



GLOBAL FORUM

on oceans, coasts and islands

Newsletter

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2003 Global Conference and Mauritius 2004

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Global Conference Convened

The Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands: Mobilizing for Implementation of the Commitments Made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development was successfully convened in UNESCO, Paris, on November 10-14, 2003. Outcome highlights, as well as materials and presentations given at the Conference are posted at the Conference website at www.globaloceans.org.

Editorial

In this issue we begin reporting on the outcomes of the Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands on Mobilizing for Implementation of the Commitments Made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, convened on November 10-14, 2003, at UNESCO in Paris, organized by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands. The conference sought to examine progress achieved, obstacles faced in, and mobilization around the implementation of the targets and timetable of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) related to oceans, coasts, and small island developing states (SIDS). The conference involved 223 participants from 48 countries, representing perspectives from governments, nongovernmental organizations, intergovernmental and international organizations, private sector, and public outreach organizations.

This was the first effort, out of all of the thematic areas addressed by the WSSD, to systematically assess WSSD implementation progress and prospects. Since the oceans and coasts area will not be addressed and reviewed by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development until 2014, it is especially important for the oceans, coasts, and small island developing states community to organize its own assessment of progress being achieved, obstacles faced, and strategies for effective implementation of WSSD targets and timetables.

In this issue we report on discussions and outcomes related to fisheries, SIDS, improved UN coherence on oceans, and capacity building. Other WSSD targets related to cross-sectoral issues, biodiversity, marine protected areas, marine pollution, the global marine assessment, among others, will be addressed in next month's newsletter issue. The report from the conference will be available in April 2004.

The last two months have also seen important developments related to the preparatory process leading up to the International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius). On January 26-30, 2004, the Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting took place in Nassau, the Bahamas, which highlighted actions taken and the challenges faced in the implementation of BPoA. The SIDS nations agreed on an AOSIS Draft Strategy Paper (http://www.sidsnet.org/docshare/other/20040206162842_AOSIS_strategy_final_version.pdf) which will be further discussed and negotiated at the forthcoming 12th meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (April 14-16, 2004).

The paper by Mr. Chowdhury (Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and Secretary-General of the Mauritius International Meeting) in this issue, presents an overview of the continuing and new problems affecting SIDS and the perspectives that need to be adopted.

The SIDS nations in the Pacific region met in a landmark meeting on February 2-6, 2004, in Suva, Fiji, to operationalize the regional ocean policy for the Pacific Islands region, a policy adopted by the Pacific Islands Forum. This is a very important development since this is the first region in the world in which a coherent regional ocean policy is being implemented at both regional and national levels. Materials and discussions from the conference will be summarized in the next issue of the newsletter. - **Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, Editor-in-Chief**

The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, created at the WSSD in Johannesburg in September 2002, aims to advance the interests of oceans - incorporating 72% of the Earth; coasts - the home of 50% of the world's population; and islands - 43 of the world's nations are small island developing states, which are especially dependent on the oceans. The Forum is composed of individuals from governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (environmental, scientific/technical, industry, and foundations) with the common goal of achieving the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and islands.

Co-Chairs

Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, Director
CMP/University of Delaware
bcs@udel.edu

Dr. Patricio A. Bernal, Executive Secretary
IOC/UNESCO
p.bernal@unesco.org

Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd, Coordinator
UNEP/GPA Coordination Office
v.vandeweerd@unep.nl

GLOBAL CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

STATEMENT*

H.E. Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul

Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations
and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

I would like to thank the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands for organizing this Conference and for its continued dedication and devotion to the improvement of global, regional, and national policies relating to oceans, coasts and islands. I have the honour today to address you as the Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States AOSIS, an association, which has 44 member countries.

We often say that what happens in your neighbor's house affects your own house. Likewise what happens in the countries which are your immediate neighbors is also going to affect your own country. For us islanders the ocean is not only our immediate neighbor but also a source of livelihood and subsistence and what happens to the oceans is therefore bound to affect us. For small island states, the health of the oceans is of paramount importance. So vital is the exerted influence of the oceans over islands that they impact directly on a spectrum of island issues including its peoples, culture, economy and the environment. Indeed islands and oceans are integral parts of a single environment. For SIDS the protection and management of their marine environment are intrinsically linked to their sustainable development aspirations.

