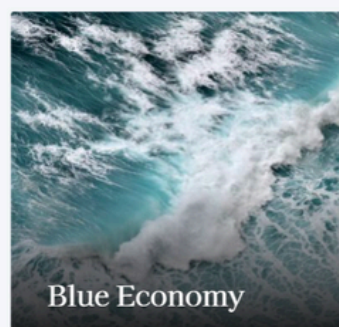
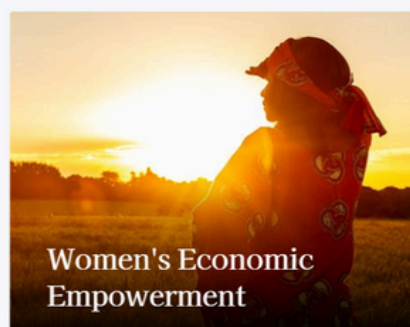




# IORA

April-June 2025

# E-newsletter





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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the second quarter of 2025, IORA held its 24th Council of Ministers and 26th Committee of Senior Officials meetings hosted by Sri Lanka virtually. Member States adopted two key policy documents: the IORA Guidelines on Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and the IORA Climate Change Strategic Agenda. The Council also endorsed the theme of the upcoming 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue: “Indian Ocean in a Transforming World.”

Key institutional collaborations marked the quarter. IORA renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and signed a new MOU with BIMSTEC to deepen inter-regional cooperation.

Key activities during the period included:

- Special Course for Diplomats from IORA Member States.
- Strengthening collaboration with Dialogue Partners through tripartite meetings.
- Coastal clean-up in a mangrove ecosystem in Mauritius, in partnership with the University of Mauritius.
- Maritime Safety and Port Management Workshop.
- Training of Experts on Climate Change and Drought Management.
- Training on Ocean Governance and Blue Economy for Member States.
- Capacity-building programme on Women’s Economic Empowerment.
- IORA Secretariat participated in the Mauritius National Research Week 2025.

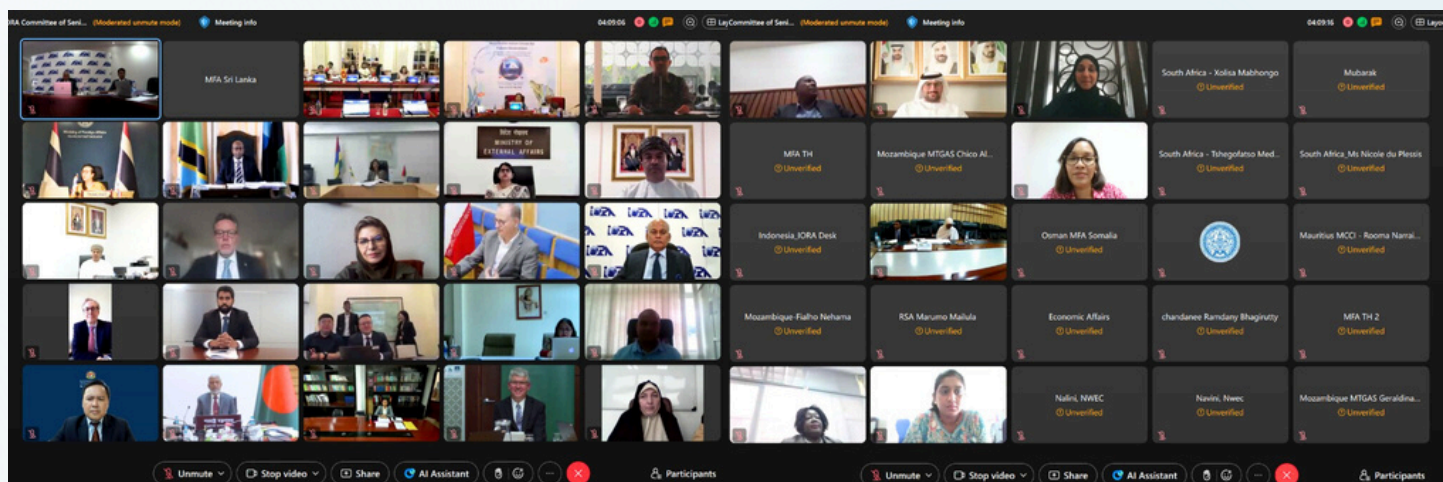
The Secretary-General undertook a series of courtesy calls with representatives of Member States and Dialogue Partners, reaffirming IORA’s commitment to multilateral engagement and strengthened regional cooperation.

This quarter’s events reflect progress across IORA’s six priority areas and two cross-cutting issues and reinforce its role as a platform for regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

# IORA Council of Senior Officials and Council of Ministers convened in May 2025

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) convened its 27th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) and the 24th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) virtually from 19–21 May 2025, gathering representatives from Member States, Dialogue Partners and Specialized Agencies.

