



January–March 2025

IORA

E-newsletter



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the first quarter of 2025, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), actively participated in regional initiatives, dialogues, and worked to strengthen cooperation across priority areas with different stakeholders.

IORA Day 2025 was held on 7 March to mark the Association's 28th anniversary, in Mauritius. The event was honoured by Honourable Hambyrajen Narsinghen, Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius, and members of the diplomatic corps.

IORA participated in the 8th Indian Ocean Conference, held in Muscat, Oman from 16-17 February 2025. The conference focused on the theme "Voyages to New Horizons of Maritime Partnership" and IORA Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Sanjiv Ranjan, participated in the high-level plenary session, sharing insights on evolving maritime cooperation in the 21st century.

The Secretariat played an active role in various initiatives and technical meetings aimed at advancing regional cooperation and development. Among various activities, some include:

- Regional Legal Conference on Combating Illegal Fishing;
- 32nd Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF) Meeting;
- IORA–AFD Workshop on Marine Debris held in Bangkok;
- 10th Meeting of the Working Group on Women's Economic Empowerment;
- Tripartite meetings with Dialogue Partners; Egypt and Japan, to strengthen collaboration and strategic partnerships.

The Secretary-General continued his diplomatic outreach with a courtesy call on the President of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Dharambeer Gokhool; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, H.E. Hon. Dhananjay Ramful as well as various diplomatic representatives in Mauritius.

IORA Secretariat Hosts IORA Day 2025

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) marked its 28th anniversary on March 7, 2025, celebrating nearly three decades of fostering regional cooperation and sustainable development across the Indian Ocean.

To mark this day, a commemorative event was held at the Caudan Arts Centre in Port Louis, bringing together dignitaries, diplomats, and stakeholders to reaffirm the commitment to regional cooperation and sustainable development. The event was graced by the presence of Honourable Hambyrajen Narsinghen, Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius, along with members of the diplomatic corps.

In his keynote address, H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of IORA, emphasized the importance of regional collaboration in fostering shared prosperity across the Indian Ocean. He highlighted the organization's role in advancing economic growth, maritime security, and environmental sustainability among its 23 Member States and 12 Dialogue Partners.

IORA Day serves as a platform to celebrate the association's milestones and reaffirm its mission of enhancing trade, maritime safety and security, investment, tourism, academic, science and technological cooperation and people-to-people connectivity in the region.



IORA Secretary-General Participates in 8th Indian Ocean Conference, Oman



The 8th Indian Ocean Conference, organised by the India Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman, was held from 16 to 17 February 2025 in Muscat. The conference brought together regional leaders, policymakers, and experts to discuss pressing issues shaping the Indian Ocean region. This year's theme, "Voyages to New Horizons of Maritime Partnership," reflects a shared vision for strengthening maritime cooperation, security, and connectivity across the region.



H.E. Mr. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), participated in the plenary session titled "Navigating New Frontiers: Evolving Maritime Landscape in the 21st Century." Several discussion panels were held during the two-day conference, focusing on key themes such as maritime security, blue economy, sustainable development, climate resilience, regional trade, and strategic connectivity. These panels featured high-level delegates, including ministers, senior officials, diplomats, scholars, and representatives from regional organizations and think tanks.

MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY/ DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

IORA Participates in Regional Legal Conference on Combating Illegal Fishing



The IORA Secretariat participated in the Regional Legal Conference on Addressing Illegal Fishing in South Asia, held from 17 to 19 March 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The conference was organised under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP), in collaboration with the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) and other regional partners.

The high-level event brought together 19 key stakeholders from Bangladesh, Maldives, and Sri Lanka to deliberate on the pressing issue of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the South Asian region.

Discussions at the conference centred on legal prosecution, interdiction strategies, and the importance of regional collaboration and cooperation in addressing maritime crimes. The participation of IORA underscored the organisation's continued commitment to promoting sustainable fisheries management and enhancing maritime security across the Indian Ocean region.

