



**REPORT OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL OCEAN  
INSTITUTE FOR 2021**





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## FOREWORD

Throughout 2021, the global COVID-19 pandemic and travel constraints continued to exert impacts on the programmes of the IOI secretariat and Network as well as on our partners globally. The foresight of the IOI Governance Board to support and encourage online delivery of the courses while preparing for an eventual return to the hallmark in-person events, was critical in enabling the delivery of a rich programme of training and outreach events, in online, hybrid and in-person formats.

The heavy impact on travel opportunities and availabilities has delivered an important lesson to organisers of training and education events. A lesson learnt from 2021 is that of the potential for hybridisation of IOI offerings making possible opportunities for persons unable to access these events. It is especially important for stakeholders from disadvantaged communities worldwide and should be considered in parallel with additional support for them to attend in-person events.

In total it remains heartening to note that through the actions of IOI HQ and the IOI network efforts, IOI outreach and capacity development goals were achieved over 2021 in spite of practical difficulties, and the competitive environment of moving online, not least of which is the emergence of the phenomenon known as “ZOOM Fatigue”.

As well as the hallmark training for which the IOI is rightly known, special events organised during 2021 showcased the versatility of the IOI's outreach and the different levels at which the IOI message to sustainably benefit from and protect our Ocean for all, now and into the future, were transmitted. Thus, the IOI participated in online events connected with the launch of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development through participation in the Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOPs) programme – via an online celebration, the Virtual Early Career Ocean Professional Day in June, and the preparations for a Training Workshop in 2022 under the aegis of the Decade programme. Similarly, webinars in partnership with UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) and GFHS (Global Forum on Human Settlements) were vehicles for IOI cooperation with like-minded partners to provide thematic and topical webinars and presentations for an international online audience. The IOI Hybrid Seminar “Ocean - Climate - Biodiversity: Code Red for Humanity” emphasised the urgent need for an integrated approach to some of the most compelling challenges facing human society today and to the urgency for action and underlined the existential challenges of climate change and biodiversity conservation which hinge on a healthy and functional Ocean. You can read about these events and more in the dedicated chapter.

As I write these paragraphs in 2022, the year in which the IOI celebrates its first fifty years since foundation by Elisabeth Mann Borgese, we celebrate the successful implementation of an important new programme which completes

the IOI's portfolio of Ocean capacity development. The IOI Ocean Academy aims to increase IOI's outreach and to expand the traditional IOI training portfolio to new audiences by offering ocean literacy programmes online. During 2021, the IOI Governors supported the proposal to launch the IOI Ocean Academy as part of the IOI's anniversary celebrations, and the pilot delivery of three very successful IOI Ocean Academy programmes in Egypt, Sri Lanka and the Maldives was a fitting tribute to the vision of Elisabeth as well as a new milestone in the IOI mission to create knowledgeable and empowered Ocean leadership at all levels. The online Academy programmes are being successfully and regularly implemented since with an encouraging uptake by global partners and audiences alike.

This report would not be complete without mention of IOI's appreciation due to the Ocean Science and Research Foundation (OSRF) for continued and generous support, to the IOI Network of Directors and Focal Points who propose and implement the rich programmes of the IOI, and to other sponsors and supporters without whom IOI could not have achieved its ambitious programmes. I personally owe a debt of gratitude to the IOI Governing Board, the staff at IOI HQ and the directors, friends and colleagues of the IOI global network of centres and focal points for their tireless work, support and encouragement.

I hope that you will enjoy reading about the IOI's work over 2021, do take a look at our website for more information and get in touch with us on topics of interest.



**Antonella Vassallo**

Managing Director, IOI Headquarters



**IOI: EMPOWERING OCEAN LEADERSHIP**

50 years since the IOI was established by Elisabeth Mann Borgese as a knowledge-based, ocean-focused NGO in 1972



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## MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

In 2021 the world continued to be profoundly affected by the Global COVID-19 Pandemic. As the virus continued to spread throughout the world certain restrictions on in-person meetings and international movements continued to apply.

Guided by the decision of the Governing Board regarding online delivery of all training courses and with the experience gained in 2020, IOI not only succeeded in implementing all its programme but also exceeded its outreach target. Digitalisation and online modality enabled IOI to expand its outreach and capacity development activities. All training courses were delivered either fully online or in hybrid form, depending on local conditions and regulations.

An achievement in 2021 was the relaunch of the IOI/University of Malta Master of Arts in Ocean Governance (MAOG) programme in a completely online format, designed for delivery via distance learning. It is expected that the course will attract wide interest from around the world.

The development of a very important online Ocean Literacy programme was the highlight of the IOI's achievement in 2021. The IOI Ocean Governance Academy (IOI Ocean Academy) is a major project, rolled out as three initial pilot programmes in 2021, to be launched officially and globally in 2022 on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the IOI's foundation in 1972 by Elizabeth Mann Borgese.

The project is intended to complement and expand the IOI's existing outreach and capacity development activities by providing a suite of Ocean Literacy programmes. The IOI Ocean Academy provides online educational programmes to interested laypersons in local languages, and at no charge. It takes information and knowledge to those who would otherwise not be possible to reach; e.g., those who would often be deprived for reasons such as cost, distance or language barrier. While three pilot projects were successfully delivered in 2021, it is intended to intensify and expand its scope to cover most regions of the globe.

In 2022 the IOI will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its establishment, it is in a position to achieve its long-term core objective of reaching most distant parts of the world and to disseminate Ocean information and knowledge where it is most needed, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition.

Indeed, IOI is a unique training institution that is able to provide educational possibility in ocean governance, adapted to the local needs and at all levels of the society, i.e., from children and laypersons through the Ocean Academy courses, to mid-career professionals through the regular regional and global training programme series, and high-level education through its online Master of Art courses in Ocean governance. With the new challenges and



emerging issues, IOI has the possibility of reaching general public and laypersons particularly the young generation to whom the future belongs and who can indeed make a difference.

The year 2021 has been a very successful year for IOI and this report reflects many of its accomplishments. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all those who contributed to its success. In particular I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Ocean Science and Research Foundation (OSRF) for their continued generous financial support, to the members of the Governing Board for their leadership and guidance and to all other partners and sponsors for their support and contribution.

My special thanks and gratitude to Directors of the Centres, Focal Points, Ocean Academy Directors, Managing Director and members of the secretariat at the Headquarters in Malta for their commitment and their invaluable support and cooperation without which IOI would not be able to accomplish its objectives. I also acknowledge the valuable contribution of alumni who continue to spread the IOI message worldwide.



**Mahindokt Faghfour**  
President, International Ocean Institute



# IOI - THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE

**Antonella Vassallo**  
 Managing Director, IOI



**The IOI was founded in 1972** by Professor Elisabeth Mann Borgese (1918-2002) as an independent, non-governmental, non-profit, knowledge-based institution which focuses on sustainable governance of the ocean and its resources so that current and future generations can share in their benefits. The respect for common goods, the peaceful and sustainable use of ocean services and resources, the common heritage of the high seas and the need to support and empower people and countries in managing their relations with the ocean in a sustainable manner remains the ethical and moral foundation of the IOI.

**The mission of the IOI** is to ensure the sustainability of the Ocean as “*a source of life*”, and to uphold and expand the principle of the common heritage as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

### The structure of the International Ocean Institute and the IOI global network

The IOI Board of Governors functions as the substantive backbone; it drives IOI deliverables and provides quality control. The IOI Board governs the IOI institute and has the oversight for all IOI activities, strategic development, the institute’s management, finances and fundraising. Governing Board members are closely involved in the activities of the IOI and take responsibility for defined tasks. The Secretariat of the IOI at the Headquarters in Malta is responsible for day-to-day operations; the IOI HQ supports the Board Members in fulfilling their mandates and works closely with the Centres of the IOI network to implement the annual programmes.

Following the formal endorsement and implementation of the IOI Strategy by the IOI Governors in December 2015, the IOI network consists of 32 Centres and Focal Points, in 30 countries around the globe as well as through collaboration with strategic training partners.

### Main Pillars of IOI Activities



### Programme of action

In order to achieve its stated mission and goals, the IOI works through a global network of Centres and Focal Points which is administered through the Headquarters based in Malta and which acts as the secretariat for the IOI Governing Board. The IOI Board sets out the broad activities and programmes of the IOI based on a strategy for action. The IOI

network also benefits from close support and collaboration from its Training Partners and the Alumni of IOI training programmes over the years.

IOI training centres are responsible for organising and providing the hallmark ocean governance training programmes of the IOI. They are supported in their work by dedicated IOI Centres in the geographical vicinity. The IOI benefits from the support of the IOI Centres and Focal Points as well as through collaboration with strategic training partners.

the knowledge, skills and essential attitude for effective ocean governance. They are empowered to apply contemporary approaches to coastal and ocean management, with an emphasis on the moral, ethical and legal values in Ocean Governance (equity and peaceful uses of the ocean). The portfolio of IOI training programmes is complemented by the Open Online Course: **“One Planet – One Ocean”** launched with partners:

<http://www.oceanmooc.org>.



### Training and education, and capacity development

Since its foundation, IOI has trained young practitioners, particularly from developing countries and countries in transition, and contributes towards a growing global network of trained and empowered leaders fully conversant with the latest developments in Ocean Governance. Course participants acquire

### IOI Publications and International Relations

The IOI promotes its training and capacity development activities by producing and disseminating publications as a further core activity of IOI and by partnering with international, regional, national and local institutions and governments, as well as public and private institutions working in the field of Ocean Governance.



The World Ocean Review series was launched in 2010 and is a result of cooperation between the publishing house Mareverlag, the Cluster of Excellence, “The Future Ocean” based in Kiel and the IOI. The purpose of these periodic publications is to present scientifically robust knowledge in a form accessible to any reader. Free copies are available online through:

<https://worldoceanreview.com/en/order/>

**IOI works with its partners and networks to achieve its goals**

IOI enjoys special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and consultative status at some of UN’s Specialized Agencies. The IOI further maintains a number of MOUs and benefits from strong collaboration with key partners in the field of ocean issues, capacity development and education in this thematic area.

**IOI programmes are financed by donors and through partnerships and sponsors**

Major financial support comes from the Ocean Science and Research Foundation (OSRF); the IOI also receives additional financial contributions for its projects and in-kind support through other partners which is substantial in terms of quality and quantity and complements the financial resources for IOI to deliver its programmes and fulfil its mission.



The Ocean Yearbook, produced since 1978, is a collaborative initiative of the IOI and the Marine and Environmental Law Institute at the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada. It presents leading-edge articles, reports and reference materials devoted to the issues and concerns affecting the world’s oceans.

The IOI reports annually on its activities through the publication of its Annual Report available for download through the IOI website.

IOI TRAINING PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO	
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES	
• Post Graduate Degree: Master of Arts in Ocean Governance; with the Faculty of Laws of the University of Malta	Malta
• Ocean Governance: Policy, Law & Management	Canada
REGIONAL PROGRAMMES	
• Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic & Caspian Seas	Malta
• Ocean Governance Training Programme for Africa	South Africa
• Sustainable Development & Governance of the Caspian Sea	Turkmenistan
• Ocean Governance for the Western Pacific Region	PR China
• Regional Ocean Governance Framework, Implementation of UNCLOS and its Related Instruments in the SE Asian Seas & the Indian Ocean	Thailand
• Ocean Governance, Ocean Sciences & Geoethics	Latin America & the Caribbean

## SEA LEVEL RISE: AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT

**Dr Awni Behnam**

Former United Nations Assistant Secretary General  
Former Senior Advisor to the Secretary General at UNCTAD  
Honorary President, International Ocean Institute,  
Affiliate Professor, University of Malta

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a wakeup call for the international community as it entered the uncharted waters of converging challenges from global security, climate change, an Ocean of troubles and an unresolved financial crisis all of which had been exasperated by the erosion of a just and equitable global system of multilateral cooperation for development.

We all have faced challenging years navigating a new normal, aspiring to contribute in achieving the SDGs of Agenda 2030 and a legally binding international instrument for the governance of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). However, multilateral cooperation for capacity building in most aspects of Ocean governance including maritime trade and development became even more elusive and challenging.

The international community faces a growing and demonstrable lack of trust in multilateral cooperation

for development, given the deplorable state of regress experienced by most of humanity, particularly in developing and least developed countries with no economic or social safety nets, and inadequate capacity to meet the targets agreed in the SDGs of Agenda 2030.