- The Council of Ministers adopted two key policy documents: IORA Guidelines on Combatting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and IORA Climate Change Strategic Agenda
- The Council endorsed the theme of the 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue: “Indian Ocean in a Transforming World”



Delegates from IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners

## 27th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

On 19 and 20 May, the CSO meeting brought together senior representatives from 22 Member States: Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. IORA's Specialised Agencies, including the Fisheries Support Unit (FSU) and the Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT), also joined the discussions.

Opening remarks were delivered by the Chair (Sri Lanka), followed by interventions from the Vice-Chair (India) and the Past Chair (Bangladesh). The Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Sanjiv Ranjan, presented a progress report outlining institutional developments and implementation updates.

The Senior Officials reviewed the work being done under each Priority Area and Cross-cutting issues:

- Maritime safety and security
- Trade and investment facilitation
- Disaster risk management
- Fisheries management
- Academic, scientific, and technological collaboration
- Tourism and cultural exchanges
- Blue Economy &
- Women's Economic Empowerment.

## 24th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)

On 21 May 2025, the IORA Council of Ministers was chaired by Sri Lanka. As IORA's principal decision-making body, the Council is responsible for setting policy directions, monitoring cooperation, and identifying new areas for regional engagement.

### Strategic outcomes and way forward

The Council of Ministers adopted two key documents: the IORA Guidelines on Combatting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and the Climate Change Strategic Agenda aiming to deliver impactful regional cooperation between IORA Member States and its partners by leveraging IORA's strengths to implement well targeted and coordinated activities to address climate change.

The Council also endorsed the theme of the upcoming 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD): “Indian Ocean in a Transforming World”, to be hosted by India. IORA initiative that brings together officials and experts to discuss key regional issues. Its goal is to boost cooperation among member countries through idea-sharing on security, development, and common challenges.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Colombo Communiqué, which sets out the Association's priorities.



## STRENGTHENING COOPERATION

### Special Course for Diplomats from IORA Member States



Diplomats from IORA Member States, the Honourable Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles, the Dean of the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, and the Secretary-General of IORA

The Special Course for Diplomats from IORA Member States took place from 28 April to 3 May 2025 at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service in New Delhi, India. The programme brought together diplomats from across the IORA region to enhance the common understanding of regional cooperation.

The course was inaugurated by the Honourable Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles, H.E. Pabitra Margherita. The IORA Secretary-General, H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, also addressed the participants during the opening session.

### IORA and CDRI renew MOU on Disaster Risk Management

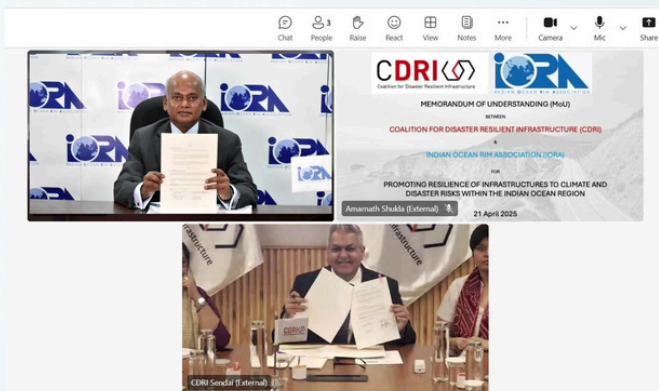


Photo caption: H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of IORA (top left), and Mr. Amit Prothi, Director General of CDRI (bottom).

On 21 April 2025, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) renewed their Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in disaster risk management (DRM) across the Indian Ocean Region.

The agreement was signed virtually by H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of IORA, and Mr. Amit Prothi, Director General of CDRI.

This partnership supports IORA's DRM work plan, focusing on capacity building for resilient infrastructure, scaling up critical infrastructure programmes, and knowledge sharing through technical workshops and conferences.

### IORA and BIMSTEC sign MOU to deepen regional cooperation

On 3 April 2025, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding during the 6th BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok, Thailand. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by H.E. Mr. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of IORA, and H.E. Mr. Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary-General of BIMSTEC.



H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of IORA (left), and H.E. Mr. Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary-General of BIMSTEC (right)

The agreement aims to advance cooperation in areas of shared interest, including trade and investment, environment and climate change, maritime security, science and technology, and tourism. It also emphasizes collaboration in the blue economy, ocean governance, and fisheries management.

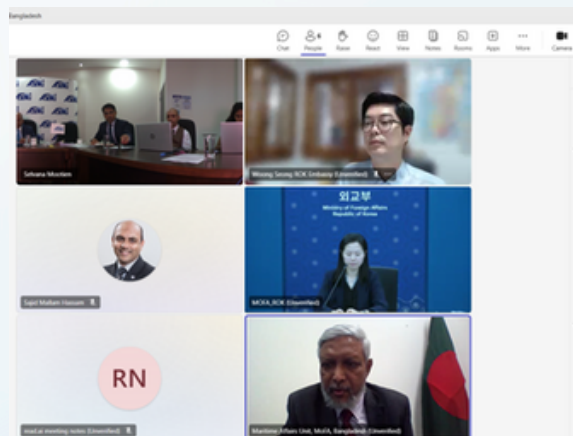
Following the signing of the MOU between IORA and BIMSTEC, a virtual working meeting was held on 17 April 2025 between both Secretariats to begin developing a collaborative workplan.