IORA Secretary-General Meets UNODC Delegation to Strengthen Cooperation on Maritime Security



The delegation from UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) comprising of Ms. Ashita Mittal, Regional Representative for Eastern Africa (ROEA), Ms. Maria Temesvari, Deputy Regional Representative for Eastern Africa (ROEA), Ms. Siji Song, Regional Programme Coordinator-Eastern Indian Ocean and Dr. Shafina Aishath, Senior Programme Support Officer had meeting with the H.E Mr Sanjiv Ranjan, the Secretary-General of IORA on 20th January 2025. The delegation had discussion with the Secretary-General and officials of IORA on issues of maritime security, combating transnational crimes, and promoting sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region. The UNODC expressed to synergise the collaboration with IORA on various priority areas in the Indian Ocean Region.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

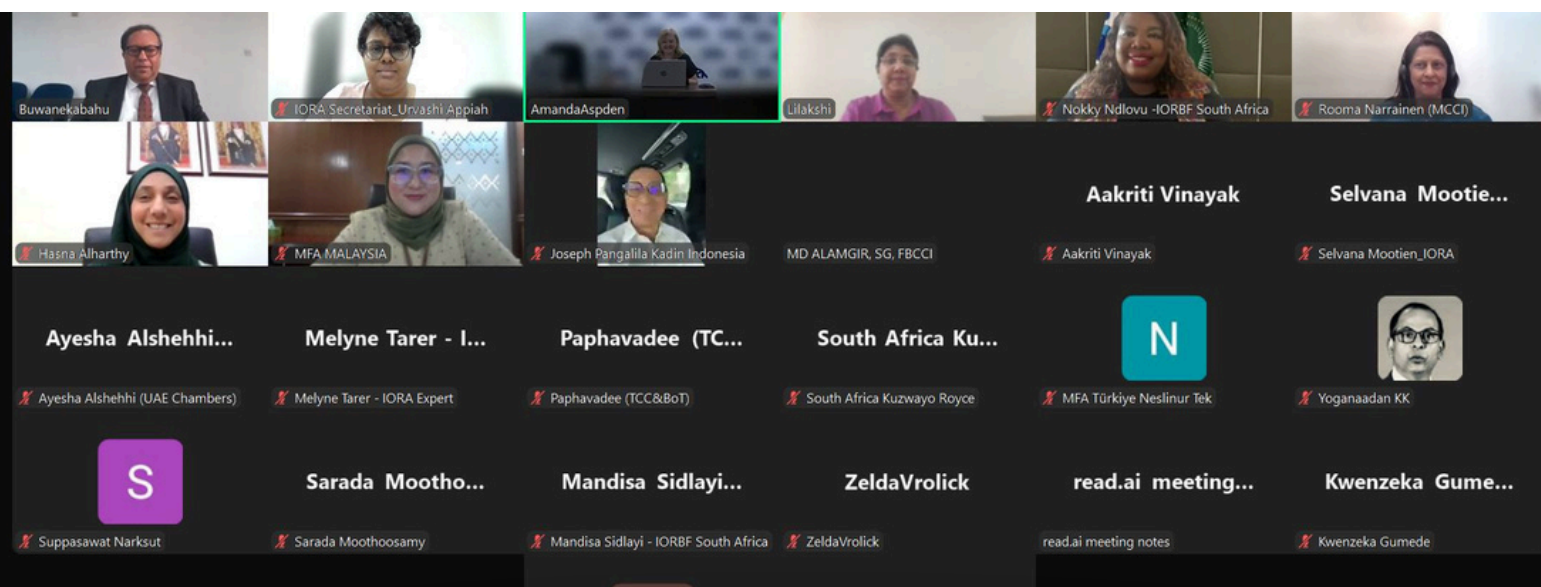
32nd Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum Meeting

The 32nd meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF) was held virtually on 20 January 2025, bringing together key business and government representatives from across the Indian Ocean region.

Chaired by Mr. Buwaneka Perera, Secretary General of The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka, the meeting gathered 36 participants from twelve IORA Member States—Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates—alongside representatives from Dialogue Partners Russia and Türkiye.

The meeting focused on advancing business-to-business and business-to-government cooperation to unlock trade and investment opportunities within the region. A major highlight was the development of an annual IORBF calendar of activities aimed at fostering sustained economic collaboration among participating countries.

The IORBF continues to play a vital role in strengthening regional economic integration and promoting private sector engagement across the Indian Ocean Rim.



DID YOU KNOW?

