



**Ocean Forecasting Workshop to Build Capacity for Indian Ocean Operational System
Colombo, Sri Lanka
17-18 November 2016**

Press Release

Ocean based disasters and un-assessed impact of climate changes on ocean weather appears to be challenge faced by every IOR Countries. Capacity to assess the ocean status, model them and develop and apply an operational forecasting system for ecological, economic and social objectives is not equally within the reach of all the IOR countries.

Regional models and forecasts of large scale phenomenon such as tsunami and cyclone, developed by the leading nations, are readily available and applicable to all the Indian Ocean countries. However, every IOR countries are in need of developing and operating their own sub-regional local level models and runs operational ocean forecasting for local level phenomenon such as storm surges, unfavourable wave condition to secure the safety of the fishermen and other ocean resources.

Even the leading nations, which have capacity to forecast regional scale ocean disasters (tsunami, cyclone) are in need of sharing ocean data from other IOR countries to validate and inter-compare global and regional scale models in the Indian Ocean.

Acknowledging the disparity among the IOR countries to monitor, analyse and predict marine environmental conditions in the Indian Ocean, the "Experts Group meeting on capacity building for Indian Ocean operational forecasting system" shall serve as the platform to share available technology, knowledge and experts and facilitate to build the required human resources at the Indian Ocean countries through trainings and workshops. Furthermore, it could serve as the place to compare the different sub regional ocean forecasting models, generated by the different nation and integrate them as Indian Ocean Regional model.

Experts Group meeting on capacity building for Indian Ocean operational forecasting system Colombo, Sri Lanka, November 17-18, 2016, organised by National Aquatic Resources research and Development Agency (NARA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka and the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, is aimed at facilitating cooperation among the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries to provide maximum opportunities to develop shared interest, of developing infrastructures and human resources for establishing a national operational ocean forecasting system for ocean based disaster mitigation through scientific and technological exchange, in adherence to the fundamental principles outlined in Article 3 of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Charter.

23 September 2016