## Strengthening collaboration with IORA Dialogue Partners

In an effort to strengthen collaboration with its Dialogue Partners, IORA has institutionalised the practice of holding tripartite meetings that include both the Dialogue Partners and the designated Coordinating Countries. These meetings serve as a platform to exchange views and explore areas of mutual interest in IORA Priority Areas and Cross-cutting issues.

In this spirit, on 17 April 2025, a tri-partite meeting was held between the IORA Secretariat, Dialogue Partner Republic of Korea, and its Coordinating Country, the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The meeting provided an opportunity to review ongoing activities across IORA's priority areas and to share insights into the Secretariat's project management processes. It also reaffirmed the important role of Coordinating Countries in facilitating effective collaboration between IORA and its Dialogue Partners.



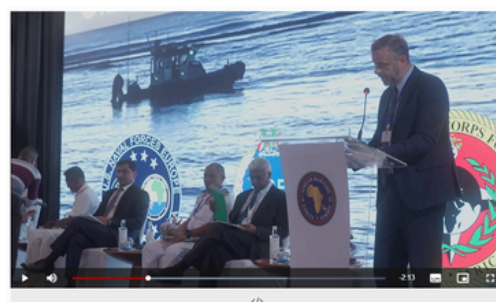
*Representatives from the IORA Secretariat, Republic of Korea, and the People's Republic of Bangladesh*

### MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY

## IORA contributes to regional dialogue on Maritime Safety

The IORA Secretariat participated in the African Maritime Forces Summit (AMFS), held from 23–25 June 2025. The summit aimed to strengthen professional ties and identify joint solutions to maritime security challenges.

Mr. Shivraj Dhuppe, Director for Maritime Safety and Security at IORA, participated as a panellist in the session Developing Robust Regional Maritime Security Mechanisms. He underscored the need to build Member States' capacity, improve information sharing and Maritime Domain Awareness, strengthen legal frameworks, and promote regional and global cooperation.



*Delegates at the African Maritime Forces Summit, Mauritius*

## Capacity building for IORA Members in Maritime Safety and Port Management

A capacity building programme on maritime safety and port management was held in Singapore from 9 to 13 June 2025. Nineteen participants from eight IORA Member States took part in the five-day course, which combined classroom sessions with real-world site visits.

The course aimed to build capacity in adapting to global maritime challenges dealing with:

- Emergency response and crisis management
- Maritime safety, security, and environmental protection
- Use of ICT to improve port efficiency
- Maritime transport and port logistics operations



*Participants from IORA Member States*



## IORA participates in Regional Conference on Maritime Rescue and Assistance



*Participants of the Western Indian Ocean Regional Conference on Rescue and Assistance at Sea*

The IORA Secretariat participated in the Western Indian Ocean Regional Conference on Rescue and Assistance at Sea, held from 24 to 25 June 2025 at the Labourdonnais Hotel in Port Louis, Mauritius. The event was organised by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) under its Safe Seas Africa Programme, in collaboration with the Foundation for Humanitarian Action at Sea (FHAS). The conference focused on strengthening national capabilities, improving regional coordination, and enhancing cooperation with other maritime partners in the region.

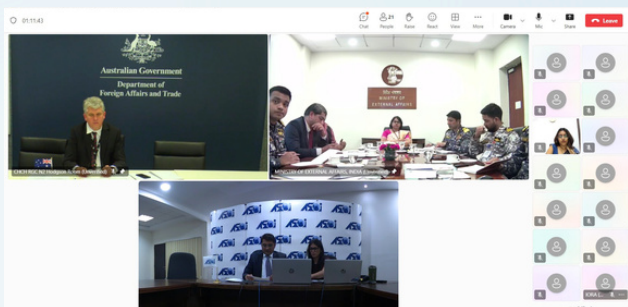
## Training on Maritime Regulation and Enforcement in Malaysia



*Participants from IORA Member States attending the course*

The Maritime Regulation and Enforcement course was held from 2 to 5 June 2025 in Shah Alam, Malaysia. Hosted by the University of Wollongong's Southeast Asia Maritime Institute, the course is delivered by the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS). 29 participants from 15 IORA Member States participated to strengthen regional maritime capacity. The primary outcome of the workshop was to foster greater understanding of international maritime regulation and enforcement, particularly in accordance with the UNCLOS, and provide a forum for participants to discuss issues. Practical activities such as case studies also strengthened knowledge and application of maritime regulation and enforcement whilst building networks between civil maritime enforcement officers across the Indian Ocean region.