At the Global Conference on the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States in 1994, the international community recognized the special case for SIDS in regard to both the environment and development. The Barbados Program of Action highlighted the dependence of Small Island Developing States on coastal and marine resources. Because of our small land area many of our States are effectively coastal entities with the concentration of population and economic development - both subsistence and cash - in the coastal zone making our renowned biological diversity among the most threatened in the world.

The world's oceans play a crucial role in maintaining the health of the planet's ecosystems and serve as a valuable current and future source of food for mankind. For the coastal populations of SIDS the oceans represent the only means of subsistence.

SIDS are widely acknowledged to be ecologically fragile and vulnerable. They face specific and unique constraints arising from their smallness, isolation, geographical dispersion and vulnerability to natural disasters. Fragile ecosystems, difficulties with transportation and communications, remoteness from markets, vulnerability to exogenous economic and financial shocks, lack of natural resources and heavy dependence on importations are known in addition to other constraints. Oceans and coastal environment are of vital and strategic importance for SIDS and constitute perhaps their only real sustainable development resource. With the establishment of the 200 miles economic zone, small islands are the custodians of vast ocean spaces and as such have heavy responsibilities for the management, conservation and sustainable development of these resources.

While progress in the implementation of the provisions of Agenda 21 and the BPOA in the area of sustainable development has been varied, regional-scale ocean governance has, in some cases, produced very positive results. Indeed regional approaches have been developed by some SIDS regions for example in the Pacific Region which represent a great potential for improving our understanding of the ocean; sustainably developing and managing the use of ocean resources, including the promotion and utilization of traditional practices; maintaining the health of the ocean; promoting the peaceful use of the ocean; and creating partnerships and promoting co-operation.

Oceans and coasts are critical to the natural and cultural heritage of the world, not just for SIDS. While many marine areas support a great diversity of plants, animals and natural habitats, oceans also play an essential role in the climatic cycles and other global processes. Coastal marine areas are dominated by a living fringing

* Statement given by Ambassador Koonjul during the session on Small Island Developing States: The Issues in Mauritius 2004 at the Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, UNESCO, Paris, November 12, 2003.

reef, which helps protect the coasts from the onslaught of the waves. Associated with the reefs is a complex and diverse system of animals and plants, which use the reef as a habitat, but at the same time, create the conditions, which are essential for the very survival of the reef.

The marine environment includes unique ecosystems and threatened species that are increasingly menaced by unsustainable use and water pollution. With rapid industrialization and absence of strict enforcement of regulations, the environment is exposed to increasing stress. In the SIDS, activities along the shorelines are increasing, as the economy is developing. Rapid tourism expansion in just about every SIDS region has also given rise to unplanned development along the coastline, increasing pressures on the limited resources in these areas.

SIDS have some of the most vibrant and vital fishing regions of the whole world. The tuna fish stock in the Pacific alone is the largest in the world, and is as far as we can tell in fairly good health. The catch has been increasing, but reports suggest that it may just be within the sustainable ranges. For the most part the commercial exploitation of the tuna is carried out by distant water fishing fleets. Despite the very well negotiated agreements, the Pacific Island Countries today only receive a small proportion of the actual benefits. And while it is true that these distant water fishing fleets have beneficial financial impacts on the ports where they refuel and re-supply, we also know that in some cases there is widespread pollution and dumping from these fleets.

The challenge will therefore be to keep a steady level of development in the industry, and to gradually make the industry predominantly indigenous, so as to achieve the flow on effects to other sectors of the economy. It is also important to ensure that over capacity and over exploitation do not occur, as we have seen in many other regions.

