

**CONCEPT PAPER**  
**THE 2<sup>nd</sup> IORA BLUE ECONOMY MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**  
Jakarta, 8 - 10 May 2017

1. Blue economy is not merely a dynamic business model of an ocean economy. In its core, it is a systemic approach that aims to foster blue growth by upholding the environmental sustainability and social inclusion. Hence, the economic development driven by the ocean will ensure economic prosperity and social equity. The model is, indeed, dedicated to address the scarcity of resources issues, and the waste issues while ensuring the long term economic prosperity, hence embodied the key value of sustainable development goals, especially the goal number 14;
2. Indian Ocean is, indeed, blessed by vast and untapped natural resources. It is also positioned in one of the most strategic trade waterways in the world. However, Indian Ocean also faces great threats and challenges from unsustainable practice of utilizing the ocean and competition over resources, control of international trade and military activities in its international waters. The implementation of Blue economy to catalyze ocean-driven economic growth is directly linked to threats and challenges confronted by Indian Ocean, especially to human wellbeing and the livelihood coastal communities namely food security and maritime security. In fact, as we are living in one connected ocean, the incorporation of blue economy and its implementation as well as its failure would have considerable effects not only for the IORA member states but also beyond the Indian Ocean. We recognize that issues related to ocean and its social aspects are clearly linked, inter-related, and need to be considered in a holistic manner.
3. Experts and international organizations have widely recognized systemic effects of depletion of ocean resources and food insecurity to the increasing maritime security threats and crimes in the sea. UNODC in one of its widely cited reports, for instance, has suggested that the great number of fishermen boats and fishermen involved in piracy activities in Somali waters has been a direct impact of fish stock depletion in the region. In this respect, we observe a direct impact of depletion of marine resources to people livelihood and world economy, which moves over the seas.
4. In maritime security area, cooperation has been established by IORA member states and beyond to address the rise of maritime security threats in the region. What merits attention is that before the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the Goal 14, less global or regional effort has been seriously given to address the scarcity of resources and competition over resources by applying a systemic and integrated approach to the issue.
5. As an ocean based community, IORA certainly places great interest and high commitment to the development and sustainable use of ocean for economic development and wellbeing of people, especially the wellbeing of coastal community of IORA member states. It is an attest to this commitment that in 2014, before the adoption of Sustainable Development

Goals, IORA member states during a ministerial meeting had adopted Blue Economy as the cardinal principle for sustainable ocean-based growth in the region.

6. The Perth meeting and the 1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy in Mauritius have set out a foundation to elaborate strategic areas for cooperation on ocean based growth in Indian Ocean. Key areas of cooperation as declared in Mauritius are Fisheries and Aquaculture; Renewable Ocean Energy; Seaports and Shipping; and Offshore Hydrocarbons, and Seabed Minerals that should be developed in an environmentally sound manner for the socio-economic benefit of the population. Not least important is commitment to assist and enhance the capacity of the least developing states, small-island developing states to cope with challenges to manage marine resources sustainably.
7. Indonesia as the current Chairman of IORA would like to further maritime cooperation to maintain current peace and stable Indian Ocean, and also to increase the prosperity of the region. In this context, elaboration on various undeveloped areas such as marine tourism, private sector's involvement in infrastructure, port network, financial inclusion, and the threat of marine plastic debris should be further explored;
8. In the view of the above, Indonesia will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Blue Economy Ministerial Conference in Jakarta 10 May 2017. The conference will be preceded by a working session to further discuss the means and ways to strengthen blue economy implementation, in particular in the issue of financing blue economy. A meeting of committee of Senior Official will also be held on 9 May 2017 to prepare Jakarta Declaration, the outcome document aims to illustrate commitment of IORA member states to further strengthen and deepen cooperation on Blue Economy priority areas.
9. The general overviews of the three days agenda to be discussed are as follows:

a. Day 1 Working Session on various issues Blue Economy related issues:

The first day of Conference is the working session. It will include series of brief presentations and discussions among senior official of IORA member states, experts, professionals from state owned enterprise and NGOs representative on the area of discussions such as fisheries and aquaculture, marine tourism, port network; customs network; and marine plastic debris.

The committee of the senior officials will provide recommendations based on discussions of each working session.

b. Day 2 Senior Official Meeting:

The second day is designated as the congregation of Senior Officials of the respected IORA member states. It is planned to include several welcoming remarks, reports and presentations, by senior official and experts as well as discussion of on the draft of Jakarta Declaration and voluntary commitments on Blue Economy.

c. Day 3 Ministerial Conference :

The 3<sup>rd</sup> day of conference is the Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy led by Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs Republic of Indonesia. The Conference will

discuss the outcome of working group session at senior official level as well as hear general statement from each IORA member states and its dialogue partners. It is hoped that the conference would adopt the Jakarta Declaration on Blue Economy as the outcome document.

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