## IORA convenes Fifth Working Group Meeting on Maritime Safety and Security



*Chair of WGMSS (Australia), Coordinating Country of MSS (India) & IORA Secretariat*

The Fifth Meeting of the IORA Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security was held virtually on 2 May 2025, under the leadership of Australia as Chair and India as Coordinating Country. The meeting brought together 9 IORA Member States to review and update the Work Plan of MSS. A dedicated session with 4 Dialogue Partners explored avenues for deeper collaboration to strengthen maritime safety and security in the Indian Ocean Region.



## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & BLUE ECONOMY

### IORA and University of Mauritius lead coastal clean-up in Mangrove Ecosystem

As part of the implementation of the IORA Strategic Framework of Action on Marine Debris, the IORA Secretariat, in partnership with the University of Mauritius, conducted a coastal clean-up in a mangrove area: a sensitive and vital coastal ecosystem, on 25 June 2025. The activity supported Pillars II (Action), III (Research), and IV (Awareness) of the Framework.

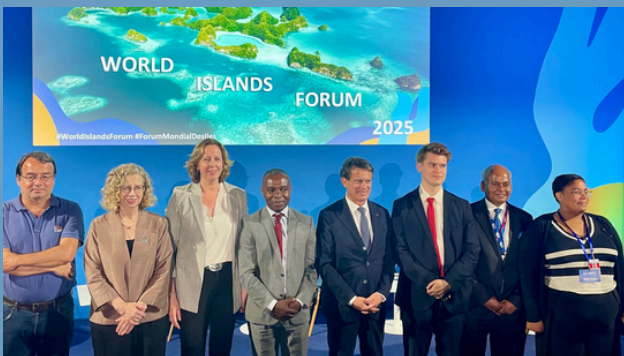
Held in context of the University's 60th anniversary, the event mobilized over 100 students, alongside representatives from the diplomatic corps, local associations, and IORA. The clean-up also contributed to broader global objectives, aligning with the Nice Call adopted at the 3rd UN Ocean Conference.

Over 700 kg of waste was removed from the mangrove area as a concrete action under IORA's Strategic Framework on Marine Debris. This effort supports global ocean commitments through local action and helps increase awareness, highlighting the importance of sustainable behavior change.



Participants of the event: Students of UoM, Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vice-Chancellor of UoM and Secretary General of IORA

### IORA joins global dialogue on Marine Pollution



Secretary-General of IORA (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) along with other delegates

IORA took part in the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC 3) held from 9 to 13 June 2025 in Nice, France, under the theme "Scaling up Ocean Action Based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of Goal 14."

IORA highlighted progress in marine biodiversity, fisheries management, ocean energy, and the development of IORA Guidelines to combat IUU fishing, as well as the Strategic Framework on Marine Debris. IORA also called for stronger science-based policymaking, regional collaboration, and inclusive capacity-building across the Indian Ocean.

This engagement supports IORA's strategic vision for a prosperous, sustainable, and resilient Indian Ocean region.

**DID YOU  
KNOW ?**

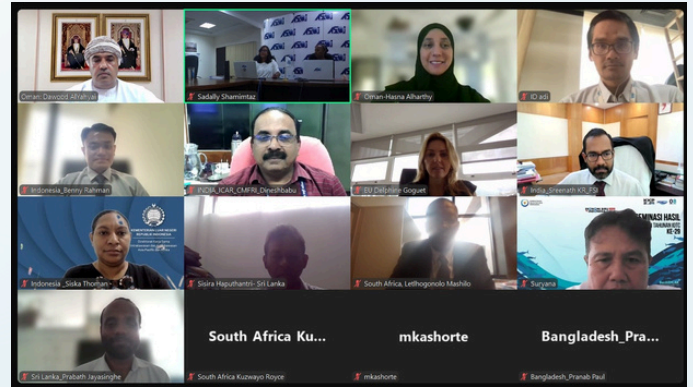
**IORA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IOC-UNESCO to collaborate on joint capacity development, with the objective of advancing ocean science and its applications in support of a sustainable ocean economy in the Indian Ocean region**



## Fourth Meeting of IORA Core Group on Fisheries Management

The Chair of the Core Group on Fisheries Management (Sultanate of Oman) and the IORA Secretariat hosted the Fourth Meeting of the Core Group on Fisheries Management (CGFM) virtually on 30 April 2025. Representatives from 11 Member States and 3 Dialogue Partners reviewed progress on the CGFM Work Plan and discussed collaboration on upcoming projects.

The meeting provided updates on the implementation of planned activities and addressed challenges faced in carrying out projects. Member States and Dialogue Partners were encouraged to take leadership roles in advancing the Work Plan. The meeting also reviewed ongoing collaboration with international organisations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).



