

The Ocean Conference Preparatory Meeting Side Event: Sailing for Change: Peace Boat and the SDGs

Date: February 14 (Tuesday), 2017

Time: 6:15 – 7:30 pm

Venue: Conference Room B, UN Conference Building

This side event brings together stakeholders from the tourism and shipping industries, together with civil society representatives, to consider the role of partnerships toward more sustainable shipping and tourism practices to implement the SDGs, in particular SDG14. This will focus on the cruise industry and efforts to reduce marine pollution, increase benefits for small island states through sustainable tourism, and transfer marine technology in relation to shipping and transportation.

The international NGO Peace Boat has been conducting advocacy and education programmes onboard a chartered passenger ship since 1983. Three global voyages are carried out each year for three months each, with around 1000 people on board. As a committed campaigner for the SDGs, Peace Boat's ship sails with the Global Goals logo on its hull, working to inspire people onboard and in countries visited during voyages to actively engage in achieving the goals.

As well as introducing current SDG14 related activities, this side event will announce the voluntary commitment of the "Ecoship Project". Sailing in 2020 as a flagship for the SDGs, the 55,000 ton, 2000 passenger capacity nature-inspired vessel combines radical energy efficiency measures and the use of renewable energy at a level never achieved before in maritime transport. With zero Nox and sulphur emissions and 40% reduction in CO₂, the Ecoship seeks to address ocean acidification. The ship has closed water and closed waste systems to combat marine pollution. The Ecoship will not only offer a solution to climate change and contribute towards the implementation of SDG14, will take thousands of people around the world every year to places that are directly affected by rising sea levels and the degradation of marine ecosystems.

Speakers:

Meri Joyce, International Coordinator, Peace Boat

Robin Lewis, Project Coordinator, Ecoship

Jon Bruno, Executive Director, The International Ecotourism Society (TIES)

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