(IORA) plays a vital role in boosting trade, attracting foreign investment, and strengthening regional cooperation across its 23 Member States

Through its Action Plan (2022–2027) and the Working Group on Trade and Investment (WGTI), IORA promotes:

- Sustainable economic growth through public-private partnerships
- Empowerment of women and SMEs in trade and investment
- Seamless business connectivity—physically, institutionally, and people-to-people
- Knowledge-sharing on best practices to unlock regional trade potential
- Capacity-building programmes to uplift livelihoods and create jobs



**FISHERIES MANAGEMENT/
BLUE ECONOMY**

IORA-AFD Workshop in Bangkok: Advancing Innovation and Investment to Tackle Marine Debris in the Indian Ocean



IORA and Agence Française de Développement (AFD), with the support of Department of Marine and Coastal Resources of the Kingdom of Thailand held a regional workshop on Promoting Scientific Research, Innovation and Investment Opportunities for Sustainable Marine Debris Management in the Indian Ocean in Bangkok, Thailand from 24-26 March 2025.

The event supported the implementation of the IORA Strategic Framework of Action on Marine Debris and the Work Plan of the Working Group on the Blue Economy.

Experts from the IORA Member States and the Indo-Pacific gathered to exchange knowledge and explore science-based, innovative, and financially sustainable approaches to tackling marine debris such as the initiative of Plastic Odyssey.

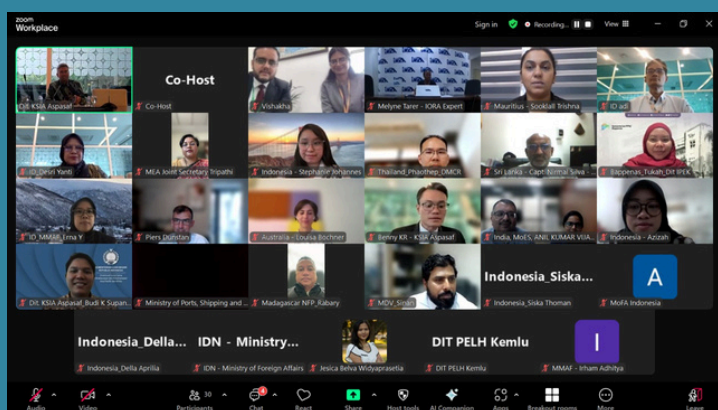
The workshop featured discussions on scientific research, innovative technologies, economic impacts, and financing mechanisms. A site visit provided practical insights into local marine debris management efforts, with the support of Ocean Clean Up and Eco Marine.

Outcomes:

- Enhanced understanding of marine debris issues and the role of science and monitoring
- Identification of viable and innovative waste recovery models
- Recognition of economic costs and sustainable financing options
- Strengthened regional collaboration and exchange of best practices

This initiative reaffirmed IORA’s commitment to promoting a cleaner, more resilient Indian Ocean through science, innovation, and investment.

4th Working group meeting on Blue Economy



The 4th Working Group Meeting on the Blue Economy was held virtually on 30 January 2025 under the chairship of Mr. T.B.H. Witjaksono Adji, Director for Asia-Pacific and African Intra- and Inter-Regional Cooperation (Indonesia), and Mrs. Paramita Tripathi, Joint Secretary (Oceania and Indo-Pacific) (India). Member States and Dialogue Partners shared updates on the progress made in implementing the WGBE Work Plan and presented new project proposals. The Chairs underscored the importance of continuing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14), advance the IORA Strategic Framework on Marine Debris, and combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing.

IORA Secretariat Participates in Innovation Island Summit to Promote Sustainable Blue Economy

The IORA Secretariat participated in the Innovation Island Summit, a global platform dedicated to advancing sustainable solutions for island and coastal communities.

The Observer Research Foundation (ORF), in collaboration with the Indian High Commission in Colombo and the Capital Maharaja Group (CMG), co-hosted the Innovation Island Summit on 20-21 February, 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The summit brought together policymakers, private sector leaders, experts from international organizations, and representatives from development banks to explore innovative strategies for resilience, economic growth, and environmental sustainability.

Major themes for deliberation included the potential framework of a post-2030 development agenda, connectivity and infrastructure, finance and investment, emerging technologies, the blue economy, energy and green priorities, as well as the role of women and youth as agents of change. Through these discussions, the Summit sought to foster a deeper spirit of collaboration among stakeholders from various regions and sectors.

As part of its commitment to fostering a sustainable Blue Economy, IORA highlighted the critical role of regional cooperation in driving progress. The Secretariat emphasized the importance of sharing best practices and leveraging digital innovation to enhance marine resource management, strengthen coastal economies, and promote sustainable ocean-based industries.