In the very recent words of Prime Minister Mottley of Barbados and President of UNCTAD 16: “*Multilateral institutions and values are under threat [...] The global order is not working, it is not delivering in areas of critical importance necessary to achieve the goal of sustainable development for the majority of the world population!...*”

Thus, the combined effect of COVID-19, with the state of neglect of the Ocean, and the consequences of the nexus of Ocean, climate change and human health is indicative of a possible identical fate for the SDGs as for the misfortune of the MDGs. Which reminds us of the words of Jeffrey Sachs: “*all that need to be said has been said but very little done*”.

However, there is another existential threat to humanity, that of sea level rise as it relates to maritime trade, particularly addressed by UNCTAD’s excellent report, the 2021 Annual Review of Maritime Transport. The report analysed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on maritime trade and transport including the case of supply chain challenges and inhumane consequences for seafarers.

### **Sea level rise a reality**

The long-awaited report of the current UN Secretary General about sea level rise (A/75/70) was published



Dr Awni Behnam, Honorary President, IOI

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news22\\_e/gen\\_23mar22\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news22_e/gen_23mar22_e.htm) accessed 7Oct2022

before the Informal Consultative Process (ICP) on Oceans and the law of the sea, end April of 2021.

There is no doubt, as the SG Report shows, that the Ocean has warmed unabatedly since 1970 and that 90% of the increase in energy in the climate system has been stored in the Ocean and that it is virtually certain that the global mean sea level is rising with a high level of confidence that the rate of sea level rise is accelerating.

The report states clearly that coastal ecosystems are already affected by the combination of sea level rise, other climate related Ocean changes and adverse effects of human activities on Ocean and land. Thus, stressing rising sea levels are having a projected wide ranging and significant environmental, economic and social impact on the planet.

On the environmental impact the higher exceptional levels are projected to increasingly threaten coastal zones through a range of coastal hazards including permanent submergence of land by higher mean sea level tides, more frequent coastal flooding, recession of shorelines and coastal wetlands through coastal erosion including biodiversity loss, and changes due to salination and more. These stresses will result in adverse social cultural and economic ramifications for various communities and environmental refuges.

Two former UN Secretary Generals predicted the existential threat of sea level rise to humanity; both UNSG Kofi Annan and UNSG Ban-Ki Moon predicted that, at the tipping-point, more than 20 mega ports and centres of maritime trade will be submerged. Consider the unimaginable disruption to world maritime trade, and the possibility that if it happens, half of the world will die from hunger and the other will freeze to death.

In the Oceans Compact, former UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon alluded to the number of coastal major ports that may be submerged if we continue to underestimate the violence of this existential threat of spatial impacts on the urban hinterland, where humans must adapt to living with the Ocean and from the Ocean in a sustainable relationship.

This symbiotic relationship between Ocean and coast is to be understood as an incorporation of two opposing directions; that of making sustainable use of the abundant goods and services of the Ocean and coastal blue economy, and that of the mitigation and adaptation to the dangers the Ocean presents to prosperity and human well-being including tsunamis, tidal waves, storm surges, upwellings, hurricanes, extreme weather, invasive species, and the list is infinite. So, we must ask what are we doing in terms of resilience, adaptation mitigation and resolution?

The consequences of COVID-19 economic, social, and environmental costs of sustainability have been enormous and beyond the resilience of most of the developing, least developed, and countries in transition. COVID-19 revealed the extent of the absence of preparedness of humans in facing this scourge of an epidemic.

The coastal urban nexus of cities rely on the Blue Economy in their urban/coastal interdependence of economic, environmental, and social interaction in such engagements as in maritime trade, maritime transport, ports and harbours, shipping, inland logistical connectivity, fisheries, access to the Ocean's natural resources (living and non-living) and services, energy, recreation, tourism, hospitality etc.

The question must be raised as to the consequences to thriving over-populated coastal cities being port cities, centres of maritime trade, tourism, and recreation, dependent on Ocean services which as consequences of sea level rise suffer unimaginable loss of habitat leading to unaccountable number of refugees without a place of refuge.

Science tells us without doubt that sea level will rise slowly at first, speeding up and continuing beyond the 21st century. Gradually many coastal areas, cities and coasts will become uninhabitable. People will lose their homes, income and part of their cultures and ways of life. According to the same UN reports, rising sea levels threaten over one billion people in Asia



alone. Such population displacement is a recipe for conflict and a threat to global security. Militating against climate change is not sufficient and there is an urgent need to begin the process of adaptation, climate protection and risk minimization for which investment in coastal management with view to sea level rise must be adequately budgeted. Globally, an increase in the frequency of natural and human-induced disaster must be expected.

Now place that in terms of what we learnt from the COVID-19 epidemic, and in that context the global existential threat of sea level rise owing to climate change. There is no doubt that when sea level rise reaches the tipping point, as is forecasted, this will result in global economic and social costs far more tragic in total consequences when compared with the aftermath cost of the current epidemic. Consider the enormous plight of refugees from submerged islands who have no territory or nation.

Given in comparison the economic and social cost of the current pandemic then we must wonder how it will be possible for the less privileged members of the international community, developing and least developed countries be able to mitigate with resilience the consequences of such combined hazards to survive?

Secretary General Antonio Guterres in his opening statement in September 2021 said the “*world is on the edge of an abyss and moving in the wrong direction*”<sup>2</sup>. He painted a stark picture of unsustainable inequalities, runaway climate change and feckless leadership ...the world must wake up. He felt the world is slipping towards two different sets of economic trade, financial, technological rules, two divergent approaches to development of artificial intelligence, and ultimately the risk of a renewed Cold War. To restore trust and inspire hope we need cooperation, we need dialogue and we need understanding. We are on the edge of an abyss.

The much-awaited ICP (Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea) which addressed the

report of the Secretary General on Sea level Rise had an opportunity to set in motion actions dealing with the inevitable sea level rise. Although it is an informal consultative process, it did not rise to the occasion nor to the challenge. For starters, it was clearly declared by powerful countries that there was no agreement to address legally based solutions. The fact that representatives of highly developed countries spoke strongly against any legal obligations speaks loudly regarding the time frame and work that will await us before we effectively address the solutions to one of the most challenging predicaments of our planet.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and amplified the vulnerability of least developed countries to external shocks.

This leads me to a supposition that science and technology, as mitigating tools, should become more conjectural and not solely observatory. Furthermore, to implement precautionary, adaptation and mitigation measures there needs to be ample international financial support and empowered human resources available. The critical need for financial and qualified human resources to mitigate COVID-19 caught the developing and least developed countries without a safety net to mitigate the economic and social resources needed to fight the epidemic. Hence there is a critical need for new financial instruments offered by international financial institutions and multilateral policies of reason. These need to become the cornerstone of genuine multilateral cooperation in anticipation of sea level rise tipping point.

Therefore, I say that the user pays principle should be mandatory as where those who enjoy free access to Ocean resources and services while simultaneously contributing to the Ocean’s degradation begin to pay for that privilege. It is a moral issue that has been absent in the current pandemic. We do need to change the tune of promises as in the past such as carbon credit permits, blue bonds, or promissory market solutions. **They are footprints in the sand.**

*The article  
continues on  
page 44*

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2021-09-21/secretary-general%E2%80%99s-address-the-general-assembly> accessed 7Oct22

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## ACTIVITIES OF THE IOI CENTRES AND FOCAL POINTS IN 2021

Lamiaa Mohamedein  
Chair of the IOI Network of  
Centres & Director IOI Egypt

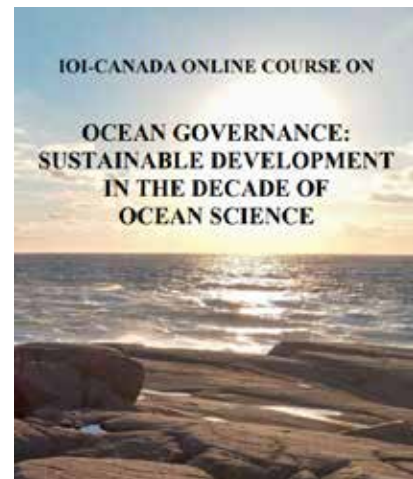
2021 was a year filled with different types of events, virtual, hybrid and face to face. The IOI Network ensured the pandemic would not hinder the IOI mission to promote the respect for common goods, the peaceful and sustainable use of ocean services and resources, the common heritage of the high seas and the need to support and empower people and countries, particularly developing countries, in managing their relations with the ocean in a sustainable manner. The IOI Network of Centers and Focal Points did their best to ensure that no pandemic could stop their success in delivering the IOI message to the world to make sure that the Ocean will be in careful hands for future generations.

### Training Programmes

**IOI Training Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean** on Ocean Governance, Ocean Sciences and Geoethics, organised by IOI Brazil and IOI Costa Rica, was held online, starting in December and completed in February of 2022. The training included live (synchronous) lectures and presentations, and self-paced sessions with reading and group activities in asynchronous mode. Most participants were practitioners with strong academic backgrounds and mid-career positions while others hailed from the academia, with backgrounds ranging from international law and relations, ocean science, coastal management, etc.

**IOI Canada** delivered an online course on Ocean Governance: Sustainable Development in the Decade of Ocean Science, with a series of 16 live sessions. More than 20 speakers joined remotely from England, India, Switzerland, USA and different parts of Canada and they stimulated a lively and wide-ranging discussion on topics relating to the four modules: Ocean Governance and Law of the Sea, Ocean Sciences, Integrated Coastal and Ocean

### IOI Canada



Management, and Fisheries and Aquaculture. Feedback showed flexibility of this form of asynchronous learning is much appreciated by busy professionals who are fitting it around work and/or limited internet access.

**IOI China** had to postpone the 2020 Ocean Governance Training to the end of 2021, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and due to further ongoing travel restrictions, the training was restricted to local participants, all mid-career professionals engaged in ocean management or research and education. The training programme, aimed to contribute to China's efforts to achieve the SDG 14 and the "dual carbon goal", focusing on marine ecological conservation and restoration, blue carbon and ocean carbon sink and building, and management of resilient coasts and coastal cities. A total of 16 distinguished lecturers, locals and foreigners, were invited, the latter delivering their presentations virtually. Professor Mao Bin, Course Director, delivered the keynote speech titled, "International Legal Framework for Ocean Governance Set up by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the



### IOI China



Sea (UNCLOS)”. Dr Awni Behnam, Honorary President of IOI delivered a presentation on the Relevance of Blue Economy, virtually. The training course was implemented through intensive class presentations, discussion, good practices exchanging and sharing. Field trip or study tours were not possible due to regulations still in place, imposed by the pandemic. Dr Shi Suixiang, Director-General of the NMDIS, attended the ceremony and made a closing speech on behalf of the NMDIS, congratulating the participants for their successful completion of the training programme.

**IOI Malta** successfully delivered the first study unit of the annual Training Programme online. Under regular circumstances, the same IOI Training Programme, which consists of three complementary Study-Units for a total of 15 ECTS, would be offered physically in Malta over a 5-week period in November-December, as has been the case for the previous 15 editions of the same Course. Due to restrictions on international travel, arrangements were made for the first and second component of the programme to be offered online. The contemporary and compelling ocean governance thematics addressed within the online GSC 5101 included emerging issues such as the BBNJ (Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction) Process, Blue Biotope, Blue Finance, the UN’s Regular Process and the EU’s Starfish Mission as well as the ‘omics’ and Industry 4.0 Revolution.

**IOI South Africa** ran two virtual trainings on ocean governance this year. In February, they delivered the Ocean Governance Course for Africa that had been postponed in 2020, while in September, they delivered a special version

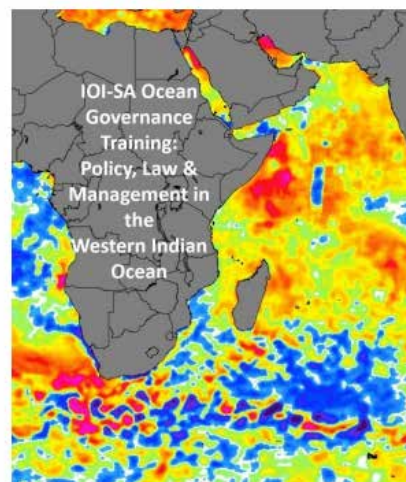
### IOI Malta



of the Course in Ocean Governance in partnership with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat: Policy, Law and Management for stakeholders in the Western Indian Ocean region in which key participants were identified to join the training, who will further contribute to the development of the ocean governance strategy for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.