Most of the SIDS have ratified the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea as well as the UNEP regional seas conventions. Some 20 SIDS have also ratified the United Nations Agreement on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks Agreement. However, implementation continues to be impeded by financial constraints and a lack of capacity. Added to this are the continuing challenges inherent in existing

international legislative frameworks and mechanisms. Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing as well as the monitoring and surveillance of the countries' respective EEZs, continue to pose a tremendous challenge to the small island developing states. They also encounter difficulties in relation to the monitoring and assessment of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. There is a need therefore to create and where already available strengthen existing regional fisheries management mechanisms to conserve and manage this valuable resource. We also need to develop and implement surveillance and monitoring systems, and we need the necessary tools to analyze and assess the status of fish stocks in our seas. The database on marine resources developed by CARICOM is a successful venture of the region.

In many SIDS effluents from industries and coastal urban areas have impacted heavily on the coastal systems and along with other forms of pollution are endangering the marine habitats. Intensive fishing practices have contributed to the degradation of the lagoon and reef ecosystem. Significant marine and coastal habitats are being adversely affected as a result of increasing pollution, over-exploitation, conflicting resource use, and habitat damage and destruction. Mangroves and wetlands are filled: small bays are being closed to create real estate, or are leased for aquaculture and mangrove-dependent flora and fauna are threatened.

This degradation is traceable directly to damage by over fishing, tourism and development activities, and inactive reef management. Protection of the coastal biodiversity on an island or islet may appear to be local in nature; however, isolated populations of organisms evolve and form distinct components of the global genetic pool. At our recent Caribbean regional meeting, the participants emphasized the need to develop integrated coastal zone management policies and plans and the establishment of coastal zone units in all SIDS. Important aspects of Integrated Coastal Zone Management include addressing beach erosion, sand mining and coral reef conservation and protection, all of which are so vital to the survival of the islands. These concepts are difficult to apply in practice but they form part of a holistic approach to conservation and management and to the interaction between the island and the seas.

The Caribbean Sea as one of the most important semi-enclosed seas in the world, is the main resource linking

Caribbean SIDS and its fragile ecosystem, which is routinely exposed to heavy traffic for cargo and cruise tourism, demands a comprehensive scheme for its protection in order to ensure its continued contribution to their sustainable development and in particular to the sustainable livelihoods of coastal communities.

Caribbean SIDS therefore continue to advocate the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, and have taken this concern to the United Nations General Assembly, which has recognized the Caribbean Sea as having a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem, and has called upon the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular, through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land based activities.

In our preparations for the International Meeting to review the Barbados Programme of Action the SIDS have examined these issues very closely and have undertaken to commit themselves to a series of actions in addition to the many that already exist aimed at protecting the marine environment and conserving the marine resources. I have already outlined some of these actions earlier.

Equally we have *inter alia* underscored the importance of completing the work on the mapping of Exclusive Economic Zones and depositing the charts with the United Nations Secretariat and recommended the emulation of the success stories such as the Meso-American Barrier Reef Systems Project and the International Coral Reef Action Network in the Caribbean region, as examples of how the SIDS can seek to protect this valuable resource, which is protecting the very fabric of island life.

But for us to succeed it is essential that we get the critical support to build our capacity and fund our projects. The Type II Initiatives emerging out of the Johannesburg Plan of Action represent a tremendous potential for action by organizations like the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands in support of the

Small Island Developing States. And we are very grateful for the important work that has already been undertaken by various partners in the different AOSIS regions. To name just a few let me mention the initiative on 'Sustainable Development and Management of the Caribbean Sea' which is aimed to develop capacity to address the current threats to the environmental quality of the Caribbean Sea. The lead agency for this initiative is the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Another interesting one is the U.S Department of State led 'White Water to Blue Water initiative which is a crosscutting Approach to Regional Oceans and Coastal Ecosystem Management'. This initiative in particular aims at increasing coastal state and regional capacity for cross sectoral approaches to the management of watersheds and marine ecosystems.

In the Pacific region we have the 'Pacific Islands Oceans Initiative' with the overarching goal of healthy oceans that sustains the livelihoods and aspirations of Pacific Island communities. This initiative is intended to assist with the implementation of the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy. The 'Capacity Building for Pacific Island Countries in Ocean Policy Implementation' is another initiative led by the National Oceans Office of Australia to increase the regional capacity in sustainable development, integrated oceans management, regional cooperation and partnerships.