Webinar on "Shared experiences through the Early Career Ocean Professional Programme (ECOP) program"

**IORA Blue Carbon Hub Early Career Ocean Professionals:
Alumni experiences and tips for new applicants**

WEBINAR

3 March 2025

Join the IORA Blue Carbon Hub in celebrating World Seagrass Day with a special webinar! Hear from alumni of the Early Career Ocean Professionals Program as they share their experiences and accomplishments since completing the program. The session will also include valuable insights and tips to help you prepare a strong application for the 2025 intake.

0700 UTC
0900 South Africa
1100 Mauritius
1500 Perth, Australia

Speakers:


 Andriambola Tsiory Mashiyay
The University of Toiara, Madagascar


 Milica Stankovic
Prince of Songkhla University, Thailand


 Josphat Gacoki Nguu
Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Kenya

Moderator:


 Mat Vanderkift
Director - IORA Blue Carbon Hub

Register: <https://forms.gle/NTW5h79U48mXojQ26>

Please note this is an online event using Zoom and participants will receive the link 2-3 days prior to the event.

The IORA Blue Carbon Hub hosted the Webinar on "Shared experiences through the ECOP program" on 3 March 2025. The aim of the Webinar was to increase the awareness of ECOP Program and to enable ECOPs to share their experiences, the benefits of the program and their achievements. The webinar also enabled participants to enquire on the application and selection process, as well as discuss tips on a successful application.

Unlocking the Value of Blue Resources in Africa and the Indian Ocean: Insights from the UNECA Blue Economy Valuation Toolkit

As part of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between IORA and UNECA, more specifically to collaborate on research and capacity building on the Blue Economy, IORA and UNECA co-hosted a webinar on 5 March 2025, titled "Unlocking the Value of Blue Resources in Africa and the Indian Ocean: Insights from the UNECA Blue Economy Valuation Toolkit (BEVTK). The Webinar aimed to introduce the BEVTK, demonstrate its application, and promote its adoption for evidence-based policymaking across Africa and the Indian Ocean region.

Over 100 participants from 43 countries joined the two-hour virtual event, with strong representation from EAC and IORA Member States, with more modest participation from ECCAS countries. Women accounted for 45% of speakers and approximately 54% of participants, reflecting a balanced and inclusive discussion. Across presentations and audience interventions, there were several recommendations to strengthen the Blue Economy in Africa and the Indian Ocean by improving governance, investment, security, data reliability, and regional collaboration, ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth.

IORA Secretariat Engages with Russian Delegation to Tackle Marine Pollution



IORA Secretariat held fruitful discussions with a visiting Russian delegation, including representatives from the Institute of Macromolecular Compounds, as part of ongoing efforts to address environmental challenges, particularly marine pollution caused by microplastics. This served as a platform to explore future research opportunities and joint projects aimed at combatting microplastics in the ocean. They underlined the urgency of the issue and the importance of collaborative scientific efforts to find sustainable solutions. Key topics discussed: sharing research findings to strengthen cooperation in academic research, science, and technology.

ACADEMIC, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION

First Advisory Meeting of IORAG Early Career Professional Network Steering Committee Held

The First Advisory Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG) Early Career Professional (ECP) Network Steering Committee was successfully held, marking a significant milestone in the development of the ECP Network. The ECP Network, affiliated with the IORAG, is a dynamic platform aimed at empowering early career professionals across the Indian Ocean region. Through its initiatives, the Network seeks to foster collaboration, encourage knowledge-sharing, and enhance the long-term visibility of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) among its Member States.

The inaugural advisory meeting set the stage for strategic discussions on future activities and engagement plans that will further strengthen the support system for emerging professionals in the region.

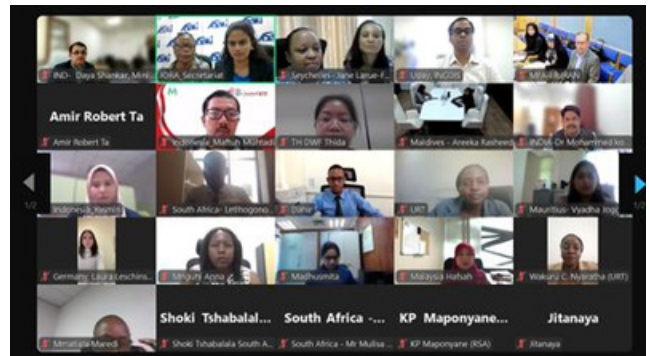
WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

10th Working Group on Women's Economic Empowerment

The 10th Working Group on Women's Economic Empowerment (WGWEE) took place 21 January 2025 under the Chairship of Dr. Fatemi Haji Agha, Advisor on Women and Family Affairs in the Office of the Vice President of Iran.