### IOI South Africa



**Workshops, Seminars and Webinars**

**IOI Costa Rica** conducted a webinar to honour the memory of Dr Laura Segura (former Director, IOI Costa Rica) and Prof Carlos Soares (Faculty, IOI Training Course, Brazil). It was organised by Prof Eduardo Marone, Director IOI Brazil, in collaboration with other partners. The audience was welcomed by Eduardo Marone, Prof Paulo Lana and Prof Alejandro Gutiérrez (previous Director, IOI Costa Rica), who commemorated and appreciated Carlos Soares and Laura Segura for their valued work over the years. Topic presentations were delivered by: Prof Frida M Armas-Pfirter, Prof Carlos Murillo Zamoro, Prof Fernando Tarapow, Prof Ariel H Troisi, Prof Lindsay Ryan Valerio, Prof Alberto Piola,

IOI Costa Rica



Prof Osmar Moller, Prof Silvia Ines Romero, Prof Mauro Vargas Hernandez (Director, IOI Costa Rica), Prof Alejandro Gutierrez, Prof Alexander Turra. Interventions from other distinguished guests followed with a closure from Eduardo Marone.

**IOI Canada and IOI South Africa** offered a collaborated online course jointly as part of their commitment to continuing professional development for IOI alumni. Registrations were restricted to IOI alumni that had successfully completed an IOI Training Programme prior to 2020. A total of 24 participants were selected, 12 men and 12 women, representing 24 countries in Africa, Asia, the

IOI Egypt



Caribbean, Europe, North and South America and the South Pacific. Nine live sessions were delivered from 4th October to 4th November in a series of three modules. The 10 guest speakers from three continents were selected by both IOI Canada and IOI SA which added to the international and collaborative experience.

**IOI Canada and IOI South Africa**



**IOI China** participated in the United Nations "Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development" China Seminar which focused on marine comprehensive cognition, scientific and technological innovation, marine ecology and biodiversity protection, ocean solutions to carbon neutral goals including a discussion on China's goals and implementation in the "Decade of the Oceans".

**IOI Egypt** organised two face to face Ocean Governance training workshops. The first was held at IOI Egypt host institute, the National Institute of Oceanography and fisheries (NIOF), Suez; 16 participants were chosen from 105 applicants. The second workshop was held at NIOF, Hurghada, over 4 days for 22 participants. Applicants for both workshops were mostly students, new graduates and researchers from NIOF. 19 professors from NIOF, Arab Academy for Science Technology & Maritime Transport (AASTM), Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency and Suez university conducted the lectures.





IOI Germany

**IOI Germany** offered the online Summer School, hosted by ZMT, DIE and the IOI in September. The course consisted of an intensive academic program providing a scientific basis from different disciplines (social and natural sciences) to enable the participants from different backgrounds to engage in marine governance. Leading experts were invited from different disciplines and distinguished institutions to work with the course.

**IOI Iran** organised a workshop on "The Ecology of Coral Reefs at Chabahar Bay" on the occasion of the National research week.

**IOI South Africa** held two writing retreats in the lead up to the WIOGEN Ocean Governance Conference, held from 27 – 29th October in partnership, with WIOMSA and the Nairobi Convention. The Ocean Governance conference received over 300 registrations and over 50 presentations. The third day was a special session hosted by the Nairobi Convention with an aim to developing the Ocean

Governance strategy for the region. WIOGEN is also working with the WIOMSA Western Indian Ocean Journal of Marine Science to deliver an "Ocean Governance" special edition of the journal as an output from the conference.

#### World Ocean Day 2021

**IOI Brazil** organised an online workshop, sponsored by several institutions focusing on the main theme "Life and Livelihoods" as part of the regular workshops on Coastal Management. This event was held to commemorate World Oceans Day, the Day of the Oceanographer in Brazil and to honour former Professor Carlos Soares, vice director of IOI Brazil, who passed away in 2020. Over a hundred persons participated in the live event and hundreds visited the online video.

**IOI Canada** is a partner organisation of the global programme Too Big to Ignore (TBTI) that focusses on small scale fisheries. TBTI once again this year organized a week-



IOI Brazil

long series of activities in June which as usual engaged IOI Canada alumni. Main themes of the events were: Wellbeing & Food Security, Gender & Dignity, Change & Resilience, Justice & Equity and Capacity & Prospects. All sessions were live-streamed and offered free of charge, allowing anyone with an interest in small-scale fisheries to actively participate and join the discussion. All events were recorded and posted to TBTI YouTube channel, freely accessible for anyone interested in the topic.

**IOI China**, in cooperation with the host Institute the National Marine Data and Information Service, held an activity titled "Little Marine Guardian", in which children were invited to watch marine science videos, listen to marine knowledge lectures, play marine garbage sorting games, draw marine animal paintings and other related activities intended to increase their knowledge and interest in the Ocean.

**IOI Costa Rica:** Two webinars were organised by IOI Costa Rica on the 8th and 9th June consisting of 16 lectures focusing on the largest and most important estuary of Costa Rica, the Golfo de Nicoya. The webinars were transmitted live online. Alejandro Gutiérrez Echeverría and José Mauro Vargas Hernández, former and current Directors of IOI Costa Rica respectively, participated in a colloquium devoted to Ocean Dynamics and Marine Ecology organised by IDESPO (Instituto de Estudios Sociales en Población), Institute of Social Studies in Population (another department of UNA) on the 9th of June.

**IOI Egypt**, in collaboration with host institute National Institute of Fisheries (NIOF), conducted a series of webinars concerning the Ocean resources in Egypt. The first webinar titled "Marine Living Resources", showcased 3 lectures and attracted 339 attendees from different disciplines in Egypt, Morocco and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The second webinar "Marine Mineral Resources" was attended by 294 attendees from Egypt, KSA, Russia and Australia. The third and last webinar "Marine Water Resources" benefitted 348 attendees from different disciplines in Egypt, Taiwan, Qatar, Oman, Yemen, Spain, Germany and KSA.

**IOI IR Iran** participated in various events to celebrate World Oceans Day. The activities were organized by the UNESCO Cluster Office in Tehran and Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science in collaboration with IOI IR Iran. Activities included an Online Workshop on Ocean Literacy for School Teachers (The Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman), which included discussions on oceanography, environmental science, and climate change. A Virtual workshop, was also conducted on marine data and information, oceanic forecasts and their role in sustainable development, and a symbolic beach cleanup in Nowshahr, Bushehr, Bandar Abbas and Chabahar coasts, involved local stakeholders and NGOs. Four different types of coastal monitoring and observation activities were conducted in the Iranian coastal waters in the north and south of the country: basic oceanographic monitoring; water samples suitable for ocean acidification studies were taken according to the Iran Ocean Acidification Observing

IOI Costa Rica

**SEMINARIO VIRTUAL**  
**Celebrando los océanos en la vida cotidiana: Golfo de Nicoya**  
 En conmemoración del Día Mundial de los Océanos 2021

Organizado por: @vicerectoriadeextension UNA

Enlace: <https://una-cr.zoom.us/j/81130191416>  
 ID: 811 3019 1416

**INVITADOS/A:**  
 Moderador: Dr. José Mauro Vargas Hernández, Director Instituto Internacional del Océano - Costa Rica.  
 M. Sc. Rebeca Quirósda Céspedes, Estación de Biología Marina, UNA, Costa Rica.  
 Dra. Silvia Chacón Barrocas, SINAMOT/UNA, Costa Rica.  
 Dr. Alejandro Gutiérrez Echeverría, Instituto Internacional del Océano, UNA, Costa Rica.  
 Lic. Gonzalo Mora Cortés, Programa Interdisciplinario Costero, IDESPO/UNA, Costa Rica.  
 Dra. Silvia Rivera Herrera, Academia Escuela de Sociología Programa Interdisciplinario Costero, IDESPO - UNA, Costa Rica.  
 M. Sc. María Hernández Delgado, Coordinador del Programa Interdisciplinario Costero, IDESPO-UNA, Costa Rica.  
 Lic. Gerardo Espinoza Calvo, Coordinador del Laboratorio Nacional de Producción de Semilla de Océano (LANPRO), ECOMAR.  
 Dr. Alexander Terra, Especialista en Gestión Biológica y Ecología Marina, Coordinador del Instituto Oceanográfico de la Universidad de Sao Paulo, Brasil.

Organizan:



IOI Islamic Republic of Iran (IR Iran)

Network (IrOA-ON); water and surface sediment samples were taken for microplastic analysis in rivers of the southern Caspian Sea coasts, and health status of corals in the Chabahar bay were evaluated by scuba diving and video transecting. During the meeting of the Iranian National Committee for Oceanography, World Oceans Day was celebrated virtually.

**IOI Nigeria** a hybrid, one day event was organised at Makoko, a popular community in Lagos State. This community was chosen to focus on the importance of the estuaries and estuarine communities as part of the marine environment. Activities included virtual presentations, community cleanups and practical demonstration for recycling and up-cycling of waste materials. The Community Cleanup featured members of the community together with volunteers and partners cleaning their environment and the creeks that lead into the lagoon. 43 volunteers, training participants and other community people were present. Some of the plastics collected were used for the practical demonstration during the waste recycling and up-cycling training held in partnership with FABE Nigeria. A virtual event was also held, with distinguished speakers and participants, and for which 147 registrations were received and 97 managed full attendance.

**IOI Thailand** organised a 25-km cycling campaign for marine resources and environment conservation at Hat Samran, Samran District, Trang Province in the South of Thailand. Around 50 photographs of participants were submitted online, presenting their commitments on marine

resources and environment conservation. They were leaders/CEOs from the Governmental agencies, private sector, international organizations, academic & research institutions, bicycle clubs, and their families.



IOI Thailand

**IOI FP Malaysia:** In June, the World Oceans Day programme was launched via an online video from the Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah, host institute of the IOI's Focal Point in Malaysia, Sitti Rahaenah. Activities included a series of webinars, virtual tours of finfish and crustacean hatcheries, and a quiz, photography and art competitions and much more. To maximize the impact of this year's theme 'The Ocean: Life & Livelihoods', the WOD event was co-celebrated with the Coral Triangle Day and the World Sea Turtle Day and dubbed the 'Ocean Celebration' to highlight their obvious synergies and convergence on the key issues of sustainable management of the ocean.



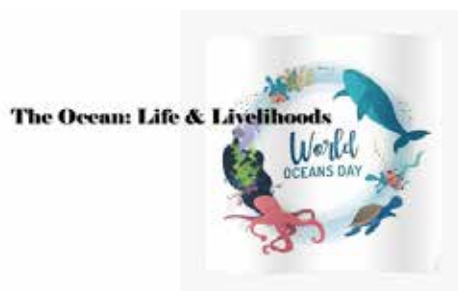
## IOI FP Malaysia



**IOI FP Sri Lanka:** A webinar was organised by IOI Sri Lanka Focal Point, Aruna Maheepala together with a school teacher and 21 high school students from four different schools who are studying economics at advanced level. An overview about the ocean resources in Sri Lanka and their importance to the Sri Lankan economy was delivered. Students were also asked to set up school societies related to the ocean environment to act towards conserving marine resources in Sri Lanka and in the region.

development working group of Project Nautilus. IOI SA has also been a key stakeholder in EBSA identification in South Africa and on the Marine Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for South Africa.

## IOI FP Sri Lanka

**Other Activities**

**IOI South Africa** continued to support marine governance initiatives in the region. Shannon Hampton, Programme Manager for IOI SA, is also a member of the advisory board of the MULTI-FRAME project, the Ocean Literacy Working Group of the European Commission AANCHOR Project and also a member of the capacity

**IOI Malta** and, its host institute, the University of Malta, through Alan Deidun (Director, IOI Malta, and Ocean Ambassador for Malta), has been coordinating, since 2017, a citizen science campaign: Spot the Alien Fish. This project is supported financially by the IOI as part of its ocean literacy and citizen science outreach. Through this programme, information is disseminated to marine stakeholders, on the need to report marine invasive marine alien species, in a bid to record and control the numbers of the same species. A revised poster for the campaign was designed, providing useful information both in English and in Maltese, on how to identify and handle invasive alien species. One such species is the lionfish, responsible yearly for many injuries to sea users through the venomous spines on its back and next to its gills. The campaign also promotes the capture and consumption of the same lionfish as the species is safe to eat once its spines have been removed, and this would contribute to its removal from habitats where it is highly competitive.

