



PRESS BRIEF

Oceans which play a very important role in the human well being is now severely challenged due to many issues ranging from overfishing, marine pollution, global warming, ocean acidification and climate change all contributing to a rapid decline in the health of the oceans and its ecosystems.

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development was born out of the recognition that much more needs to be done to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and create improved conditions for the sustainable development of the ocean, seas and coasts. The Seventy second session of United Nation General Assembly in December 2017, proclaimed that the upcoming decade as the **UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** (2021-2030)

The main principle is that the Decade will address both deep disciplinary understanding of ocean processes and solution-oriented research to generate new knowledge. This knowledge will support societal actors in reducing pressures on the ocean, preserving and restoring ocean ecosystems and safeguarding ocean-related prosperity for generations to come. The identified six societal outcomes are

- A clean ocean where sources of pollution are identified and removed
- A healthy and resilient ocean where marine ecosystems are mapped and protected
- A predictable ocean where we can understand current and future ocean conditions
- A safe ocean where people are protected from ocean hazards
- A sustainably harvested ocean ensuring the provision of food supply
- A transparent ocean with open access to data, information and technologies

The first Global Planning Meeting held in Copenhagen, 13-15 May 2019, brought all key stakeholders with an interest in the Decade to the same level of information. In order to address and collate the views of the of the countries in the Indian Ocean and ROPME region the **Regional Planning Workshop for the Northern/Central Indian Ocean countries as well as ROPME sea area** is being held at NIOT during January 8-10, 2020 to identify the region specific priorities, requirement and contribution to the objectives of the UN decade of Ocean Sciences for sustainable Development.

Prior to this a two days workshop on Regional Framework for Coastal Vulnerability towards the Safety, Security and Sustainable Development of Member States in the Indian Ocean is also being held at NIOT on January 6&7, 2020 to decide on a common framework for coastal vulnerability for the countries in this regions which are prone to impacts due to natural hazards and climate change. Both the workshops are being conducted under the patronage of Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India.

About 100 delegates from various countries such as Australia, Bangladesh, Congo, France, Kuwait, Maldives, Russia Tunisia, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, UK, USA and India will be participating in the event. Dr.M A Atmanand, Director, NIOT is a member of the Executive Planning Group (EPG) which is an advisory body to the IOC supporting in the development of the Implementation Plan for the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.