During deliberations, Member States provided updates on progress made with the implementation of the WGWEE Work Plan and presented new project proposals, including the establishment of an IORA Women's Business Forum in the IORA Business Forum (IORBF), for which Concept Notes will be developed.

Delegates from 12 of IORA Member States and 1 Dialogue Partners, namely India, Indonesia, Iran, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Oman, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand and Germany participated in the event.



IORA Women's Economic Empowerment Director Pays Courtesy Call on Mauritius Gender Minister

The Director of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Directorate, Ms. Z. Vrolick, paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare of Mauritius, Mrs. Arianne Navarre Marie, on 16 January 2025.

During the meeting, Ms. Vrolick extended her congratulations to Minister Navarre Marie on her recent appointment and provided an overview of WEE as a cross-cutting issue within IORA's work. The discussions explored avenues for future collaboration between the Ministry and IORA, with a particular focus on initiatives to promote women's empowerment in the region, including activities around International Women's Day.



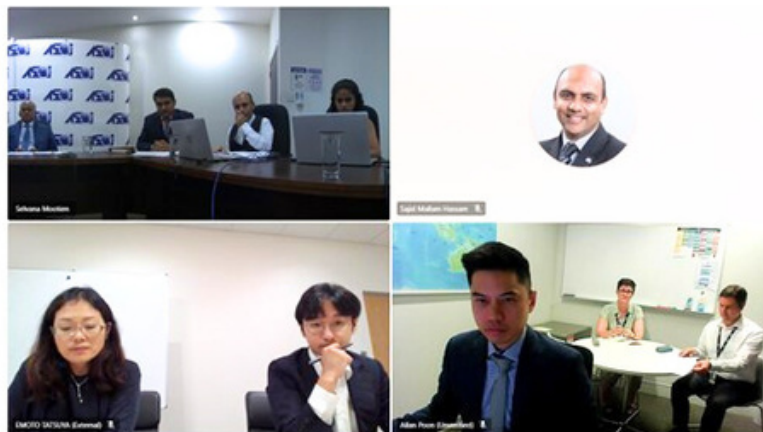
Collaboration with IORA Dialogue Partners

IORA Secretariat, Japan, and Australia Hold Tripartite Virtual Meeting to Strengthen Regional Cooperation

A tripartite virtual meeting was convened between the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat, IORA Dialogue Partner Japan, and Coordinating Country Australia to explore avenues for enhanced collaboration across key regional priorities.

The meeting focused on identifying potential activities and partnerships under IORA’s core priority areas and cross-cutting themes.

Discussions centred around IORA six Priority Areas. The dialogue reinforced the shared commitment of IORA, Japan, and Australia to deepen regional cooperation, promote sustainable development, and strengthen resilience across the Indian Ocean region.



IORA Secretariat, Egypt, and Sri Lanka Convene Tripartite Virtual Meeting to Enhance Regional Collaboration



IORA Secretariat held a tripartite virtual meeting with the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Coordinating Country for Egypt. The meeting aimed to explore avenues for enhanced cooperation and deepen engagement within the IORA framework.

Discussions focused on identifying potential collaborative activities under IORA’s key priority areas and cross-cutting themes.

The virtual engagement reaffirmed the shared commitment of the three parties to fostering stronger regional ties.



IORA Secretary-General paid a Courtesy Call on the Hon. President of Republic of Mauritius

H.E. Sanjiv Ranjiv, Secretary-General of IORA, paid a courtesy call on the President of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Dharambeer Gokhool on 21st January, at the State House in Réduit, Mauritius.

The Secretary-General discussed the activities of IORA with the Hon. President and extended appreciation for the continued support of Mauritius to IORA. The meeting highlighted the importance of IORA in the **economic cooperation**, capacity building, training and sharing of best practices across the priority areas of IORA for sustainable development in the **Indian Ocean Region**.