We as AOSIS would like to see more of such initiatives and more of such partnerships. But what is also important is to ensure that there can be some coordination and consultations in order to avoid duplication and work at cross-purposes.

This Global Conference will be discussing a range of issues during this week all of which is likely to have an impact on the most effective way to approach the various concerns relating to the oceans, coasts, and the islands. It is our hope that the concerns, which we as small island developing states have expressed over the years, could in the course of the discussions get translated into concrete proposals for action. Let me mention such recommendations for actions which are not new but which remain as valid to the sustainable development of small islands today as they did when they were first raised during the Rio conference.

At the local level, there is a need to ensure the dissemination of information. We need to prepare the

versions of international instruments related to sustainable use of marine and coastal areas that are easily understood by the local communities and the lay people showing the linkages between different agreements and the benefits as well as the responsibilities of small island developing states.

At the national level in terms of island management, there is a need to establish and strengthen new institutional and administrative arrangements for the development and consolidation of integrated island management plans. We need to ensure capacity building for implementing the integrated island management.

In terms of transfer of clean technology, we need to facilitate such transfers to reduce pollutants at their source and we need to have appropriate methods for treating sewage, industrial waste and solid waste.

At the level of community-based management, there's a need to support the development of guidelines and the implementation of pilot projects for community-based management of coastal resources as well as the development of alternative livelihoods like aquaculture and ecotourism.

With regard to marine resources, we believe that the need is there for exploiting living and non-living resources in the EEZ. We need to assess and monitor the fish catch, processing and marketing by foreign and domestic fishing companies need to be encouraged. We need also to develop legal framework for sustainable fisheries activities. We need to develop management plans and policies for assessing, monitoring and exploiting the resources in the EEZ.

At the regional level we believe that there is a need to assist the regional institutions to strengthen their capacity to negotiate agreements related to the use of marine resources. There's a need also to strengthen the capacity to develop and implement national and regional action plans consistent with the goals of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. In the field of ocean energy, SIDS have a high dependence on fossil fuels, there's a need to shift from that source to new and renewable forms of energy like that of ocean energy such as thermal and mechanical energy. And we need also to develop specific initiatives for sustainable management of the oceans. And in that regard, there's a

need to ensure that the implementation of UNCLOS and other international instruments can be done in an integrated manner which would support the development of related national ocean policies and legislations.

We need to have improved access to survey and monitoring technologies, which will help us in the boundary delimitations and the resulting products in order to ensure responsible and sustainable use of ocean resources and the completion of marine boundaries delimitations. With respect to ocean policies we think that we need to encourage the development and implementation of regional and national policies so as to enhance the sustainable management of oceans and their resources. The promotion of total ecosystem marine resource management through capacity building and pollution control measures need to be encouraged and there is a need for further development of policy and program options to assist countries to sustainably manage their own marine and ocean jurisdictions. We also need to carry out coastal vulnerability assessments in order to carry out qualitative improvements in such assessments. There needs also to be a proactive coral reef monitoring. We also and more importantly need greater global cooperation to monitor the activities of illegal fishing, dumping pollution and shipment of toxic hazardous and nuclear wastes. In that respect there were some suggestions earlier this morning about the need to get all vessels which are fishing in the territorial waters to be equipped with the GPS system so they can be located and then action can be taken.

Madame Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen, the scale of human activities today affects not only the large-scale physical systems of the planet but also has consequences that reach far into the future. Most environmental problems that will require policy attention are the ones that are well known. And as time goes on, these problems will become more severe and pose more local as well as global challenges. The future impacts of today's decisions thus need to become more and more prominent in current policy-making. The need for broader integrated coastal and marine resource management approaches cannot be delayed any further. The consequences of non-action are too risky and are likely to be catastrophic for the small island developing states.

I thank you for your attention.

