Introduction

The Indian Ocean Rim Association is an inter-governmental organisation which was established on 7 March 1997. IORA enhances economic dialogue and regional cooperation to promote sustainable growth and balanced development for a prosperous Indian Ocean Rim. The vision for IORA originated during a visit by late President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to India in 1995, where he said:

“The natural urge of the facts of history and geography … should broaden itself to include the concept of an Indian Ocean Rim for socio-economic co-operation and other peaceful endeavours. Recent changes in the international system demand that the countries of the Indian Ocean shall become a single platform.”

21 Member States

Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

7 Dialogue Partners

China, France, Japan, United States of America, Egypt, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Priority Areas

- Maritime Safety & Security
- Trade & Investment Facilitation
- Fisheries Management
- Disaster Risk Management
- Tourism Promotion & Cultural Exchanges
- Academic, Science & Technology
*With the Blue Economy and Women’s Economic Empowerment as focus areas

Celebrating Twenty Years

The first IORA Leaders’ Summit was hosted by the Republic of Indonesia on 7 March 2017 in Jakarta. The Summit was entitled “Strengthening Maritime Cooperation for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Indian Ocean” and Prime Ministers and Presidents from the region issued the milestone IORA Concord and accompanying IORA Action Plan for 2017 – 2021.

Structure

IORA’s apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually. The Republic of Indonesia has been the Chair of IORA since 2015. The Republic of South Africa will assume the role for 2017-2019, followed by the United Arab Emirates. A committee of Senior Officials (CSO) meets twice a year to progress IORA’s agenda and consider recommendations by Working Groups and forums of officials, business and academics to implement policies and projects to improve the lives of people in the Indian Ocean Member States.

Specialised Agencies of IORA

- Fisheries Support Unit (FSU)
  Headquartered in the Sultanate of Oman since 2003, FSU plays an important role in enhancing the cooperation, better utilisation of fisheries resources, exchanges of expertise and joint research activities.

- Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT)
  Established in 2008 in the Islamic Republic of Iran, RCSTT aims to facilitate the transfer of sustainable and appropriate technology to, and between, Member States.

IORA Special Fund

The IORA Special Fund is a financial mechanism for supporting projects and programmes adopted by the Association within the identified priority areas of the Association.

IORA Secretariat

The Secretariat manages, coordinates, services and monitors the implementation of policy decisions and work programmes adopted by the Association. It is based in Mauritius and overseen by a Secretary General who is appointed for a three-year period.

CHAIR

The Council of Ministers elect the Chair of the Association for a period of two years. This is based on the voluntary offer by Member States to become the Chair or, if there is no voluntary offer, the Chair will be elected on the basis of geographical consideration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997-1998</td>
<td>Republic of Mauritius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Republic of Mozambique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Republic of Mozambique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Sultanate of Oman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>Islamic Republic of Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>Republic of Yemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>Republic of India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>Commonwealth of Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2017</td>
<td>Republic of Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2019</td>
<td>Republic of South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2021</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IORA SECRETARIAT

NeXTeracom Building | 3rd Floor | Tower I Cybercity | Ebène | Republic of Mauritius
Office: +230 454 1717 | Fax: +230 468 1161
Email: hq@iora.net | www.iora.net