



UNOC3 Conference Side Event

Title: One Ocean, Seven Voices, Seven Continents: Collective Youth Action for SDG 14

Date: June 12, 2025

Location/Time: Green Zone – Salle de Manta (10:15 AM) and Cryosphere Pavilion (12:00 PM)

Organized by: Led by SOI Foundation's Blue Futures Pathways (BFP) Program, in partnership with Organisation panafricaine de la jeunesse pour l'économie bleue durable - OPJEB (Africa), Oceanus Conservation (Philippines), Guangdong Ocean University (China), Empathea Blue Consultancy Services (Brazil), Ocean Frontier Institute (Canada), Sustainable Ocean Alliance (International), ECOP Canada, ECOP Asia, ECOP Europe, ECOP Australia, ECOP South America

Purpose of the Event: This Endorsed Side Event was designed to ensure meaningful youth and Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP) engagement at UNOC3, amplifying diverse voices from all seven continents. Recognizing that young ocean leaders are too often underrepresented in high-level discussions, this event provided a global platform for ECOPs to share their lived experiences, innovative initiatives, and policy recommendations aimed at advancing SDG 14. The event was trilingual (English, French, Spanish) and rooted in equity, highlighting examples of youth leadership in ocean sustainability from across the world.

Format & Participation: Although only one session was officially endorsed, organizers were invited to host the event twice on June 12th, allowing for broader engagement and an expanded speaker lineup. Across the two sessions, approximately 75 people attended in person. Each event featured one ECOP speaker from each continent, reflecting truly global participation:

Here are the speakers from each event (moderated by Tara Mascarenhas, SOI Foundation):

<u>Continent</u>	Session 1: 10:15am - 11:00am La Baleine - Salle Manta	Session 2: 11:15am - 12:00pm La Baleine - Cryosphere
Europe	Juana Jimenez	Juana Jimenez
Asia	Shenghui Li	Camille Li
Pacific	Nolani Hazelman & Tazmin Falan	Nolani Hazelman & Tazmin Falan
South America	Karina Higa	Joshua Baghdady
Africa	Ernest Tindo	Ernest Tindo
Antarctica	Meg O'Hara	Ronnie Noonan-Birch
North America	Jasleen Jawanda	Jasleen Jawanda

Key Messages & Outcomes: Speakers shared their unique regional perspectives and the challenges ECOPs face in entering and advancing in the ocean sector. Many emphasized barriers such as lack of funding, limited inclusion in decision-making spaces, and structural inequities, especially for those from developing countries and small island states disproportionately affected by climate change.

Despite the challenges, the sessions were hopeful and solutions-oriented. Speakers shared success stories such as the rapid growth of ECOP Nodes, cross-sector collaborations (industry, academia, and government), and the importance of community-led approaches. There were strong calls to action around proportional responsibility: those with greater privilege and resources should do more to support global ocean sustainability efforts. Participants and speakers alike expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak and connect in a public, high-visibility setting. The event reinforced the message that ECOPs are not just future leaders—they are leading now, and they must be supported accordingly.