



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

From ocean knowledge to action - developing capacity to create a sustainable ocean economy

30 June 2022, 11:30 - 12:45 hrs. Room 1, Altice Arena

Lisbon, Portugal

Organized by: UNCTAD, UNITAR, IOI, GOAL Global



Background on the event

It is only through synchronous layers of capacity development – from entry-level approaches for the wider public to knowledge-sharing between experts and high-level decision-makers and government officials – that the diffusion of Ocean Knowledge will turn into Ocean Action. While the urgency and timeliness of capacity development has been increasingly acknowledged internationally and regionally, knowledge on the ocean economy remains somewhat fragmented. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research ([UNITAR](#)), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ([UNCTAD](#)), the International Ocean Institute ([IOI](#)), and [GOAL Global](#) joined forces to present the resources they can offer towards capacity development, which come to full effectiveness when synergized.

UNITAR, in cooperation with the One Ocean Hub and the University of Strathclyde, will launch the knowledge-translation platform “One Ocean Learn”. UNCTAD presented its database on ocean trade drawing for the first time on all official data reported by UN member states and covering both goods and services. IOI provided an overview of IOI’s long-standing capacity building initiatives and training opportunities, with special emphasis on the IOI Ocean Academy, an online, easily accessible, free-to-all ocean literacy product designed to support the local and regional literacy needs of stakeholders and interested persons. GOAL Global presented its Resilience of the Blue Economy strategy, which uses an innovative Local

Systems Approach that leverages the potential of critical markets systems to create incentives for social inclusion and environmental conservation.

The event identified the partnerships that can be achieved to create synergies for ocean action. The Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), introduced the CAF Observatory for conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, with a focus on the Caribbean and Easter Tropical Pacific Corridor (CMAR).

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Very brief intro to IOI and its global training and education and capacity development programmes.
- Ocean Literacy and what this can achieve; Intro to the [IOI Ocean Academy](#) as a tool to reach out to audiences often side-lined in Ocean knowledge dissemination.
- Presentation of current roll out of the project - early feedback and lessons learnt; Assessment of early impacts of the Ocean Academy on the participants demonstrating the effectiveness of the IOI Ocean Academy as a portable model with potential for scaling up globally.
- UNCTAD presented the first event [Ocean Trade database](#). The identification of sustainable ocean economy sectors and their respective Harmonized System codes was conducted in the UNCTAD report [Towards a harmonized international trade classification for the development of sustainable ocean-based economies](#).
- The Ocean Trade database has the potential from the perspective of ocean knowledge to allow for making global trade flows analysis, sectoral analysis, country profiles as well as to identify export/import markets and productive capacities.
- The idea of [One Ocean Learn](#) is to address the “know-do gap” in ocean governance at different levels, by offering learning pathways across existing and new sources of ocean knowledge with a view to addressing real-world questions and experiences, providing practical steps towards more informed decision-making, and highlighting the human rights dimensions of ocean knowledge and governance.
- Introduction to GOAL’s Resilience for Social Systems (R4S) Approach - [Resilience for social systems \(R4S\) | PreventionWeb](#), systems approach to foster partnership to scale up action for Blue Economy, systems mapping and building partnerships based on roles within local systems, and case study on systems change related to the Blue Economy from Honduras.

Key recommendations for action

- Make full use of the new UNCTAD’s Oceans Trade database to explore the potential of ocean based goods and services in all countries, particularly for LDCs and SIDS. A call was made on donor support to build country profiles based on this new database.
- Cooperate with different partners on the further development of projects tackling the know-do gap in the realm of Ocean Knowledge. Make full use of these partnerships to disseminate information about existing knowledge-sharing platforms to beneficiaries as well as potential new stakeholders who would like to join this endeavour.

Voluntary Commitments

The IOI Ocean Academy has been submitted as #OceanAction45943 - IOI Ocean Academy - Ocean Knowledge for All (International Ocean Institute (NGO). UNCTAD and UNITAR are cooperating with IOI in the implementation of this voluntary commitment.