The Spot the Alien Fish citizen science campaign is also keen on delivering an ocean literacy contribution, through the



organisation of regular informative talks with groups and associations of interested professional, recreational and sports fishers, as well as with other marine stakeholders such as SCUBA divers and snorkelers. Such talks feature a mobile exhibition of a selection of marine alien species held by Alan Deidun and are a tangible contribution to the ongoing UN's Ocean Sciences Decade (2021-2030) and to the annual activities held to commemorate World Oceans Day (8th June). A short animation clip on social media, is accessible through this link. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7W00u\\_ugd2k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7W00u_ugd2k): The public can take the role of citizen scientists by submitting reports to the campaign through the website, campaign Facebook page as well as by email ([aliensmalta@gmail.com](mailto:aliensmalta@gmail.com)).

#### IOI Ocean Academy

Three pilot online Ocean Academy courses in the Maldives, Egypt and Sri Lanka were successfully delivered free of charge with a total duration of 20 hours each.

**IOI Egypt** delivered their first Ocean Academy course titled "The Marine Environment: Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Future". A number of sessions, each of maximum duration of 3 hours for a total of 20 hours were held online. From the large number of applications received, the first cohort of 47 participants were selected and registered for the course conducted in the local



language, Arabic. Course welcoming speeches and introductory lectures and were provided and supported by IOI HQ.

**IOI Focal Point in Sri Lanka**, Dr Aruna Maheepala, organised and directed his first Ocean Academy programme, in partnership with the Sri Lanka Association for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (SLAFAR) titled "Ocean Governance Framework for Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Ocean, and Marine Resources". This online course was designed to provide an understanding of regionally and locally relevant Ocean information while addressing specific local needs. Another aim was to support the outcomes of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A total of 46 participants followed the course; eligible applicants were graduates, final year university students, mid-level officers and policy makers within ministries and departments.

**IOI Focal Point in Maldives**, delivered their first academy under the title "Coral Reefs: Importance and Measures for Sustenance" in the native language, Dhivehi. The course was conducted primarily by Dr Abdulla Naseer and focused on coral reefs and reef habitats; the importance of the reef system in protecting islands and also in supporting the marine ecosystem. It also addressed the social and economic significance of the reefs. For the first-ever IOI Ocean Academy course in the Maldives, Minister at the President's Office, HE Zaha Waheed addressed the students and a video message from Antonella Vassallo, Managing Director, IOI, was also shown to the participants.

## 2

## IOI TRAINING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Antonella Vassallo  
Managing Director IOI

In 2021, even though some Covid-19 pandemic restrictions were slowly being eased in certain countries, constraints continued to affect the implementation of the training events held globally by IOI Network of Centres and Focal Points, principally all those aspects of IOI activities that involved travel, locally, regionally and especially internationally, so that travel of IOI representatives, faculty and training programme candidates to training programmes and any events depending on availability of travel corridors were still very restricted.

While operating under pandemic constraints, the HQ and network continued to implement as many actions and programmes possible and various activities were modified to enable IOI training, using virtual formats which allowed IOI to achieve a number of partnership and networking goals in spite of difficulties and a reduced programme, compared to initial plans. In summary it was heartening to note that through the actions of IOI HQ and the IOI network efforts, effective IOI outreach was still achieved over 2021, in spite of practical difficulties and the steep learning curves of moving online. In chronological order below are some events of the IOI globally:

### 7TH TRAINING PROGRAMME IN OCEAN GOVERNANCE FOR AFRICA; ONLINE, 22ND FEBRUARY – 19TH MARCH; ORGANISED BY IOI SOUTHERN AFRICA IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

The 7th IOI Course in Ocean Governance delivered annually by IOI South Africa, scheduled for September 2020, had to be postponed to the beginning of this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic while the 8th Training Programme was held as usual in September, although still online. The eighth edition of the training, was unique in that IOI SA partnered with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat through their SAPPHIRE project to present a training that emphasized the priorities of the Western Indian Ocean Region.

Topics covered:

- Oceans and Coasts – Opportunities and Threats
- The Governance Framework
- Governance Tools
- Governance in Action
- Creating a Supportive Environment for Effective Governance



**21 Participants from Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Tanzania.**



**16TH IOI TRAINING PROGRAMME ON REGIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN, BLACK, BALTIC & CASPIAN SEAS; OFFERED BY IOI MALTA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, IN MALTA GLOBAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK AND MANAGING OUR RELATIONS WITH THE OCEANS (ONLINE COMPONENT), 22ND FEBRUARY - 4TH JUNE 2021**

Study-Unit GSC 5101 of the annual IOI Malta Training Programme was successfully delivered online. Under regular circumstances, the same IOI Training Programme, which consists of three complementary Study-Units (GSC 5101, GSC 5102 and GSC 5103) for a total of 15 ECTS, would be offered physically in Malta over a 5-week period in November-December, as has been the case for the previous 15 editions of the same Course. Due to restrictions on international travel, arrangements were made for the first and second component of the programme to be offered online. The contemporary and compelling ocean governance thematics addressed within the online GSC 5101 included emerging issues such as the BBNJ (Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction) Process, Blue Biotope, Blue Finance, the UN's Regular Process and the EU's Starfish Mission as well as the 'omics' and Industry 4.0 Revolution. This relevant and cutting-edge compendium of themes was offered by a prestigious faculty both local (e.g., Dr Felicity Attard, Prof Charles Galdies, Dr Adam Gauci, Prof Alan Deidun) and international (e.g., Dr David Vivas-Egui from UNCTAD, Dr Francois Bilet from the UN Secretariat in New York, Prof Awni Behnam from Geneva). The second and third component, GSC 5102 and GSC 5103 will be completed in 2022.



**25 participants from 15 countries Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Iran, Italy, Lebanon, Moldova, Portugal, Russia, Tanzania and Turkmenistan**

**ONLINE COURSE ON OCEAN GOVERNANCE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE; 7TH MAY - 29TH JUNE 2021; ORGANISED BY IOI CANADA**

Given the continuing restrictions around in-person training, IOI Canada delivered an online course on Ocean Governance: Sustainable Development in the Decade of Ocean Science through a combination of lectures, discussions, videos and readings. As the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development got underway, this free webinar-based course was offered for both live participation and self-paced study, both with a time commitment of c. 30 hours plus readings. Participants registered from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central America, Europe, the Indian Ocean, North and South America, and the South Pacific.

Topics coverage:

- Ocean Sciences
- Law of the Sea and Principled Ocean Governance
- Maritime Security
- Communication and Negotiation
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management
- Marine Transportation
- Energy



**57 Participants from 30 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Middle East and North, Central and South America.**

**HYBRID ROUND TABLE AND IOI ALUMNI MEETING  
“ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROSPECTS OF COOPERATION  
WITH IOI ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAPACITY FOR  
THE GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE  
CASPIAN SEA. PLANNING FOR SUCCESS ON THE PATH  
TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF  
TURKMENISTAN” 20TH AUGUST 2021, ASHGABAT,  
CASPIAN SEA INSTITUTE**

The second iteration of this one-day event was held in hybrid format with physical presence of IOI Alumni in Ashgabat and online support from IOI and external experts. Video messages and lectures were sent by Antonella Vassallo, Awni Behnam (Honorary President, IOI), and Mahin Faghfour (President of the IOI Board). Topic update lectures for the Turkmen alumni were provided via Teams by experts in Maritime Law. IOI alumnus Myrat Atajanov, (Malta 2010) IOI training partner in Turkmenistan and Head of the Caspian Sea Institute of Turkmenistan convened and chaired the meeting which was run as a focus group and workshop style exchange. Within the framework of the round table program Norman Martinez and Elda Belja addressed the theme “International Maritime Conventions in relation to the Caspian Sea” Participants of the video meeting mentioned issues on the international sea conventions and their application concerning the Caspian Sea. IOI alumni discussed economic, social and ecological directions of development of the Caspian states – marine law, policy, pollution abatement of the sea, management of resources and others. The round table was concluded by messages from Myrat Atajanov and Mahin Faghfour, in favour of further cooperation between Turkmenistan and the IOI.

**7 participants from Turkmenistan**



**8TH TRAINING PROGRAMME IN OCEAN  
GOVERNANCE FOR AFRICA; ONLINE, 30TH AUGUST  
– 24TH SEPTEMBER; ORGANISED BY IOI SOUTHERN  
AFRICA IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

Since it was not possible to take participants on field trips, IOI SA developed two videos to supplement course presentations which include, an Estuary Management video, launched in the 2020 training, and a recently commissioned video that explores Marine Spatial Planning using False Bay as an example. This video was made in collaboration with partners from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, SANCCOB and WWF-SA. Both of these videos are available on the IOI-SA YouTube Channel.

Topics coverage:

- Oceans and Coasts – Opportunities and Threats
- The Governance Framework
- Governance Tools
- Governance in Action
- Creating a Supportive Environment for Effective Governance



**21 participants from Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania,  
Mozambique, South Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius  
and Seychelles**

**ONLINE SUMMER SCHOOL OFFERED BY IOI  
GERMANY: OCEAN GOVERNANCE FOR  
SUSTAINABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS, 6TH - 17TH  
SEPTEMBER**

The interdisciplinary Summer School was hosted by ZMT, DIE (Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungsforschung) and the IOI as a follow-up of a similar course held in February 2020 in Bremen at ZMT. The course consisted of an intensive academic program providing a scientific basis from different disciplines (social and natural sciences) to enable the participants from different backgrounds to engage in marine governance. Leading experts were invited from different disciplines and distinguished institutions to work with the course. The structure of the course was a mixture of lectures to provide basic information on the topic and a free discussion among participants and faculty to elucidate also country or sector specific questions of the trainees.



**33 participants from Madagascar, Brazil, Mozambique, Germany, Trinidad & Tobago, Indonesia, Senegal, Costa Rica, Norway, Bangladesh, Kenya, India, Guatemala, Romania, Egypt, Argentina, South Africa, Ghana, Guinea, Jordan, Algeria, Vietnam, Cape Verde, Seychelles**

**TRAINING PROGRAMME ON OCEAN GOVERNANCE  
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION, 11-22ND  
OCTOBER 2021, ORGANISED BY IOI CHINA, TIANJIN**

The 2020 Ocean Governance Training had to be postponed to 2021, restricted only to local participants due to ongoing travel restrictions. The training programme aimed to contribute to China's

efforts to achieve the SDG 14 and the “dual carbon goal”, focusing on marine ecological conservation and restoration, blue carbon and ocean carbon sink and building, and management of resilient coasts and coastal cities. A total of 16 distinguished lecturers, local and foreigners were invited, the latter delivering their presentations virtually. The training course was implemented through intensive class presentations, discussion, good practices exchanging and sharing.

Topics coverage:

- International Legal Framework for Ocean Governance
- Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)
- Marine Ecological Conservation and Restoration, and Blue Carbon
- Ocean Governance and Some Marine Environmental Hot Issues
- Summary and Evaluation



**32 full-time and 20 part-time participants from China**

**IOI TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN ON OCEAN GOVERNANCE,  
OCEAN SCIENCES AND GEOETHICS;  
ONLINE, 8 DECEMBER 2021 – 24 FEBRUARY 2022;  
ORGANISED BY IOI BRAZIL AND IOI COSTA RICA**

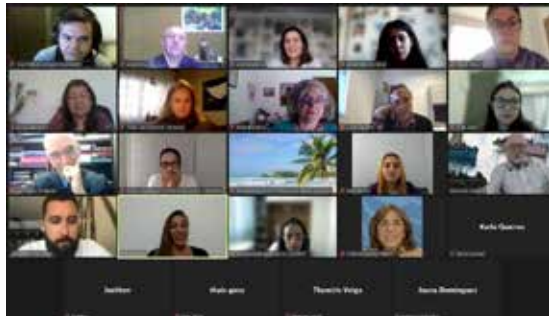
This training programme consisting of a total of 120-course hours spread over a period of three months with live (synchronous) lectures and presentations, and self-paced sessions including reading and group activities in asynchronous mode. Most participants were practitioners with strong academic backgrounds and mid-career positions while



others hailed from the academia, with backgrounds ranging from international law and relations, ocean science, coastal management, etc.

Topics coverage:

- Ocean Governance
- Ocean Sciences
- Geoethics



**21 Participants from Brazil and Mexico**

#### CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES IN OCEAN GOVERNANCE FOR IOI ALUMNI

**NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND EMERGING ISSUES IN OCEAN GOVERNANCE; NINE ONLINE SESSIONS BETWEEN 4 OCT. – 4 NOV. 2021; OFFERED JOINTLY BY IOI-SOUTHERN AFRICA AND IOI-CANADA AS PART OF IOI'S COMMITMENT TO CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ITS ALUMNI**

This online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) course was offered as 9 live sessions in a series of three modules providing presentations, discussions, readings, videos and interactive tools to explore new and emerging issues in UNCLOS & ABNJ; Climate Change & Health of the Ocean; and Small-scale Fisheries. The intended audience were the IOI's Alumni, that is, anyone who has completed an IOI training programme prior to 2020 and is keen to improve their knowledge of recent developments in the field. Drawn from a variety of backgrounds, they were mainly marine professionals with a broad range of education and work experience.