GLOBAL CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

TOWARDS RESPONSIBLE OCEAN AND COASTAL CAPTURE FISHERIES: THE FAO PROGRAMME IN A WSSD PERSPECTIVE^{1,2}

Serge M. Garcia and David J. Doulman

FAO Fisheries Department, Rome, Italy

Summary

Introduction

Fisheries and aquaculture produce 100 million tonnes of food and 30 million tonnes of feeds, at a cost of an excessive impact on the resource base and the ecosystem. The sector faces now the seemingly contradictory task of producing 180 million tonnes of fish by 2030 with much less impact. To succeed in meeting these expectations, the sector must undergo a significant reduction of its fishing capacity in order to rebuild stocks while increasing low-impact aquaculture production to meet the future world demand. In doing so, it faces huge transitional costs and the risk of an unacceptable environmental impact. The task needs to be undertaken in a rapidly changing context of economic globalization, declining governmental capacity, growing domination of concentrating economic interests, trade liberalisation, widening gaps between the poor and the rich, scientific uncertainties, environmental degradation and climate change.

The implementation framework

The 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and all the international instruments adopted since UNCED to strengthen it, including the WSSD Plan of Implementation (WSSD-POI), represent a staggering pile of commitments that ill-equipped fisheries authorities have to implement. The 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries is the agreed voluntary framework for implementation, integrating all the requirements of relevance to fisheries.

The WSSD Plan of Implementation is broadly consistent with the Code and its International Plans of Action from which it draws substantially. It rests on the same legal foundations, principles, and conceptual objectives and has the same broad geographical scope. Both have adopted a similar multi-pronged strategy aiming at reducing capacity, rebuilding resources, eliminating illegal fishing, minimizing impact on biodiversity and the environment. Both rely on participation, transparency, institutional build-up, the precautionary and ecosystem approaches, etc. And many of the POI deadlines originated in the FAO IPOAs. As a consequence, FAO members are implementing the WSSD-POI through their implementation of the Code and the FAO Secretariat plays a catalytic role.

Outputs

In the last three years, FAO has improved and integrated its systems of information and developed global information networks between centres of excellence. It has organized more than 30 meetings of experts and governmental representatives and produced more than 15 technical documents, manuals and guidelines. It provided technical assistance to a number of countries for sector analysis, information systems, assessments, policy, legislation, capacity-building, EAF implementation, etc. FAO has also developed an integrated extra-budgetary field programme of about 60 million of US dollars between 1998 and 2004.

Outcomes

While it is too early to draw final conclusions, the intermediate outcome of FAO and its Members' work is unequal. While the implementation has been quite active in areas such as IUU fishing, capacity measurement and control, the ecosystem approach to fisheries, seabirds by-catch in longline fisheries and information management, it lags behind in other areas such as sharks management.

¹ Paper presented at the Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, Paris, 12-14 November 2003; go to www.globaloceans.org for the full draft document.

² The views in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of FAO or any of its Members.

- Progress has been made in the area of IUU fishing where effective action has been taken both by port and flag States and RFBs assisted by a rapidly developing technology for satellite vessel monitoring (there has been a ten-fold progress in 14 years).
- Substantial work has also been made towards fishing capacity management, developing indicators, assessing overcapacity, analysing the impact of subsidies, and looking at solutions and costs of transition. Capacity has been rapidly reduced in some fisheries, and a number of capacity-reduction measures have been tested. The number of vessels over 100 tons, as well as their building rate, has decreased very significantly in the last decades, signalling that the expansion phase of large vessels is over. Expansion has continued, however, in smaller coastal vessels operating in or close to EEZs.
- The biodiversity loss is approached by FAO through the ecosystem approach. Following the 2002 FAO Reykjavik Conference, a number activities have started related to, *inter alia*, reduction of by-catch and discards, protection of endangered species, better assessment and reduction of the risk of extinction.
- The IPOA-Seabirds has seen active implementation. Much less progress has been made in the area of shark fisheries management and developing countries are meeting difficulties in developing and implementing the required NPOAs while regional commission are slow in coming to grasp with the issue.
- Collaboration between FAO and CITES has been improved to elaborate new listing criteria for species endangered by international trade.
- A number of large scale field projects have been started within the GEF framework for: (i) reduction of bycatch and discards in shrimp fisheries; (ii) integrated management of fisheries the Bay of Bengal, Canary Current, and Benguela Current LMEs; (iii) EAF in the Lesser Antilles, including an analysis of interactions with marine mammals; (iv) study of the interactions between fisheries and turtles, etc.
- The well known 1994 FAO study of world discard practices is being updated. The first estimates indicate a likely total discard of about half the original estimate.
- The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries is just starting, progressing slowly in a number of leading countries. Commissions are struggling with the inadequacy of understanding as well as with the complexity of the multi-stakeholders approach. Not much progress has been achieved, on the other hand, in the integrated management of coastal areas.
- The process of establishment of a Global Marine Assessment is ongoing with the active collaboration of FAO and it is too early to express any view on it.
- Much has been done to stimulate institutional building and international collaboration, particularly among the 30 regional fishery bodies, facilitating the exchange of information, co-developing concepts, jointly organizing technical meetings, facilitating cross-collaboration, assisting in the creation of new regional organizations where gaps exist. Efforts have been made to foster management of shared and transboundary stocks.