*Representatives from 11 Member States and 3 Dialogue Partners*

## IORA shares regional ocean priorities at Indian Ocean Forum in Perth

The Indian Ocean Forum was inaugurated on 11 April 2025 in Perth, Australia, bringing together scientists, experts, and policymakers to advance ocean conservation and sustainable management.

IORA Secretary-General H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan delivered a keynote on “One Ocean, One Region: Opportunities and Challenges from the Indian Ocean Region.” He outlined IORA’s efforts in blue economy development, fisheries management, small-scale initiatives, and ocean literacy, and reaffirmed support for the outcomes of the upcoming UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3).

On the sidelines, the Secretary-General held bilateral talks with H.E. Thani Mohamed-Soihili, French Minister for Francophonie and International Partnerships, and H.E. Pierre-André Imbert, Ambassador of France to Australia.

The forum featured a virtual address by H.E. Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, who called for joint ocean action and recognized IORA as a key regional partner in strengthening Indian Ocean cooperation.



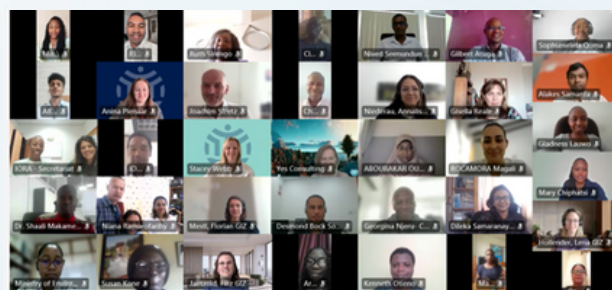
Secretary- General of IORA (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) along with other delegates



## IORA hosts regional webinar on Extended Producer Responsibility for Marine Litter

In support of Pillars I, II, and V of the IORA Strategic Framework of Action on Marine Debris, IORA and the Global Programme on Marine Litter Prevention (GIZ), on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, hosted a two-day webinar titled “Tackling Marine Litter: An Introduction to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).”

The event brought together stakeholders from IORA Member States, public institutions, and the private sector to explore the principles, resources, and practical steps required for EPR implementation. Participants gained a clear understanding of EPR systems and their role in preventing marine litter, while interactive sessions helped identify regional needs and priorities, ultimately contributing to the definition of actionable next steps for regional collaboration on EPR.



Participants of the webinar on marine litter

## Virtual conference advances ocean literacy and education in the Indian Ocean Region

On 20 June 2025, Seychelles hosted a Virtual Conference on Advancing Sustainable Ocean Management (SOM) Education in IORA Member States. Co-organised by SeyCCAT and the IORA Secretariat, the event brought together over 100 educators, policymakers, and NGOs to strengthen ocean literacy and promote the integration of SOM into national education systems.

The session featured a presentation of the SOM Education resources for Key Stage 4 (ages 12–13), including teacher guides, student workbooks, and classroom activities. Reflections from Phases 1 and 2 of the project, including the pilot implementation in Seychelles’ Eco-Schools, were shared. Interactive sessions fostered regional dialogue and peer learning, with participants expressing strong commitment to exploring the integration of SOM into national curricula and collaborating on future initiatives.

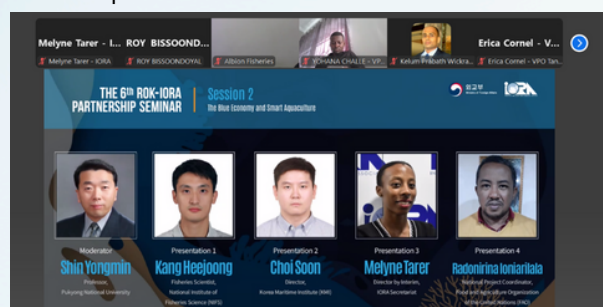


Virtual Conference on Advancing Sustainable Ocean Management (SOM) Education in IORA Member States

## 6th ROK–IORA Partnership Seminar highlights marine spatial planning for a resilient Blue Economy

The 6th ROK–IORA Partnership Seminar was held in Seoul under the theme “Navigating the Future: Marine Spatial Planning for a Resilient Blue Economy.” Organised as part of Korea’s 2025 KICF cooperation project, the event brought together representatives from IORA Member States, Dialogue Partners, the IORA Secretariat, and Korean experts. Discussions focused on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), smart aquaculture, and ecosystem-based approaches, aiming to align ocean conservation with sustainable development.

Ms. Oh Jin-hee, Deputy Director-General for Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, emphasized the role of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in addressing environmental and development challenges. H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of IORA, highlighted MSP as a vital tool for guiding the spatial and temporal use of marine spaces, ensuring a balance between ecological protection and socio-economic priorities.