**24 participants from: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, DR Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Nigeria, Romania, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Vanuatu.**

#### THE IOI OCEAN ACADEMY PROGRAMME – LAUNCH OF THE PILOT PROGRAMME IN 2021



In 2021, following a decision of the IOI Governing Board during a mid-term meeting in April IOI Governors supported the proposal to launch the IOI Ocean Academy as a 2022 IOI 50th anniversary event with an overall intention to expand IOI's capacity development portfolio to include also Ocean Literacy outreach to attract laypersons interested in ocean issues (ocean literacy) and to fill current information gaps in ocean literacy, in local language formats. An IOI Ocean Academy Course is designed to upgrade Ocean literacy and provide an understanding of regionally and locally relevant Ocean information at an appropriate level. The IOI Academy Courses are tailored to the interests of laypersons. There are characterised by 20-hour modules delivered online, in local languages, free-of-charge for participants and feature Ocean knowledge that is locally relevant, overseen and delivered by the IOI and local experts.

The IOI Ocean Academy pilot programme delivered three successful 20hr online courses:



Egypt



Sri Lanka



Maldives

**Egypt:** The Marine Environment: Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Future; 1 November – 13 December; offered in the Arabic Language; to 47 persons from the region.

**Sri Lanka:** Ocean Governance Framework for Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Ocean, and Marine Resources; 2 - 30 November; offered in the English Language; to 46 persons from the region.

**Maldives:** Coral Reefs: Importance and Measures for Sustenance; 14 - 25 November; offered in Dhivehi Language; to 25 persons from the region.

The 2021 EMB Bursary was awarded to Justin Cauchi, a Master's student with the Department of Biology, to carry out research to address the gaps in current knowledge by mapping and characterising the subtidal *Dendropoma cristatum* bioconstructions present along cliff shores. The EMB bursary funds were utilised to enhance the research work and all equipment purchased with these funds will be available for use at the University of Malta after the research period, and recognised as a donation from the IOI.

The 2020 EMB Bursary awarded to Ms Joanna Causon Deguara to enhance her research titled “Assessing Erosion and Mobility of Boulder Sized Clasts Along Selected Rock Coasts of the Maltese Islands” was completed in October. This Bursary funding supported the purchase of specialised software and hardware that greatly facilitated her research analysis by making it possible to obtain clear overhead images as and when required. The Bursary has enabled her to carry out research using comparable technology and methodology to that used in similar studies elsewhere.

**IOI AWARDS AND BURSARIES**

**AWARD OF THE 2021 IOI ELISABETH MANN BORGES BURSARY AND PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE 2020 BURSARY; MALTA, 8TH OCTOBER**



L-R: Ms Joanna Causon Deguara, Justin Cauchi, current EMB Bursary award winner, Ms Antonella Vassallo, Pro-Rector Professor Joseph Cacciattolo, Professor Louis Cassar

## 3

## IOI ALUMNI NETWORK AND PROGRAMMES IN 2021

Cosmin Chivu  
Project Officer IOI HQ  
Antonella Vassallo  
Managing Director IOI HQ

Over the years, the IOI training programmes in ocean governance have resulted in a critical mass of IOI Alumni and a global network of trained and empowered leaders and practitioners in ocean governance.

Since its foundation in 1972, IOI has trained hundreds of young practitioners, particularly from developing countries and countries in transition, and contributes towards a growing global network of trained and empowered leaders fully conversant with the latest developments in ocean governance. IOI Alumni have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential for effective ocean governance, and are empowered to apply contemporary approaches to coastal and ocean management.

Engagement with and outreach to the IOI Alumni community continued over 2021 using mainly online interaction, since this was the principally agreed mode for interaction with the global community of IOI alumni.

The IOI Alumni Channel accessed via the IOI's website (<https://www.ioinst.org/ioi-alumni/>) continues to offer a platform for the exchange and interaction of IOI alumni, faculty and training directors. Usage of the site continues with more Alumni sharing career opportunities and news, and with successive cohorts of graduands from IOI training events registering as members.

### CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) SERIES IN 2021: ONLINE UPDATE COURSES IN OCEAN GOVERNANCE FOR IOI ALUMNI

The IOI network centres worked to offer the courses with the principal intent of providing a form of continuous professional development (CPD) and of increasing interaction and taking advantage of networks of expertise in the topic areas. among different IOI Alumni cohorts. Another development in this year was the creation and provision of short courses on emerging topics in Ocean Governance organised with the principal intent of providing a form of continuous professional development (CPD) and of increasing interaction and networking among different IOI Alumni cohorts.

**Turkmenistan: Alumni of the IOI: Hybrid Round Table “Achievements and Prospects of Cooperation with International Ocean Institute in development of capacity for the Governance and Sustainability of the Caspian Sea. Planning for success on the path to the 30th Anniversary of Independence of Turkmenistan”, 20th August, Ashgabat, Caspian Sea Institute.**



**Turkmenistan Round  
Table**

The second iteration of this one-day event was held in hybrid format with physical presence of IOI Alumni in Ashgabat and online support from IOI and external experts. Video messages and lectures were sent by Antonella Vassallo, Awni Behnam (Honorary President, IOI), and Mahin Faghfour (President of the IOI Board). Topic update lectures for the Turkmen alumni were provided via Teams by experts in Maritime Law. IOI alumnus Myrat Atajanov, (Malta 2010) IOI training partner in Turkmenistan and Head of the Caspian Sea Institute of Turkmenistan convened and chaired the meeting which was run as a focus group and workshop style exchange.

Within the framework of the round table program Norman Martinez and Elda Belja addressed the theme “International Maritime Conventions in relation to the Caspian Sea”.

Participants of the video meeting mentioned issues on the international sea conventions and their application concerning the Caspian Sea. IOI alumni discussed economic, social and ecological directions of development of the Caspian states – marine law, policy, pollution abatement of the sea, management of resources and others. The round table was concluded by messages from Myrat Atajanov and Mahin Faghfour, in favour of further cooperation between Turkmenistan and the IOI.

**New Developments And Emerging Issues In Ocean Governance, focus on: UNCLOS & ABNJ; Climate Change & Health Of The Ocean; Small-Scale Fisheries**

This collaborative online course was offered jointly by IOI Canada and IOI Southern Africa as part of the IOI’s commitment to continuing professional development for its alumni. Registration was therefore restricted to IOI alumni and the class size was capped at 24 but selected participants covered seven different training locations across the network: Brazil, Canada, China, Malta, South Africa, Thailand and Turkmenistan. The 12 men and 12 women represented 24 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, North and

South America and the South Pacific.

Nine live sessions were delivered from 4th October to 4th November in a series of three modules. Utilising presentations, discussions, readings, videos and interactive tools, the webinars explored new and emerging issues in UNCLOS and ABNJ; Climate Change and Health of the Ocean; and Small-scale Fisheries. The 10 guest speakers from three continents were selected by both IOI Canada and IOI SA which added to the international and collaborative experience.

**All online events organised by the IOI are also explicitly disseminated to the IOI alumni so as to offer opportunities for attendance and to enhance knowledge outreach:**

IOI moderated Thematic Session 2B: A Sustainable Blue Economy to Support the Green Transformation of Cities during the 16th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements & Sustainable Cities (GFHS 2021); Online Event, 28th October;

The HYBRID Special Seminar: Ocean - Climate - Biodiversity: Code Red for Humanity (in-person at the Aula Magna, University of Malta - Valletta Campus, and streamed online).

**Additionally, the IOI participated in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, in the Virtual Early Career Ocean Professional Day; June 1st - 2nd**

On 1st June the Virtual Early Career Ocean Professional (V.ECOP) Day livestreamed for 24-hours, it was hosted by and for early career ocean professionals from around the world and from a variety of ocean disciplines to showcase their work, activities, and contributions to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The IOI, through its global Alumni programme participated in V. ECOP Day as a programme contributor, with the aim of highlighting the contributions and work carried out by graduates of the IOI training programmes.



## 4

## SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2021

**IOI PARTICIPATES IN THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, IN THE VIRTUAL EARLY CAREER OCEAN PROFESSIONAL DAY, 1ST - 2ND JUNE**

On 1st June the Virtual Early Career Ocean Professional (V.ECOP) Day livestreamed for 24-hours, following the sun around the world. It was hosted by and for early career ocean professionals from around the world and from a variety of ocean disciplines to showcase their work, activities, and contributions to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The IOI, through its global Alumni programme participated in V.ECOP Day as a programme contributor, with the aim of highlighting the

contributions and work carried out by graduates of the IOI training programmes. The project was spearheaded by two IOI Alumni, Evgeniia Kostianaia (IOI Focal Point for Moscow) and Cosmin Chivu (IOI HQ), with the support of IOI HQ and reflects the IOI's support of and contribution to the UN's Ocean Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The interviews focused on the work carried out by IOI Alumni to achieve the UN Ocean Decade's vision, societal outcomes or challenges, highlighting experiences from different disciplines and countries that showcased the widespread, diverse and international nature of IOI Alumni and their successes.

V.ECOP Day poster





V.ECOP21 screenshot



Pre-recorded interviews with IOI Alumni were interspersed through the 24hr event, and delivered by: Nicolas Ojeda (Malta Training Programme, 2014), Aruna Maheepala (Thailand Training Programme 2018), Cretus Mtonga (Canada Training Programme, 2018), Bruno Minuzzi Schemes (Malta Training Programme, 2018), Mercy Amai Emojang (South Africa Training Programme 2019), Lalaina Rakotonaivo (South Africa Training Programme, 2021), Jean-Eric Fokou Chanou (South Africa Training Programme, 2021), Japhet Bwire Manyama (South Africa Training Programme 2021) and Stephanie Nzeke Waniko (South Africa Training Programme 2021).

Their contributions expanded on their ocean related work, ranging from marine resource management, diplomacy for a better resolution of conflicts related to the delimitation of maritime boundaries, the Blue Economy, protection of endangered species, to Ocean Literacy and conservation programmes.

**HARNESSING THE BENEFITS OF THE OCEAN ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE ROAD TO UNCTAD15; ONLINE EVENT; 9 JUNE 2021 - ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD OCEANS DAY, OFFICIAL PRE-EVENT TO UNCTAD15; PANNELIST AWNI BEHNAM, HONORARY PRESIDENT, IOI**

This high-level panel discussion, held on the margins of the UN World Oceans Day, provided a platform for exchange on some of the key challenges and opportunities to help identify priority areas for accelerated policy action and reform related intergovernmental processes, particularly UNCTAD-15 and the second UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon 2022).

A promotional banner for a panel discussion. On the left, a blue vertical bar contains a white headset icon with the number '9' inside, followed by the text 'June 2021' and '2-4.30 p.m. CEST'. The background is an aerial view of a coastal town with a blue river and a beach. At the bottom, an orange bar contains the text 'High-level panel discussion on the road to UNCTAD15: Harnessing the benefits of the ocean economy for sustainable development'.

UNCTAD15 pre-event  
9 Jun 21



Dr Behnam's presentation focussed on training and capacity development as well as the role of UNCTAD, and UNCTAD 15 expectations, in achieving a sustainable Blue Ocean Economy, and Agenda 2030.

**IOI PARTICIPATED IN THE 21ST VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS (ICP21) ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA: "SEA-LEVEL RISE AND ITS IMPACTS", 14TH - 18TH JUNE**

The United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea held its twenty-first meeting in a virtual format. As in the past and since Elisabeth Mann Borgese succeeded in creating the now renamed ICP, Awni Behnam, Honorary President IOI, Mahin Faghfour, President IOI, and Antonella Vassallo, Managing Director IOI HQ, participated in the 21st session which was devoted to addressing the existential threat of sea level rise. The meeting "Sea Level Rise and its Impacts" was presided over by Co-Chairs from the delegations of the Principality of Monaco, and the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations.

Panel discussions and presentations were made by experts on the topic with a view to understanding the complexity of interrelated issue, its impacts, and related challenges with emphasis on international cooperation and coordination in addressing the impacts and challenges related to sea level rise. The Honorary President of IOI raised a question on the availability of a country-by-country vulnerability index for sea level rise and the possibility of using it as a planning or management tool in sea-level rise preparedness and mitigation. An area of consequence needing greater attention is capacity development and financing in terms of resilience and adaptation should the tipping points be reached. IOI stands ready as always to contribute to this important need to develop capacity and advance knowledge in developing countries through its training and education programmes.

