

## **“Healthy Oceans – Healthy Coast”**

International Leadership Seminar towards achieving SDG 14

### **“Current challenges and opportunities in ocean and coastal sustainable development”**

*~ Celebrating 45 years of IOI and its work in Sustainable Ocean Governance ~*

25-26 April, 2017 – Hong Kong, China



The Hong Kong  
Polytechnic University



International Ocean  
Institute



UNITED NATIONS  
**UNCTAD**  
United Nations  
Conference on Trade  
and Development



Shenzhen World Health Foundation

## **Conclusions and Recommendations of the Leadership Seminar**

***“Targets and deadlines should be backed by commitment and action – not only words”.***

*Sustainable Development Goal 14 focuses global attention on oceans as a critical aspect of sustainable development. However global goal 14 cannot be implemented in isolation of other goals. It is directly linked to other global goals such as no poverty (SDG 1), zero hunger (SDG 2), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13), and partnerships (SDG 17).*

*Sustainable blue growth and development may be considered as the quest of humans to venture further and deeper into the oceans with the purpose of tapping, in a sustainable way, economic benefits from ocean resources such as seafood, bioactive compounds, seaways and transportation, renewable energy, marine genetic resources, and tourism.*

*These resources however are affected by ongoing unprecedented changes that are underway in coastal and ocean ecosystems due to intensifying human use and pressure, and the impacts these are having on the environment and society. There are gaps in delivery and in coverage of resources and partnerships to meet the growing needs.*

*In this respect, there is a need to build partnerships and leadership initiatives for SDG 14 implementation, and to consolidate political will on oceans health, resilience and governance in order to enhance integrated oceans and coastal management systems as well as promote sustainable use of oceans. Regional initiatives can make a difference to this process and public-private partnerships can harness cooperative efforts. Building up oceans and oceans resources can also be enhanced through interregional dialogue and exchange on SDG 14 implementation, and hence initiatives in this regard must be supported and encouraged.*

*A common vision, sustainable finance, targets, timelines and capacity development can play a fundamental role in advancing oceans governance and development. Promoting successful regional and national initiatives and partnerships for oceans development is critical. At the national level, governmental agencies need to be accountable for environmental impact. At the international level, dialogue, partnerships and development support are needed to foster oceans-based development.*

## **Recommendations to the Ocean Conference<sup>1</sup>:**

- 1. Improve compliance of global, regional and national regulations designed to end oversupply, extreme fishing effort, IUU fishing and destructive practices, many of which are also linked to other illegal activities such as labour rights violation, slave labour and human trafficking;*
- 2. Improve and make increased use of vessel monitoring and tracking systems;*
- 3. Enhance and expand the use of seafood traceability systems and the role they play in transferring sustainability information to consumers on the application of voluntary standards;*
- 4. Encourage consumer organizations and NGOs to systematize and promote sustainable labelling and consumer practices for ocean products;*
- 5. Support the Implementation of ILO Work in Fishing Convention 188 and other relevant IMO seafarer resolutions, including through effective Port State Control measures;*
- 6. Urgently introduce and implement a ban on those subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing activities, overfishing and overcapacity;*
- 7. Countries interested in engaging in deep sea bed mining should apply the precautionary approach and introduce environmental impact assessments. They should also set zoning systems, adequate regulations, mitigation policies and boundaries for such an activity;*
- 8. Increase and improve oceans and coastal science-based management, capacity development, training, institutional transformation, public-private partnerships, and sustainable financing;*
- 9. Integrate various actions at local levels moving upwards in order to achieve implementation;*
- 10. Incentivise implementation of the SDGs, create investment and trade opportunities, as well as public-private partnerships;*
- 11. Recommend the use of trained mediators to act as interfaces between different levels of governance and implementation actors;*
- 12. Protect, restore and enhance natural capital to limit the rise in atmospheric GHG, protect the coast from storm surges and preserve nursery grounds for fish;*
- 13. Create new habitats such as artificial reefs to act as fish nurseries;*
- 14. Strengthen coastal zone management and establish marine protected areas;*
- 15. The future architecture of ocean governance should anticipate and address diminished capacities at the coast, particularly in coastal cities. It should anticipate the fundamental physical and ecological changes that the system is going through and adapt the social and ecological systems;*
- 16. Empower decision making authorities at local level by allocating more resources and responsibilities to stimulate SDG implementation;*
- 17. Support and contribute to the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;*
- 18. Encourage and promote regional engagement and cooperation in implementing SDG14. This can take many forms including leader-driven, public private partnerships, regional champions and NGOs;*
- 19. Facilitate long term flexible financing which is sustainable and supports projects and capacity development;*
- 20. Empower small scale fishers and enhance community engagement in the fishing industry by training and investment rather than leasing out EEZs for foreign fishing vessels;*

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<sup>1</sup> **United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14; New York; 05 - 09 June, 2017**

- 21. Assess the dynamics of demand and supply of ocean-derived products and services and their impact on coastal and ocean ecosystems and the availability of resources;*
- 22. Encourage private sector actors and investment to move from port-to-port logistical models to door-to-door approaches towards improving the economic resilience, connectivity, and sustainability of SIDS and LDCs;*
- 23. Encourage a more balanced approach between environmental and social dimensions of sustainability in coastal management;*
- 24. Investigate the use of materials that are environmentally friendly and have a smaller energy footprint in urban coastal cities;*
- 25. Encourage the use of renewable energy including offshore wind power, improve the sustainability of energy resources and reduce fossil fuel reliance.*

***Additional recommendations to the Leadership Seminar partners:***

- 1. Increase training in Blue/Oceans Economy and Marine Spatial Planning.*
- 2. Assist in expanding the understanding and development of best practice on regional oceans governance systems through the delivery of dedicated capacity development programmes and peer exchange.*
- 3. Promote Ocean Literacy and enhance understanding on the importance of ocean and coastal management and governance.*
- 4. Encourage transfer of knowledge and technology for the implementation of SDG 14, particularly for developing countries, SIDS and LDCs.*

*26 April 2017*