Speakers of the 6<sup>th</sup> ROK–IORA seminar



## Academic, Science and Technology Cooperation

### IORA supports knowledge exchange at Mauritius National Research Week 2025

The IORA Secretariat took part in National Research Week, held under the theme “Uniting Research, Industry and Innovation” at the University of Mauritius, Réduit campus, and hosted by the Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research, Dr. Kaviraj Sukon. The event was coordinated by the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC).

The week brought together national universities, public and private research institutions, and industry stakeholders to encourage knowledge exchange and collaborative research.

In his opening address, the Minister called for joint initiatives to address national priorities such as climate change, flash floods, and food security.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Surya Raghu, Visiting Professor at Wits University and President of Advanced Fluidics (USA). The event concluded with a closing ceremony on 18 April 2025, which featured the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of Mauritius and the Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology (MIBL) under the theme “Research and Innovation in Action: Bridging Academia and Industry.”



*Opening ceremony of the National Research Week 2025*

## IORAG Early-Career Professionals (ECP) Network

The Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group Early-career Professionals (IORAG-ECP) promotes the cooperation of Early-career Professionals within IORA through enhanced dialogue, research and networking across all the IORA priority and cross cutting areas.

**The ECP Network is action-driven. Our key initiatives include:**

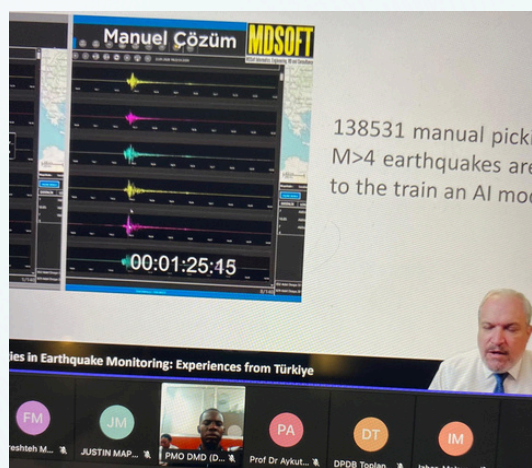
- 🔗 Launch of an interactive database and digital platform for ECPs.
- 📺 Regular webinars on climate resilience, innovation, and maritime security.
- 🏆 Annual ECP Summit & regional hackathons.
- 👤 Training and mentorship programs in sustainability and leadership.
- 📄 Publication of opinion pieces and collaborative research articles (Currently working on this).
- 🎯 Advocacy at G20, COP30, and regional events.

The very first Advisory Meeting was successfully held with IORA Member States and IORAG national focal points on 26 March 2025. This inaugural gathering was a significant milestone that allowed the Steering Committee to introduce its vision and annual activity plan.

Whether you're an emerging researcher, a policymaker, or a changemaker, there's a space for you here. Follow our social media launch, attend events, and share your ideas with peers across the region. **You can email us on [ecpn@iora.int](mailto:ecpn@iora.int)**

## Disaster Risk Management

### IORA engages in regional seminar on Earthquake Risk Reduction



The IORA Secretariat took part in the virtual Seminar on “Emerging Technologies in Earthquake Monitoring and Risk Reduction” and “Experiences of the National Earthquake Monitoring Center of Türkiye”, held on 24 June 2025.

The seminar was organised by the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Türkiye (AFAD) to support regional disaster preparedness and resilience. The event brought together 22 participants from five IORA Member States, encouraging the exchange of experiences and good practices in earthquake monitoring and risk reduction.

*Presentation on Emerging Technologies in Earthquake Monitoring and Risk Reduction*

### IORA engages in global dialogue on Resilient Infrastructure



*Delegates at the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure 2025*

The International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2025 was held from 6 to 7 June in Nice, France, in alignment with the UNDRR Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and the 3rd UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3). Organised by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), the conference focused on the infrastructure needs of coastal regions, particularly in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Stakeholders from governments, the private sector, multilateral banks, and local institutions discussed risk-informed investment strategies to enhance climate and disaster resilience. The IORA Secretariat was represented by Mr. Shivraj Dhuppe, Director for Disaster Risk Management, who spoke at the session “Partnering for Impact – Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)”. The session provided a platform for SIDS and regional actors to explore practical approaches for building and maintaining resilient infrastructure through the IRIS programme.



## Training Programme on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction



*Delegates at the TIKA training programme*

A Training of Trainers Programme on “Organizing Community Leaders for Disaster Risk Reduction” and “Protection Against Infectious Diseases and Hygiene in Post-Disaster Conditions” is being held from 9 to 14 June 2025 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The programme is organised by Türkiye, an IORA Dialogue Partner, through the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent. It brings together 15 participants from 11 IORA Member States, promoting the exchange of best practices in community-based disaster preparedness and health protection.

## IORA holds Third Working Group Meeting on Disaster Risk Management

The Third Meeting of the IORA Working Group on Disaster Risk Management was held virtually on 14 May 2025, under the leadership of France as Chair and Madagascar as Coordinating Country for this priority area.