**IOI HQ PARTNERED WITH MALTESE COMPANY COMPUTIME FOR A CSR/OCEAN LITERACY/CITIZEN SCIENCE OUTREACH BEACH EVENT AS PART OF THE MEDITERRANEAN OCEAN LITERACY FESTIVAL, 23RD - 24TH SEPTEMBER**

IOI partnered with local company Computime to carry out an Ocean literacy and citizen science-style event where the aim was to combine the sharing of Ocean knowledge with the collection of scientific information by interested laypersons among Computime staff. The event started with an IOI-supported online lecture by marine biologist and IOI Malta Director, Alan Deidun who shared with Computime staff interesting information on the sea and how responsible behaviour at the beach and away from it, can help protect it now and for future generations.

The talk was followed by coordinated visits to two Maltese beaches where staff could put into practice what they learned. The beach sampling programme allowed the group to carry out simple investigations on local sand profiles, microplastics distribution and submerged beach litter using observation and special sampling equipment, snorkelling, and recording of data.

This event organised with and supported by Computime, was an excellent opportunity to bring Ocean knowledge to a new community of interested stakeholders, to encourage a spirit of scientific interest for the benefit of the local marine environment and to increase ocean literacy in general.



CSR event Sep 21



GFHS16 2021 side event poster

**IOI MODERATED THEMATIC SESSION 2B: A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY TO SUPPORT THE GREEN TRANSFORMATION OF CITIES DURING GFHS16: GLOBAL FORUM ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES, ONLINE EVENT, 28TH OCTOBER**

The 16th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements and Sustainable Cities (GFHS 2021) was organised once again in virtual format, with the theme “Accelerate Green Transformation and Innovation towards Healthy, Resilient and Carbon-neutral Cities” between the 27th and 29th October. As part of this event, the IOI moderated Thematic Session 2B: “A Sustainable Blue Economy to Support the Green Transformation of Cities” where academic and industry leading speakers developed and emphasised the linkages between the theme of the forum, the Blue Economy and Ocean Health. The Forum was moderated by Antonella Vassallo, and

featured the input of the distinguished speakers.

The key opening statement was delivered by Awni Behnam, Honorary President, IOI and expert speakers presented different facets of the Blue Economy for the consideration of the audience. Speakers’ presentations broached the following topics: *Powering Green Cities with Renewable Energy from the Ocean* (R Farrugia); *Trade in Ocean-Based Goods and Services: Classification, Trends and Market Access* (D Vivas Eugui); *Maritime Transport and Ports: Adapting to and Mitigating the Climate Challenge* (R Asariotis); *Fish in the City: Small-Scale Fisheries Contribution to Climate-Friendly Food and Sustainable Cities* (R Chuenpagdee); *Marine Genetic Resources: Intellectual Property, Sustainable Use, Access and Benefit Sharing* (S T Bhatti).



Malta Hybrid Seminar  
2021



**IOI HYBRID SEMINAR OCEAN - CLIMATE - BIODIVERSITY:  
CODE RED FOR HUMANITY. ONLINE VIA ZOOM AND  
AT THE AULA MAGNA, UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
VALLETTA CAMPUS, 25TH NOVEMBER**

As part of the annual IOI Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic and Caspian Seas, organised by IOI Malta, the IOI together with the University of Malta organised a high-profile hybrid seminar to emphasise the urgent need for an integrated approach to some of the most compelling challenges facing human society today and to the urgency for action.

The premise to the seminar, was the poignant phrase “Code Red for Humanity” coined by UN General-Secretary Antonio Guterres in the run-up to the UNFCCC COP26 meeting in Glasgow. The closely-knit interlinkages between the domains of climate change, ocean governance and biodiversity cannot be ignored since addressing the existential challenges posed by climate change and biodiversity conservation hinge on a healthy and functional ocean.

The seminar was chaired by IOI Honorary President Awni Behnam and moderated by Antonella Vassallo, Managing Director of the IOI. Alan Deidun, Malta’s Ocean Ambassador and Director of the IOI Malta Training Centre, delivered a briefing on the work conducted by the EU

Commission’s Mission Starfish Board, of which he is a member, whilst Stefano Moncada, Director of the Islands and Small States Institute at the University of Malta, touched upon the array of socio-economic tools (e.g., green financing) which are available to usher in the much-needed change in the international climate narrative. Miguel Bautista, Secretary of the Trade and Development Board within UNCTAD, gave his take on how the current ‘Code Red’ status humanity is facing can be addressed through a series of ‘Action Stations’, whilst Simone Borg, Malta’s Ambassador for Climate Action, delved into the global security implications of Sea Level Rise. Former EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs, Karmenu Vella emphasised the need for human behavioural change as an essential complement to the ongoing revamping of governance structures whilst Azmath Jaleel, Director of the IOI Ocean Academy in the Maldives, gave a first-hand account of the hazard posed by unremitting sea-level rise to his home country – the low-lying Maldives.

**LAUNCH OF THE IOI OCEAN ACADEMY  
PROGRAMME, DECEMBER 2021 FOLLOWING THE  
DELIVERY OF 3 SUCCESSFUL PILOT PROGRAMMES  
IN EGYPT, SRI LANKA AND THE MALDIVES**

During 2021, the IOI Governors supported the proposal to launch the IOI Ocean Academy as part of the celebrations surrounding the IOI’s 50th anniversary in 2022.



Ocean Knowledge  
For All

The purpose of the IOI Ocean Academy is to increase IOI's outreach and to expand the traditional IOI training portfolio to new audiences by offering ocean literacy programmes online. The target audience for these IOI Ocean Academy Courses may be defined as interested laypersons. The IOI Ocean Academy builds and expands on earlier IOI ocean literacy programmes and partnerships such as the Women, Youth and the Sea Programme, the World Ocean Review Series, and the Massive Open Online Course – One Planet: One Ocean. The online IOI Ocean Academy Courses are offered under the oversight of the IOI and implemented by local partners who may be either IOI Alumni or other competent and knowledgeable persons within an institutional setting, having a proven relation to IOI.

The IOI Ocean Academy pilot programme delivered three successful 20hr online courses in the last quarter of 2021:

**Egypt:** The Marine Environment: Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Future; 1 November – 13 December; offered in the Arabic Language; to 47 persons from the region.

**Sri Lanka:** Ocean Governance Framework for Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Ocean, and Marine Resources; 2 - 30 November; offered in the English Language; to 46 persons from the region.

**Maldives:** Coral Reefs: Importance and Measures for Sustenance; 14 - 25 November; offered in Dhivehi Language; to 25 persons from the region.



## 5

## INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT 2021

Antonella Vassallo  
 Managing Director, IOI  
 Peter Leder  
 Treasurer, IOI

### Report of the IOI Managing Director

Antonella Vassallo

The global COVID-19 pandemic continued to exert impacts on the programmes of the IOI however the foresight of the IOI Governors to impose the consideration of online or hybrid presentations was a critical step in enabling the delivery of a rich programme of training and outreach events by the IOI globally allowing for the IOI message to reach those who were unable to access in-person events in 2021. Experiences gained from this unusual year may in the near future allow the IOI programmes to be planned and offered so as to enhance not only access to training and capacity development opportunities to persons from disadvantaged communities or who are unable to access these opportunities due to financial or personal constraints. A lesson learnt from 2021 is that of the potential for hybridisation of IOI offerings.

This meant that with some modification and pre-planning a diverse schedule of events was offered by the network according to the local and regional possibilities. The implemented programme reflected the IOI strategy to take full advantage of the opportunities of online or hybrid outreach to turn them to mission advantage and ensured that the aim to reach “at least 100 young and midcareer practitioners annually particularly from developing countries and countries in transition” was achieved. It was heartening to note that through the actions of IOI HQ and the IOI network efforts, IOI outreach was achieved over 2021, in spite of practical difficulties, the competitive environment of moving online and

the total outreach via these mixed event types was internationally of 14 Events through in person, online, or hybrid Modalities reaching 69 countries.<sup>1</sup>

- IOI Malta: *16th IOI Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic & Caspian Seas; Study Unit 1* - 22nd February - 4th June (Online)
- IOI South Africa: *7th Training Programme in Ocean Governance for Africa*; 22nd February - 19th March (scheduled for September 2020 and postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and offered in 2021, Online)
- IOI Canada: *Training in Ocean Governance: Sustainable Development in the Decade of Ocean Science*; 7th May - 29th June (Online)
- IOI IR Iran: “*Algal Bloom in the Caspian Sea*” on Caspian Sea Day, 11 August (Online)
- Turkmenistan: Hybrid Round Table “*Achievements and Prospects of Cooperation with International Ocean Institute in development of capacity for the Governance and Sustainability of the Caspian Sea. Planning for success on the path to the 30th Anniversary of Independence of Turkmenistan*”, 20th August, Ashgabat, Caspian Sea Institute (Hybrid)
- IOI South Africa: *8th Training Programme on Ocean Governance for Africa: Policy, Law and Management for stakeholders in the Western Indian Ocean region*; 30th August - 24th September (Online)
- IOI Germany: *Summer School: Ocean Governance For Sustainable Marine Ecosystems*, 6th - 17th September (Online)
- IOI Egypt: Training Workshop on “*The Egyptian*

<sup>1</sup> Algeria, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo (DR), Costa Rica, Dominica, Egypt, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italian, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanese, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Montserrat, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portuguese, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St Lucia, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Vietnam

*Seas: Governance, Law, and Management for a Sustainable Future*"; 5th – 8th September 2021 (In-Person)

- IOI Egypt: "*Red Sea Sustainable Development: Governance, Resources, impacts and Management*" Hurghada, 3rd – 6th October (In-Person)
- IOI Canada and IOI S Africa: *New Developments and Emerging Issues in Ocean Governance*; Online CPD<sup>2</sup> for IOI Alumni; 4th October - 4th November (Online)
- IOI China: *Western Pacific Region Training Course on Ocean Governance*; 11th - 22nd October, (Hybrid, local ppts and faculty in Tianjin, non-local faculty Online).
- IOI Malta: *16th IOI Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic & Caspian Seas*; Study Unit 2 – 17th November 2021 – 2nd February 2022 (Online)
- IOI Brazil and IOI Costa Rica: 5th IOI Training Programme in this series for Latin America and the Caribbean (IOI LAC TC) titled "*Ocean Governance, Ocean Sciences and Geoethics*" Scheduled end of November, 2021 until February 2022 (Online)
- IOI IR Iran: Workshop on "*The Ecology of Coral Reefs at Chabahar Bay*", 14 December (Online)

Additionally, the possibility to work via virtual means also allowed for the IOI to be a partner in and provide expert input in a number of international events online, including a hybrid event for local and virtual participation.

- *Harnessing the Benefits of the Ocean Economy for Sustainable Development: High-level panel discussion on the road to UNCTAD15*; Online event; 9 June 2021 -On the occasion of World Oceans Day, Official pre-event to UNCTAD15; Panellist Awni Behnam, Honorary President, IOI
- IOI moderated Thematic Session 2B: *A Sustainable Blue Economy to Support the Green Transformation of Cities* during the 16th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements & Sustainable Cities (GFHS 2021); Online Event, 28th October; IOI speaker A Behnam; moderator A Vassallo, technical support C Chivu

- IOI HQ organised the HYBRID Special Seminar: *Ocean - Climate - Biodiversity: Code Red for Humanity*(in-person at the Aula Magna, University of Malta- Valletta Campus, and streamed online) IOI speaker A Behnam; moderator A Vassallo, technical support C Chivu – during the Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic and Caspian Seas, Malta.
- The training programme usually held by IOI in partnership with the Caspian Sea Institute was once again offered in the form of a HYBRID ROUND TABLE "*Achievements and Prospects of Cooperation with International Ocean Institute in development of capacity for the Governance and Sustainability of the Caspian Sea. Planning for success on the path to the 30th Anniversary of Independence of Turkmenistan*", 20th August, Ashgabat, Caspian Sea Institute.

The IOI HQ Secretariat also coordinated:

- An intersessional online meeting with the members of the IOI GB to introduce the topic and receive feedback on proposals for the 50th IOI Anniversary due in 2022; 21st April
- a formal online meeting with the network of IOI Centres and Focal points on the occasion of World Oceans Day to meet together online and to introduce the topic and receive feedback on proposals for the IOI anniversary due in 2022: *IOI: FIFTY YEARS STRONG in 2022*; 22nd June

### IOI Alumni Programme

The Alumni Channel continues to offer a platform for the exchange and interaction of IOI alumni, faculty and training directors. Uptake of the site continues with more alumni using it for sharing of career opportunities and news.

