marine science.

I also wish to remind, as our delegation has made on previous occasions, the importance of post records of Governing Council meetings on the PICES website, to keep track of our important activities.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Laura Richards, the PICES chair, Dr. Tokio Wada, the PICES past chair, Dr. John Stein, the F&A chair, and Dr. Thomas Therriault, the Science Board Chair, for their longstanding contribution to PICES until this Meeting.

Thank you.

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Man Wook Heo

Korea Governing Council Member

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Thank you, I'm glad to participate in this meeting and I want to deliver my sincere congratulations for the 25th anniversary of PICES

As the theme of this annual meeting, "Celebrating the Past, Imagining the FUTURE", I think that this is the perfect opportunity for us to look back the past achievement and to think about our cooperation in the future

As we know, International society recently is trying to find out the solutions of many issues like "Climate Change" and "Sustainable Development" from the ocean.

Especially "2030 Sustainable Development Goals" under the UN, and "Paris Climate Change Agreement" has been made in order to deal with these global issues.

In this regard, PICES is a very important organization and Korean government has been trying to contribute to PICES.

We are going to hold the 3rd Early Career Scientists Conference next year and encouraging helping many young scientists to participate in PICES symposium.

And for the future we will also do our best to contribute more to PICES with finance as well as experts.

Lastly, I'd like to say thank you to Dr. Richards, Chair of the PICES for your excellent leadership for the last four years.

Once again, my congratulations to the 25th Anniversary of PICES.

Thank you

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Lev Bocharov

Russia Governing Council Member

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Dear Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

First of all, I would like to thank our U.S. colleagues for invitation to San Diego! On behalf of the Russian delegation I want to highlight strong efforts and excellent work of the Local Organizing Committee and PICES Secretariat on hosting the 25th PICES anniversary Meeting in such a beautiful and sunny place. The meeting turned out to be a success.

PICES achievements are hard to overestimate. PICES has grown up into a vigorous, dynamic and perspective international scientific community! PICES interests and goals are wide and challenging. They include a whole range of research activities associated with the North Pacific Ocean, from climate to marine and coastal ecosystems, and ultimately the human dimensions.

I believe PICES will continue to represent the best scientific knowledge in different fields of ocean sciences and will do its best in communication of our achievements to broad audience and decision makers for the benefit of all member-countries along the Pacific Rim and beyond.

And I wish all of us to work successfully and productively in the last two days of our meeting!

Thank you!

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John Stein

USA Governing Council Member

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The United States is pleased to have hosted the 25th Annual Meeting in San Diego California, the location of NOAA Fisheries' Southwest Fisheries Science Center, the Scripps Institute of Oceanography and many sectors of the 'blue economy'. This made San Diego a fitting venue for a marine science meeting of the stature of PICES. I want to acknowledge the exemplary efforts of a few key members of the Local Organizing Committee, Dr. Sarah Mesnick, Ms. Dawn Graham, Ms. Laurie Mukai and Ms. Staci Pike, in attending to the all the details to organize and execute an annual meeting of more than 530 attendees; a new attendance record for the PICES annual meeting. The US also notes the extraordinary efforts of the PICES Secretariat in the planning the 25th anniversary annual meeting and, in particular, Dr. Alexander Bychkov who served in an exemplary manner as the coordinator for this very special annual meeting in PICES history.

This annual meeting is the beginning of our 25th Anniversary year, and as we reflect on the first 25 years of PICES and look forward to the next 25 years there is much to celebrate in what PICES has accomplished and the potential for what the organization can and needs to contribute in the future. The challenges are great. To illustrate some of these challenges, in September 2016 the planet may have permanently, or for at least several decades, crossed the symbolic 400 parts per million mark for the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide. In addition, the global surface temperature in 2015 was a record warm, moving ahead of the record set just last year by 0.16° C—the largest margin by which one year has ever beaten another since official records began in 1880. These are just two observations - both anthropogenic in nature - that point to the threats to our oceans and living marine resources that our member nations depend on. The US is confident that PICES, through its international scientific programs and activities, will continue to provide the scientific basis to inform crucial management decisions across the North Pacific. The solutions to these problems will require natural and social sciences working in tandem.

The Arctic is a region particularly sensitive to the effects of climate change, and there continues to be strong interest by the US and by NOAA in this region through the US Arctic Research and Policy Act. The scientific needs cut across both the Atlantic and Pacific regions of the Arctic. Within this context the US would support PICES jointly sponsoring the ICES/PAME (Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment) - Work Group on the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) of the Central Arctic Ocean.

Climate variability and change and ecosystem based management are areas of strategic importance to NOAA, and recently our agency has developed and published a Climate Science Strategy and the NOAA Fisheries Science Centers on the U.S. west coast, in Alaska and the Pacific Islands are developing Regional Action Plans for US marine ecosystems of the North Pacific. These action plans, invite realignment of our scientists and their efforts, and are designed to help deliver improved science to inform decisions of the effects of



climate in managing living marine resources. In addition, NOAA Fisheries has nearly completed a roadmap to implement ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) across the United States Exclusive Economic Zone. All of these efforts intersect with the science in PICES and because of their scope will be dependent on partnerships. The US will look for and need to form additional opportunities in partnership with PICES to grow in these areas.

In closing, the US would like to acknowledge the first recipients of the new PICES Chair Award Drs. Richard Marasco and Alexander Bychkov, both are highly deserving for their contributions to the development of PICES as a foremost leader in international marine science. In addition, the US expresses our appreciation of Drs. Laura Richards and Tokio Wada for the exemplary service and leadership of PICES.