The meeting brought together 10 IORA Member States to review and update the Work Plan. A dedicated session with 4 Dialogue Partners focused on enhancing collaboration in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery across the Indian Ocean Region.

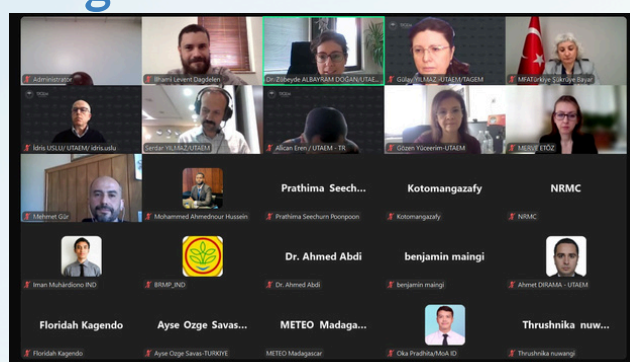


*Participants of the 3<sup>rd</sup> WGDRM meeting*

## International Training of Experts on Climate Change and Drought Management

The International Training of Experts on Climate Change and Drought Management took place from 28 to 30 April 2025 in virtual mode. It was attended by 14 participants from 6 IORA Member States.

The training was an initiative of International Agricultural Research and Training Center (UTAEM) which is a premier research and training center in Türkiye, dedicated to advancing agricultural practices both nationally and internationally.



*Participants at the International Training of Experts on Climate Change and Drought Management*

## Women's Economic Empowerment

### International workshop on the Role of Women in Science, Technology, and Innovation in the Global South

On 18 April 2025, the Director for Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) attended an international workshop organised by the NAM S&T Centre and the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research (Mauritius). The event brought together academics from IORA Member States—including India, Mauritius, Malaysia, Kenya, and South Africa—as well as experts from Egypt, Nepal, and Palestine, to discuss the role of women in science, technology, and innovation in the Global South.

### IORA WEE participates in roundtable on Gender, Ecology, and Social Justice

On 24–25 June 2025, the IORA Directorate for Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) took part in a roundtable discussion on Gender, Ecology, and Social Justice, held alongside the Gender and Cultural Industries Conference organised by the Indian Ocean Commission.

Panellists represented Member States including Mauritius, Réunion Island, Madagascar, and Mozambique, as well as international organisations such as UN Women, IORA, and Cap Business Indian Ocean. The discussion highlighted the importance of women's empowerment in the cultural industry, featuring artists from the region who shared their experiences. The event also showcased cultural performances by women artists from across the Indian Ocean region.



Speakers at the roundtable on Gender, Ecology and Social Justice

## DOCUMENTS ADOPTED BY THE 24TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

### IORA Principal Guidelines on Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing



The IORA Principal Guidelines on Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing was adopted by the Council of Ministers in May 2025. The Guidelines aim to support sustainable fisheries management by providing a framework for Member States to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing in the Indian Ocean. Key objectives include reaffirming political commitment, building capacity, particularly for developing countries, LDCs, and SIDS, enhancing cooperation among States and stakeholders, promoting the use of regional and international instruments, fostering efforts toward achieving Zero IUU fishing, and encouraging information sharing and awareness across the region.

### IORA's Climate Change Strategic Agenda



IORA's Climate Change Strategic Agenda aims to foster impactful regional cooperation by leveraging the Association's strengths to implement targeted and coordinated climate-related activities. The agenda will be integrated into IORA's institutional frameworks, including the IORA Action Plan 2022–2027 and related workplans, ensuring climate change is mainstreamed across priority areas and cross-cutting issues. Climate change will be mainstreamed in all IORA activities through the activity design, implementation and reporting processes. This will be supported through new guidance and a monitoring and evaluation framework that will help report on impact.





## Strengthening cooperation with China

On 19 June 2025, H.E. Dr. Huang Shifang, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Mauritius, paid a courtesy call on H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of IORA.

The meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen ties with IORA Dialogue Partner China, exchange views on shared regional priorities, and reaffirm both sides' commitment to continued cooperation in advancing mutual objectives across the Indian Ocean Region.



## Courtesy call by Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

On 13 May 2025, H.E. Ms. Park Ji Hyun, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, paid a courtesy call on H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

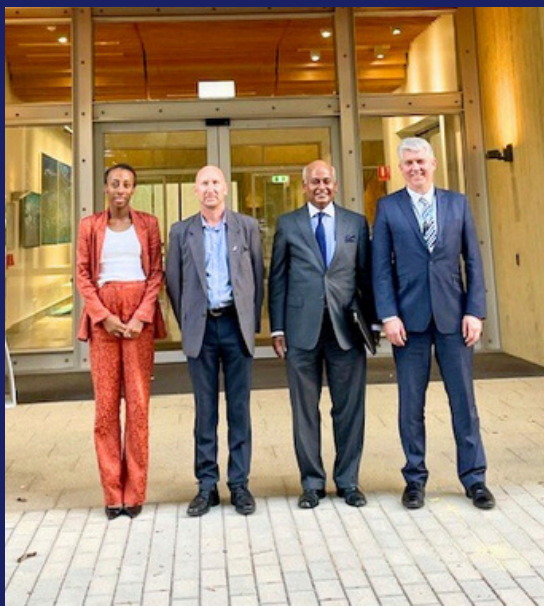
The meeting offered an opportunity to strengthen relations with IORA Dialogue Partner Korea, discuss shared priorities—including the proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)—and reaffirm the commitment to continued cooperation in key areas of mutual interest across the region.