Developments in 2021 included the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Series: *Online Update Courses in Ocean Governance for IOI Alumni* designed to continue to support the professional development of

<sup>2</sup> Continuous Professional Development course



its alumni via dedicated online webinars, seminars and lectures exclusively designed and offered for graduands of IOI training courses. IOI network centres work in partnership with the Secretariat to offer the courses to IOI alumni, taking advantage of networks of expertise in the topic areas. Specific CPD events were organised in 2021 and additionally, all online events organised by the IOI are also explicitly disseminated to the IOI alumni so as to offer opportunities for attendance and to enhance knowledge outreach.

#### **Implementation of pilot IOI OCEAN ACADEMY online courses**

During the online interim meeting of the GB members on the 21st April concerning the IOI Anniversary in 2022 and presentation of the IOI Ocean Academy Proposal, the Governors supported the proposal to launch the IOI Virtual Academy on Ocean Governance as a 2022 anniversary event. The overall intention is to expand IOI's audience to attract more specifically laypersons interested in ocean issues (ocean literacy) and to fill current information gaps in ocean literacy, in local language formats.

A plan of action was elaborated by IOI HQ with the support of members of the IOI GB and a Pilot Project implemented over the last quarter of 2021. The IOI Ocean Academy (IOI OA) programme was envisaged to continue after 2022 based on the lessons learnt from the implementation of the pilot stage. Three 20hr online Ocean Academy courses were offered in this pilot year.

#### **Management and support of IOI actions in international relations and other activities and IOI contributions towards the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (UN Decade)**

IOI Contributes to achieve SDG14 through Voluntary Commitments – updating with 2021 activities on the website and interaction with the webinars of the Community of Action throughout the year. Placing its experience, commitment and expertise at the service of the oceans community to achieve SDG14, the IOI is the lead partner in commitment 41327 and a partner also in 41315:

- #OceanAction41327: *Ocean Governance training & capacity development by the International Ocean Institute*, <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/ioi-ocean-academy-ocean-knowledge-all>
- #OceanAction41315: *A Massive Open Online Course: One Planet One Ocean: From Science to Solutions by Cluster of Excellence (Academic institution)*, <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/international-ocean-institute-ioi-ocean-governance-training-capacity-development>

Additionally, two main actions were implemented in 2021 which showcased IOI's support of the UN Decade, mainly through the UN ECOPs Programme where there is significant overlap with the IOI's Alumni programme.

- IOI participated in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, in the Virtual Early Career Ocean Professional Day; June 1st - 2nd. On 1st June the Virtual Early Career

Offered via	Egypt	Sri Lanka	the Maldives
<b>OA Programme</b>	The Marine Environment: Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Future	Ocean Governance Framework for Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Ocean, and Marine Resources	Coral Reefs: Importance and Measures for Sustenance
<b>Dates of online OA; 20hrs</b>	1 November – 13 December	2 - 30 November	14 - 25 November
<b>Participants</b>	47	46	25
<b>Language</b>	Arabic	English	Dhivehi
<b>Webpage</b>	<a href="https://www.ioinst.org/ioi-ocean-academy-1/egypt">https://www.ioinst.org/ioi-ocean-academy-1/egypt</a>	<a href="https://www.ioinst.org/ioi-ocean-academy-1/sri-lanka/">https://www.ioinst.org/ioi-ocean-academy-1/sri-lanka/</a>	<a href="https://www.ioinst.org/ioi-ocean-academy-1/maldives">https://www.ioinst.org/ioi-ocean-academy-1/maldives</a>



Ocean Professional (V.ECOP) Day livestreamed for 24-hours, it was hosted by and for early career ocean professionals from around the world and from a variety of ocean disciplines to showcase their work, activities, and contributions to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. **The IOI, through its global Alumni programme participated in V. ECOP Day as a programme contributor**, with the aim of highlighting the contributions and work carried out by graduates of the IOI training programmes. The interviews focused on the work carried out by IOI Alumni to achieve the UN Ocean Decade's vision, societal outcomes or challenges, highlighting experiences from different disciplines and countries that showcased the widespread, diverse and international nature of IOI Alumni and their successes. Pre-recorded interviews with IOI Alumni were interspersed through the 24hr event and contributions expanded on their ocean related work, ranging from marine resource management, diplomacy for a better resolution of conflicts related to the delimitation of maritime boundaries, Blue Economy, protection of endangered species, to Ocean Literacy and conservation programmes. The project was spearheaded by two IOI Alumni, Evgeniia Kostianaia (IOI focal Point for Moscow) and Cosmin Chivu (IOI HQ), with the support of IOI HQ and reflects the IOI's support of and contribution to the UN's Ocean Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

- IOI HQ, in consultation with key members of the GB, submitted a Project Proposal to the UN Decade under Call #02-ECOP/2021. The IOI Training Workshop “*IOI Training Workshop on Basic Concepts of Ocean Governance for Early Career Ocean Professionals - with a focus on the African Seas*” aimed to provide a basic interdisciplinary introduction to the concepts of Ocean governance, targeted to ECOPs from countries bordering the seas of the African continent. The programme was prepared for delivery in 2022.

### **Implementation of IOI bursaries and scholarships**

Danielle de St. Jorre Scholarship: The Scholarship was planned to help fund participation in the eight-week *Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management* in Canada. In 2020, the scholarship awarded to Ms Lily WHEATLEY, from the Solomon Islands remains on hold until the in-person IOI Canada 40th Training Programme can be offered.

IOI Elisabeth Mann Borgese Bursary, 2021 and presentation of the results of the 2020 Bursary: The 2021 EMB Bursary was awarded to Mr Justin Cauchi and aims to address the gaps in current knowledge by mapping and characterising the subtidal *Dendropoma cristatum* bioconstructions present along cliff shores. The 2020 EMB Bursary awarded to Ms Joanna Causon Deguara was completed successfully.

### **Outreach, information dissemination, and publicity; IOI HQ Website and Connectivity**

IOI HQ serves as document repository for the IOI and additionally, the Secretariat takes responsibility for some of the general outreach, dissemination, and publicity required by the IOI and its network.

The *IOInforma* and digital outreach: The bi-monthly *IOInforma*, the IOI's electronic bulletin was published and disseminated with six issues in 2021. Social media outreach continues with Facebook and LinkedIn profiles regularly updated with information, links of interest, and invitations to relevant webinars, training and other meetings.

IOI Website: The intention of having the IOI website as an easy-to-consult, one-stop-site on all matters IOI remains of paramount importance. The website contains links to Training, Education and Capacity Development, the Global IOI Network and International Relations, information on the IOI Board of Governors, IOI Periodic Publications, Newsletters and Reports, Latest News and the Latest *IOInforma*.

**Report of the Treasurer**  
**Peter Leder**

**Achievements**

In 2021, the global pandemic again led to far-reaching restrictions in almost all areas of public life and international cooperation. The IOI was not able to implement face-to-face training and education activities to the planned extent, workshops with international participation were held in online formats and work meetings were cancelled or postponed in the long term due to ongoing restrictions in international travel.

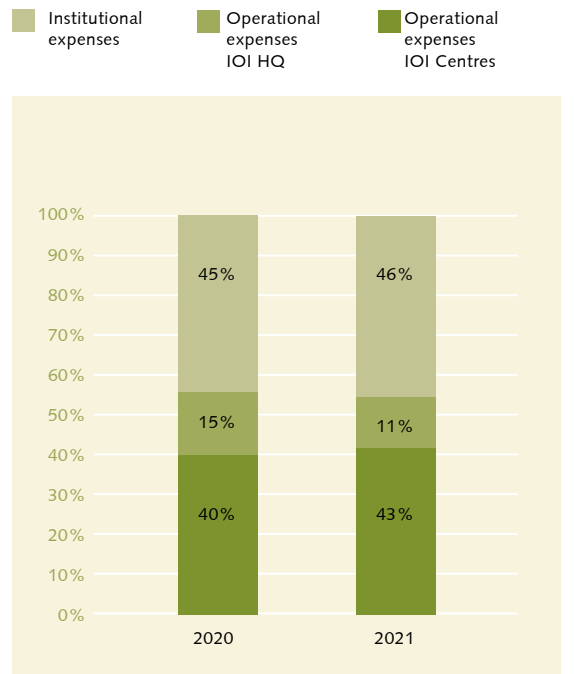
The digitisation of the processes and procedures within the IOI network has progressed further and at the same time the routine in dealing with digital applications has increased further. These developments have meant that communication between IOI network partners and cooperation within the IOI network have intensified significantly. In addition, with the IOI Ocean Academy a new online capacity development program was developed to address new target groups and to increase outreach.

The staff of the IOI HQ in Malta and our partners in the IOI centres have maintained the workability of the network under the difficult conditions through their commitment and diligence and have given important impetus for the future development of the IOI with newly developed projects and formats.

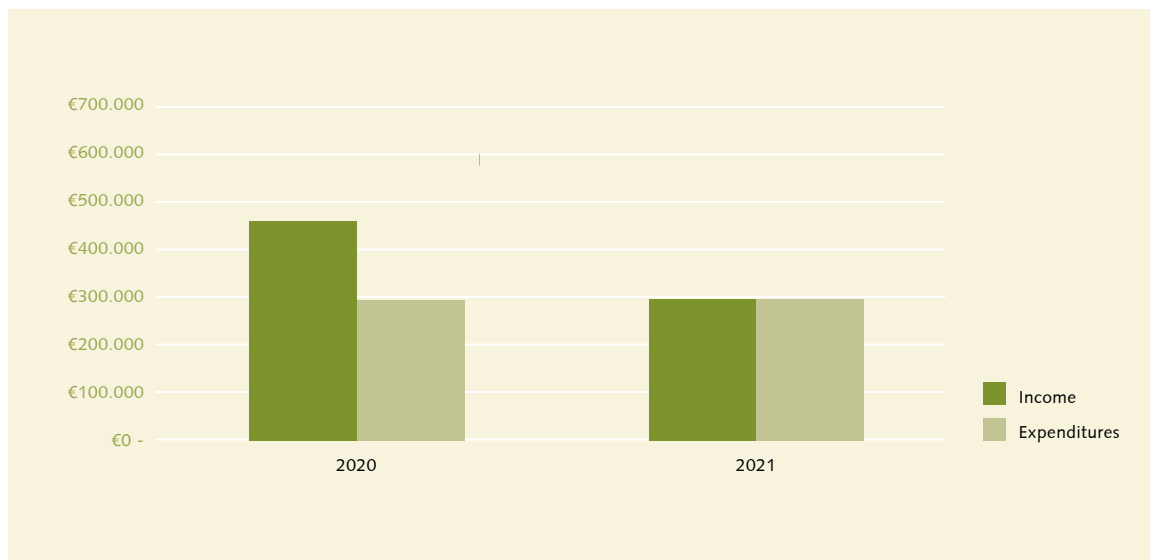
**Incomes/Expenses 2021**

The financial year 2021 was again characterized by a flexible and pragmatic implementation of the financial plans, making it necessary to adapt to individual COVID-19

**Composition of Total Expenditures 2021**



**Overview Income/ expenditures 2020 and 2021**



situations in different regions changing over time.

The total incomes amounted to €294,000 and the contributions received from IOI's main funder OSRF were adjusted to the reduced need of external financial support in 2021 due to fund reserves accumulated in previous years. Incomes from other sources fell short of expectations as some of the planned capacity development and training initiatives did not materialize or were postponed.

Despite the COVID-19 impacts on its work programme, the IOI kept its course of maintaining efficiency and effectiveness of the administration. Many projects were postponed and planned meetings and panels with physical attendance of IOI representatives were cancelled or implemented in online formats, therefore respective budgets ringfenced for such initiatives were not spent as envisaged. At the end of the financial year 2021, total expenditures remained at the level of 2020 and amounted to €297,000.

Expenditures exceeded incomes, the financial year 2021 was concluded with a planned deficit of €6,000. This deficit reduced the cash reserves accumulated on IOI accounts over the past years.

As in the past year, the COVID-19 constrains again affected the structure of the IOI's expenses: compared to financial years before the pandemic, project expenditures remained on a relatively low level causing a relatively high share of 46% of institutional (and fixed) expenditures on total spending. Funds transferred to and spent under the direction of IOI centres worldwide increased to €127,000, making up 43% of IOI's total expenditures. A share of 11% of the total expenses were used to cover project related expenditures carried out under the direction of IOI HQ.