IORA Secretary-General's Courtesy Call on Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mauritius

The Secretary-General of IORA, His Excellency Sanjiv Ranjiv, called on Honourable Dhananjay Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Republic of Mauritius on 16th January 2025 at the office of the Ministry in Port-Louis, Mauritius.

The discussions featured on various issues related to priority areas of IORA and the way forward for strengthening the regional collaboration for economic cooperation and sustainable development in Indian Ocean Region. H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan extended his appreciation to Mauritius for its commitment to advancing the goals of IORA.



IORA Secretary-General Meets with Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs

IORA Secretary-General, H.E. Sanjiv Ranjiv, met with Honourable Hambyrajen Narsinghen, the Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, on 20th January in Port-Louis, Mauritius.

The Secretary-General and Hon. Junior Minister discussed various issues related to areas of cooperation and Hon. Junior Minister reiterated the commitment of support of Mauritius to IORA.



H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan Meets with EU Representative

H.E. Mr. Sanjiv Ranjan, the newly appointed Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), welcomed H.E. Mr. Oskar Benedikt at the IORA Secretariat. The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation between the European Union (EU) and IORA, particularly in the context of the EU's role as a Dialogue Partner. Both parties underscored the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean region and discussed potential areas of engagement aligned with mutual priorities. H.E. Mr. Benedikt highlighted that the EU's collaboration with IORA complements its Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, recognizing IORA as the only intergovernmental organisation encompassing the entire Indian Ocean region.



H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan Meets with British High Commissioner

H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), met with H.E. Charlotte Pierre, British High Commissioner to Mauritius, at the IORA Secretariat to discuss avenues for deeper cooperation. The discussions focused on strengthening collaboration between the United Kingdom and IORA, with a shared commitment to exploring mutual priorities and enhancing future engagement. Both parties expressed interest in working together across key areas relevant to regional development and maritime cooperation. The meeting reaffirmed the UK's continued support as an IORA Dialogue Partner and its dedication to fostering meaningful partnerships within the Indian Ocean region.



Iranian Ambassador Pays Courtesy Call on IORA Secretary-General

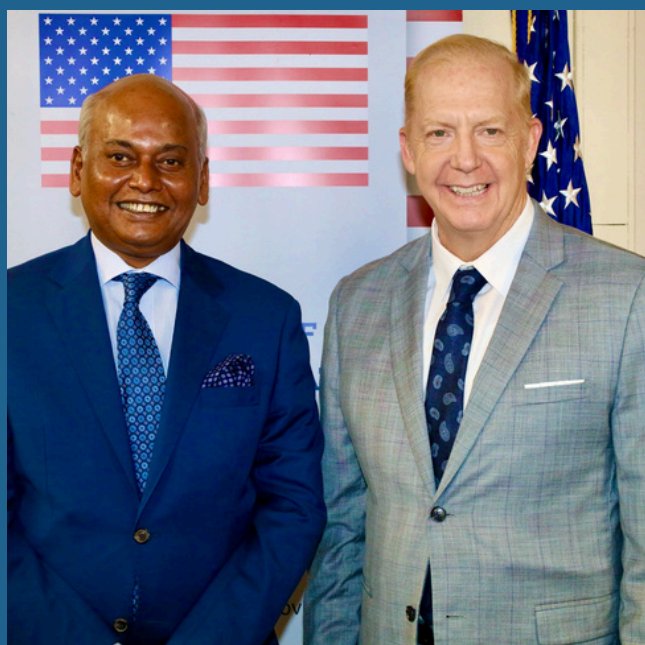
H.E. Mr. Hassan Alibakhshi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles, paid a courtesy call on H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), at the IORA Secretariat.

The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on Iran's contributions and past initiatives in advancing IORA's Priority Areas. Discussions also focused on the importance of continued engagement and shared efforts to address regional challenges through cooperation.



Norwegian Ambassador Visits IORA Secretariat to Discuss Future Engagement

H.E. Haakon Gram-Johannessen, Norwegian Ambassador based in Mozambique, led a delegation to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat for a courtesy call on H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of IORA. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for discussions on IORA's Priority Areas and Norway's potential role in contributing to regional cooperation efforts. Both sides explored possible avenues for future engagement, with a focus on fostering partnerships aligned with IORA's objectives. The meeting highlighted Norway's interest in building closer ties with IORA and supporting initiatives that promote stability, sustainability, and inclusive development across the Indian Ocean region.