## Strengthening scientific cooperation: Meeting with RCSTT Director

On 22 April 2025, H.E. Mr. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of IORA, met with Dr. Sanjabi, Director of the IORA Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT), at the IORA Secretariat.

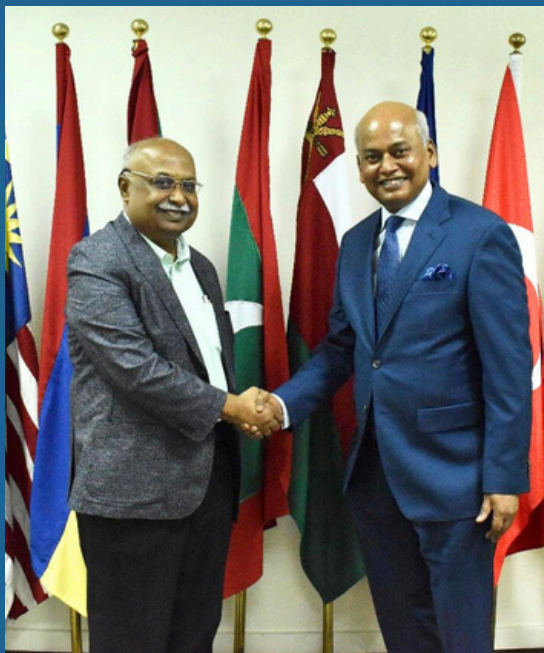
The discussion focused on enhancing technology transfer among Member States, promoting regional cooperation, and strengthening scientific and innovation capacity across the Indian Ocean Region through RCSTT-led initiatives.



### Visit of the Secretary-General to the IORA Blue Carbon Hub

On the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Forum 2025 (IOF2025) at the University Club of Western Australia, H.E. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of IORA, visited the IORA Blue Carbon Hub. He was accompanied by Mr. Bruce Soar, Senior Diplomat from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Dr. Mat Vanderklift, Director of the Hub.

Located at the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre in Perth, the Hub focuses on building regional knowledge and capacity to protect and restore blue carbon ecosystems. Blue carbon contributes to climate action by supporting economic growth, protecting the environment, and promoting social inclusion. It is a key element of the Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean Region.



### IORA and NAM S&T Centre engage in deliberation on renewal of MOU

H.E. Mr. Sanjiv Ranjan, Secretary-General of IORA, met with Mr. Amitava Bandopadhyay, Director General of the NAM S&T Centre, to discuss the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and outline a forward-looking work programme for the next two years.

The collaboration aims to strengthen regional cooperation in science, technology, and innovation across the Indian Ocean Region.

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# ACRONYMS

- AFAD – Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Türkiye
- AMFS – African Maritime Forces Summit
- ANCORS – Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security
- BIMSTEC – Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
- CDRI – Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
- CGFM – Core Group on Fisheries Management
- COM – Council of Ministers
- CSO – Committee of Senior Officials
- CSSTC – Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (Non-Aligned Movement)
- DRM – Disaster Risk Management
- ECOP – Early Career Ocean Professional
- ECP – Early Career Professional
- EPR – Extended Producer Responsibility
- FHAS – Foundation for Humanitarian Action at Sea
- FSU – Fisheries Support Unit
- GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation)
- GMCP – Global Maritime Crime Programme
- ICDRI – International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
- IOC – Indian Ocean Commission
- IOC-UNESCO – Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- IOD – Indian Ocean Dialogue
- IORA – Indian Ocean Rim Association
- IORAG – Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group
- IORBF – Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum
- IREA – International Renewable Energy Agency
- IRIS – Infrastructure for Resilient Island States
- IUU Fishing – Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing
- KICF – Korea-Indian Ocean Cooperation Fund
- MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
- MRIC – Mauritius Research and Innovation Council
- MSP – Marine Spatial Planning
- NAM CSSTC – Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation
- NAM S&T Centre – Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries
- RCSTT – Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer
- RIS – Research and Information System for Developing Countries
- ROEA – Regional Office for Eastern Africa
- ROK – Republic of Korea
- SDG – Sustainable Development Goal
- SIDS – Small Island Developing States
- SOM – Sustainable Ocean Management
- TİKA – Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency
- UNDRR – United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- UNOC3 – 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference
- 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