



## 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

*Developing the capacity we need for the ocean we want*

*29 June 2022, 18:00-19:30 (UTC+1), Online*

Organized by: Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), the Partnership for the Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO), the International Oceanographic Data Exchange (IODE) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, and the International Science Council (ISC).

### **Brief summary of the event (max 500 characters)**

This side event brought together international experts on capacity development in ocean science to inform about the existing training opportunities and to provide examples of international engagement and multi-thematic networking across stakeholders through case studies. The event invited participants to take advantage of these opportunities and to get involved in developing an integrated ocean community aimed at strengthening capacity in ocean sciences from regional to global scales.

### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

The ability of coastal nations to manage their coastal and marine environments is vital in the development and maintenance of national sustainable blue economies and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thus, capacity development is the key to creating an appropriately trained workforce able to co-design science-based knowledge and innovative solutions. This trained workforce is required to develop a sustainable blue economy, particularly in developing countries, and to ultimately achieve SDG14. This side event focused on how to implement the capacity development we need to achieve the 2030 agenda by showcasing: (1) Existing global and regional initiatives that build upon the foundation of capacity development for ocean sciences; (2) Lessons learned from case studies and/or success stories from beneficiaries of training programs, and (3) Recommendations on an action plan for the ocean for scientists, policymakers, local communities and the private sector to accelerate global CD efforts and responses to achieve SDG14 in the current decade.

### **Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

- An overview of existing opportunities on developing capacity in ocean observations, particularly of the NF-POGO Centre of Excellence in Observational Oceanography and the POGO-SCOR Visiting Fellowship, along with the long-term benefits for the trainee.
- The Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA) as an e-learning platform and a UN Ocean Decade endorsed activity to deliver capacity in several ocean related topics including sustainable use of marine resources, data management, marine spatial planning, tsunami awareness, ocean acidification, prevention and reduction of marine pollution, among others.
- The special case of Small Island Developing States and the similar sustainable development challenges they face including remoteness, growing coastal population, limited resources, susceptibility to natural disasters, vulnerability to external shocks, fragile environment, and dependence on international trade, among others.
- Lessons learned from a NF-POGO trainee perspective, and how immersive training and alumni network can create international partnership opportunities.
- The challenges and opportunities to design observation networks focused on data and capacity development using as example a state of the art, low-maintenance and long-lasting microhabitat temperature monitoring infrastructure on rocky shores.
- An Action Plan for the Ocean that considers developing a framework to assess and rank risks related to a changing ocean, identifying actions in response to risks, and defining a set of adaptive actions and plans.

### **Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

- Ocean science capacity must be regionally focused and equitably distributed since research priorities and related capacities are highly heterogeneous among nations.
- Capacity development is everyone's responsibility and requires collective actions.
- Effectiveness of capacity development programs must be regularly assessed to ensure that development activities are effective and appropriate to the political and social context in which they will operate.
- To achieve a successful blue economy, we need all coastal nations to engage and all sectors to contribute resources. Only through collective action can we develop the capacity to expand the skilled workforce required to generate knowledge for informed decision-making in the blue economy.

**Recording of event available at:** <https://youtu.be/E0nJIXWvPTo>

**Slides of event available at:** <https://scor-int.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/UNOC-CDSideEvent-SCOR-POGO-OTGA-ISC.pdf>

**Website of event:** <https://scor-int.org/developing-the-capacity-we-need-for-the-ocean-we-want/>