IORA Secretary-General Meets U.S. Ambassador

H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), held a meeting with H.E. Henry Jardine, Ambassador of the United States to Mauritius, at the IORA Secretariat. The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation between the United States and IORA, with discussions centred around shared priorities and opportunities for enhanced engagement in the region. Both sides expressed interest in exploring concrete areas of collaboration aligned with IORA's strategic objectives. The visit reaffirmed the United States' commitment as a Dialogue Partner to supporting regional stability, economic development, and sustainable growth across the Indian Ocean Rim.



IORA Secretary-General, Welcomed by Australian High Commissioner

H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), was warmly welcomed by High Commissioner Chamley of Australia at the Australian High Commission. The visit marked an important step in reinforcing IORA's role in addressing shared regional challenges and fostering stronger partnerships for a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Indian Ocean region.

Australia, a founding Member State of IORA since 1997, continues to support the association's mission as the only ministerial-level forum spanning the Indian Ocean.



Ambassador of France for Regional Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Pays Courtesy Call on IORA Secretary-General

H.E. Jean-Claude Brunet, Ambassador of France for Regional Cooperation in the Indian Ocean, paid a courtesy call on H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), on Monday, 10 February 2025. The meeting, held at the IORA Secretariat in Ebène, Mauritius, focused on mutual areas of interest and enhancing regional cooperation among Indian Ocean countries. Discussions covered several IORA priority areas, with particular emphasis on Disaster Risk Management. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening collaboration and fostering regional resilience through inclusive and coordinated efforts.

Fact-sheet

Since its creation, IORA has signed several MOUs with other regional organizations, broadening its work and impact in and beyond the Indian Ocean Region.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- Memorandum of Understanding between the International Renewable Energy Agency (IREA) and IORA
- Memorandum of Understanding between IORA and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- MoU between IORA and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)
- MoU between IORA and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- MoU between IORA and International Seabed Authority (ISA)
- MoU between IORA and Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- MoU between IORA and Global Trade Review (GTR)
- MoU between IORA and France through AFD for strengthening capacities in promoting the Blue Economy and Fisheries Management
- MoU between IORA and the Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-aligned and other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) on Application of Science, Technology & Innovation for Sustainable Development
- MoU between IORA and Germany through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH for Strengthening the capacities of IORA
- MoU for Sustainable Development and Deployment of Solar Energy with International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- MoU between United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and IORA
- MoU between IORA and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
- MoU on a Collaborative Framework between IORA and the Non-Aligned Movement for South-South Technical Co-operation (NAM CSSTC)
- MoU between the Governments of the Member States of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
- MoU between the Governments of the Member States of the IORA for the Coordination and Co-operation of Search and Rescue Services in the Indian Ocean Region
- MoU for the Establishment of the IORA Fisheries Support Unit (FSU)
- MoU for the Establishment of the IORA Regional Centre for Science and Technology (RCSTT)

ACRONYMS

- AFD – Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency)
- ASEAN – Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- BOBP-IGO – Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation
- BIMSTEC – Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
- CDRI – Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
- CSSTC – Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (Non-Aligned Movement)
- DRM – Disaster Risk Management
- DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction
- ECOP – Early Career Ocean Professional
- ECP – Early Career Professional
- EU – European Union
- FSU – Fisheries Support Unit
- GMCP – Global Maritime Crime Programme
- GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- GTR – Global Trade Review
- IORA – Indian Ocean Rim Association
- IORAG – Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group
- IORBF – Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum
- IOC – Indian Ocean Commission
- IOC-UNESCO – Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
- IREA – International Renewable Energy Agency
- ISA – International Seabed Authority / International Solar Alliance
- IUU – Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (fishing)
- MoU – Memorandum of Understanding
- NAM S&T Centre – Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-aligned and other Developing Countries
- NAM CSSTC – Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation
- ORF – Observer Research Foundation
- RCSTT – Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer
- RIS – Research and Information System for Developing Countries
- ROEA – Regional Office for Eastern Africa
- SDG – Sustainable Development Goal
- UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNITAR – United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- WEE – Women’s Economic Empowerment
- WGBE – Working Group on the Blue Economy
- WGTI – Working Group on Trade and Investment
- WGWEE – Working Group on Women’s Economic Empowerment