### **Fundraising**

The IOI is a not-for-profit NGO and strongly depends on voluntary, in-kind contributions from the individuals and institutions being committed to and engaged in the IOI and its network. As in the past

years, these contributions provided the basis for all IOI deliverables, but needed to be complemented by financial contributions required to cover in-cash expenses related to IOI projects and administration.

The principal donor of the IOI remains the Swiss based Ocean Science and Research Foundation, (Zurich) contributing more than 90% to IOI's total income in 2021. This generous contribution again was crucial for the implementation of the work programme as well as for the effective management and administration of the institute and its network of centres.

Additionally, funds to cover direct costs for specific capacity development and ocean literacy projects were received from IOI Host Institutes. Such contributions were instrumental for the delivery of the projects, but did not affect IOI's accounts.

### **Financial Outlook**

The financial deficit in 2021 led to a reduction of funds on IOI accounts accumulated over the past years. IOI will continue in its efforts to secure required financial support from its main funder OSRF and to open up new financial sources to maintain and expand its work programmes and deliverables. With the IOI's Education and Training Fund (ETF), the IOI has implemented an instrument designed to facilitate fundraising and the development of new partnerships with donor organizations. Therefore, IOI will continue to focus its fundraising activities on promoting the ETF concept and successfully implementing it.

The approach of attracting additional funds through projects - such as special topical seminars - prepared and delivered by IOI in co-operation with (co-) funding partners will also be continued in future. Approaches for expanding the range of regular IOI capacity development programmes - possibly co-financed by and implemented with suitable project partners - have been identified (e.g., in the IOI Ocean Academy Programme) and will be pursued in future.

*The article  
continues from  
page 15*

At the ICP several experts/delegations/panellists noted that, combined with sea level rise, these threats could have numerous impacts on vulnerable areas, including flooding, coastal erosion, salinization of aquifers, river mouths and agricultural land, increased risks to food security and livelihoods, displacement of peoples, and the destruction of important coastal infrastructure, ecosystems and habitats of important flora and fauna. However, when it came to solutions, experts differed, where some were prompting eco-system approaches while others considered these to be ineffective.

IOI raised a question as to whether a country-by-country vulnerability index for sea level rise existed or is in the making, which may be considered as a requisite instrument in allocating priorities for action and financing. Surprisingly, the response was that given the ways in which sea level rise affected coasts and depended on multiple factors and local contexts, producing such indices would be quite complex, and existing attempts at doing so were incomplete.

We believe that an Index such as the Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index (CORVI)<sup>3</sup> relating to sea level rise would highlight the importance of capacity-building, innovation, and international partnerships priorities.

The over-arching objective of capacity building is to develop and impart a holistic approach to the challenges and opportunities in the good governance and management of Ocean and coasts by living with the Ocean and from the Ocean in a sustainable relationship.

Another proposal would harness the unique mandate and skills at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to enhance knowledge dissemination and develop the human resource capacity to address these problems. At its creation UNCTAD received a unique mandate as the sole international organization with a work programme dealing with the economic, commercial and logistical aspects of international maritime transport of trade and international policies affecting both the shipping industry and maritime trade in both the

private and public sectors and has since played a central role in their development thus, playing a pivotal role in capacity building. Over time its flagship publication - the Annual Maritime Review - contributed to promoting and strengthening the institutional capacities, technological and physical infrastructures of developing countries contributing to reducing inequalities in global trade and development.

UNCTAD addressed Sustainable and resilient maritime supply chains, in its annual Maritime Review 2021. The review demonstrated the challenges of the pandemic in terms of human cost and impact on maritime trade especially on the supply chain and the human cost paid by the seafarers.

Hence what is being proposed by IOI is that UNCTAD in cooperation with other relevant knowledge-based capacity building institutions develop a Global Port by Port Vulnerability Index to serve as a basis for sustainable resilience, mitigation, adaptation, and finance prior to the tipping point of the existential threat of sea level rise.

A second observation that the IOI proposed at the last 4th Oceans Forum on trade-related aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of UNCTAD<sup>4</sup> could also be the basis of a possible contribution of UNCTAD. UNCTAD is a knowledge-based institution which demonstrated over the years the importance of flagship publications used consistently as a primary source of information, analysis, data for policy formulation to all stakeholders including academia. The UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport is an enduring example of a document that has become a principal tool in the expansion of operational knowledge-based scientific analysis, providing statistics and exposure to latest developments in maritime trade whether operational, environmental, economic and social by addressing value chain connectivity. In developing countries, the Review is considered as a principal tool for capacity building and Ocean literacy.

There is no similar compendium for the Blue Economy in all its sectoral but interdependent imperatives. It would be opportune to build on UNCTAD's experience with the

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frsc.2022.884212/full?utm\\_source=Email\\_to\\_authors\\_&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_content=T1\\_11.5e1\\_author&utm\\_campaign=Email\\_publication&field=&journalName=Frontiers\\_in\\_Sustainable\\_Cities&id=884212](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frsc.2022.884212/full?utm_source=Email_to_authors_&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=T1_11.5e1_author&utm_campaign=Email_publication&field=&journalName=Frontiers_in_Sustainable_Cities&id=884212) accessed 10 Oct 2022

<sup>4</sup> <https://unctad.org/meeting/4th-oceans-forum-trade-related-aspects-sustainable-development-goal-14> accessed 10 Oct 2022

Review of Maritime Transport to produce an interdisciplinary biannual Ocean Economy Review for Sustainable Development that would cover the economic, social, and environmental development dimensions to bridge the gap between myopic institutional silo approaches that only address narrow sectoral narratives.

The proposed knowledge-based Ocean Economy Review with its statistical analysis and strategic information of the full and inclusive narrative for the Ocean's living and non-living resources and services, would provide a wealth of information and technology for policy-makers, civil society, and communities to manage human interaction with global Ocean economy driven by the imperatives of sustainability.

It is perhaps opportune post-UNCTAD 15 to implement such a project based on multi-institutional cooperation for capacity development objectives to ensure that an individual or community, no matter in which working dimension, can have access to analytical statistics, knowledge-based practices, latest innovations and technology in the various interrelated sectors of the Ocean Economy and especially to equip practitioners with multi-tasking capacity and multi-organisational cooperation in the development of a sustainable Ocean economy.

The IOI, with its partners, is committed to advocate and prioritise capacity development in all its manifestations in terms of resilience and adaptation prior to the tipping points being reached.

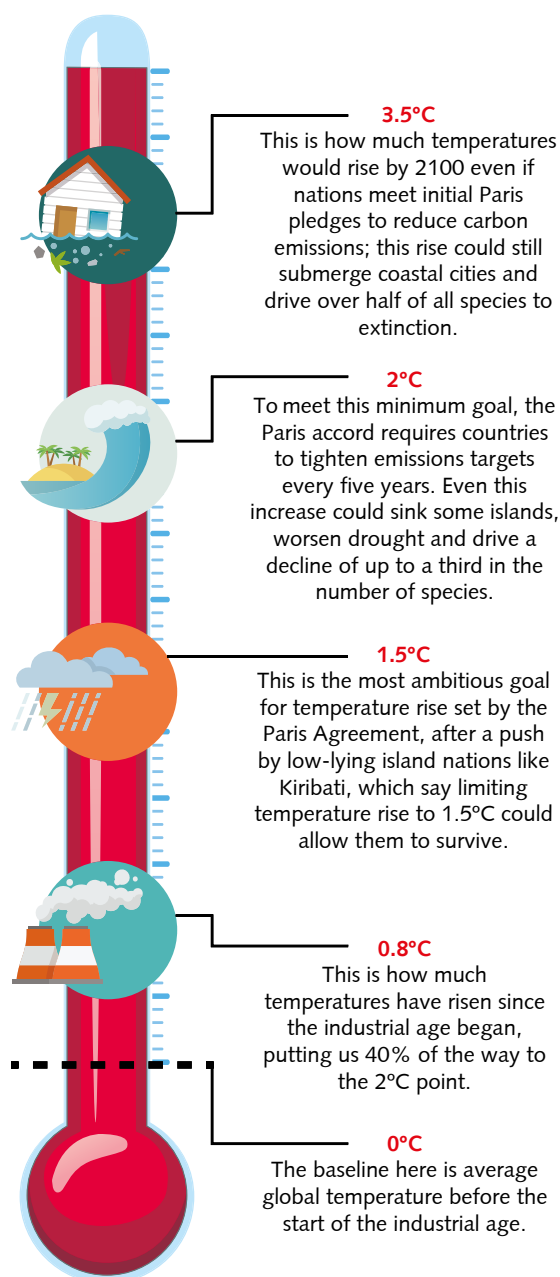
in the words of the immortal poet John Donne (1572 - 1631)

“.....send not to know  
For whom the bell tolls,  
It tolls for thee.”

We do sound the alarm.

## Degrees of Global Warming

The Paris Agreement, struck by nearly 200 countries on Dec. 12, aims to limit global warming. But just how much warmer it will get depends on how deeply countries cut carbon emissions. - *Justin Worland*



## APPENDICES

Following the 59th IOI Governing Board Meeting held in Malta in 2021 the Governing Board is constituted as below. The statutory stipulated terms of Dr Lawrence Hildebrand and Prof Louis F Cassar have come to an end and thus their role as members of the Board; the IOI acknowledges with gratitude their support of the IOI throughout their tenure. The IOI continues to benefit immensely from the combined expertise and guidance of its members.

### **IOI Governing Board**

Honorary President	Awni Behnam
Patron of IOI	Nikolaus Gelpke
President	Mahindokt Faghfour
Vice President	Chua Thia-Eng
Treasurer	Peter Leder
Governors	Simone Borg (Representative of the Government of Malta to the IOI Governing Board), Anita Coady, Lamiaa Ismail Mohamedien (Chair of the Network of Centres), Wendy Watson-Wright, Shi Suixiang

### **Ex-Officio Member of the Governing Board**

Antonella Vassallo, IOI HQ Managing Director

## IOI TRAINING CENTRES, CENTRES & FOCAL POINTS

### IOI Centres

The IOI Centres engage in a wide range of activities ranging from work at the community level to very specialised scientific research as part of large international programmes. The centres are embedded in the work programmes of their host institutes which are mostly universities and independent research institutes.

The roles of the IOI Training Centres are:

- To prepare, organise, and conduct training programmes in Regional and Global Ocean Governance. The curricula applied will be developed in co-operation between a dedicated IOI Task Force, the IOI HQ and respective IOI Training Centres;
- Support IOI in its core activities and in delivering IOI “products”;
- All IOI training courses will be funded/co-funded by IOI and supervised by IOI HQ;
- IOI Training Centres will closely co-operate with a dedicated IOI Centre in the geographical vicinity.

The roles of the IOI Centres are:

- To collect information and provide organisational and operational support for IOI core activities and products such as training events and publications, and in international relations in the region;
- IOI Centres shall be associated with an IOI Training Centre in the region and IOI shall support activities funded or co-funded and supervised by IOI HQ in co-operation with the related IOI Training Centre.

This is the link to the Centres page on the IOI website <https://www.ioinst.org/about-1/secretariat-and-network/ioi-centres/>

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**IOI Focal Points**

IOI has established 20 Focal Points particularly in countries where IOI Centres do not exist. The Focal Points have proven association with IOI, held appropriate qualification and experience and are engaged in activities relevant to the mission of IOI. They are of good standing, associated with a reputed educational, scientific or other ocean-related activity.

Focal points (IOI Network Nodes) provide intellectual contributions to IOI on a voluntary basis and are not expected to receive any financial support from IOI as to their nomination or work as focal points. They receive when appropriate, intellectual and moral support from IOI in promoting their own objectives, project and career prospects.

Their function/roles are to:

- Promote IOI and identify opportunities for activities related to the IOI core activities and mission;
- Propose applicants for IOI training courses;
- Disseminate IOI Publications and IOI Newsletter;
- Identify sources for funding in the respective region;
- They are the IOI contact point in the respective country;
- Activities of IOI Focal Points/Network Nodes will be bonded together by the IOI Centres;
- Activities of IOI Focal Points/Network Nodes will principally not be funded (co-funded by IOI).

The designations of Focal Points are made preferably from the list of IOI Alumni. When deemed desirable to establish a focal point(s) in a country or region where there is an active IOI Centre, the designation of such a focal point(s) will be made in agreement with the Director of such a Centre.

This is the link to Focal Points page on the IOI website:  
<https://www.ioinst.org/about-1/secretariat-and-network/ioi-focal-points/>

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