Implementation gaps

In the process of implementation many constraints and gaps have been identified. They include: (i) Inadequate institutional and technical capacity; (ii) insufficient donor assistance towards capacity-building and in general to alleviate the substantial costs of transition; (iii) inequitable and inadequate access to information, public education programmes and the media; (iv) weak participation and incomplete representation of stakeholders; (v) obsolete legislative frameworks; (vi) limited availability of alternative occupation for fishermen in overfished areas; (vii) insufficiently effective MCS and enforcement.

GLOBAL CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE, TRANSPARENT AND REGULAR INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION MECHANISM ON OCEAN AND COASTAL ISSUES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM*

Qazi Shaukat Fareed

Director, U.N. System Chief Executives Board for Coordination
(CEB) Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Let me start by saying how much I regret not being able to be with you in person but I have requested my colleague Mr. Eckhard Hein, the Secretary of the CEB High-Level Committee on Programmes to deliver this address on my behalf.
2. The timing of this meeting is fortuitous. Only two weeks ago, on Oct 31st, CEB endorsed the decisions of its High-Level Committee on Programmes on collaborative arrangements for the effective and integrated follow-up in the four areas of WSSD which required interagency arrangements that also involve other stakeholders, for a more dynamic and forceful actions in these fields. These, as you know included: (i) Freshwater and water and sanitation; (ii) Energy; (iii) Oceans and coastal areas and (iv) Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. This development makes the task of briefing you much easier.
3. Before outlining the agreements reached by the CEB on oceans and coastal areas, I should first like to give you some background regarding the process—which I hope will answer some questions as to underlying rationale for this endeavour as well as for the time it took.

Committee on Oceans and Coastal Areas (SOCA) had been the principal inter-agency mechanism addressing issues of environmental protection and sustainable development in this field – a mandate derived from Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

5. As many of you are also aware, for some time before 1999, the issue of international coordination and cooperation in this area was repeatedly raised in various inter-governmental meetings and it was emphasized that the issues of ocean space needed to be pursued in an integrated manner with the involvement of all relevant actors—particularly those relating to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. This concern came to a head at the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1999 where it was emphasized that, building on existing arrangements, a more integrated approach was required to all legal, economic, social and environmental aspects of the oceans and seas both at intergovernmental and inter-agency levels. The Commission went on to recommend to the UN General Assembly the establishment of an open-ended informal consultative process and thus the Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS) was born (A/RES/54/33).

II. Background

4. Since 1993 and until the restructuring of the CEB machinery in 1999-2000, the ACC Sub-

6. UNICPOLOS was mandated to cover both the issues related to the legal framework provided by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the goals of chapter 17 of Agenda 21. It was also responsible for facilitating the annual review by the General Assembly by

* Remarks presented at the Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, UNESCO, Paris, on November 13, 2003, by Mr. Eckhard Hein, Secretary of the UN CEB High-Level Committee on Programmes on behalf of Mr. Fareed.

suggesting particular areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels were required.

7. At the same time, in 1999-2000 the Secretary-General launched a process of review of the ACC and its machinery. He set up a Senior Review Team to draw up proposals for a more focused and substance-driven approach to coordination. Based on the report of the Review Team and benefiting also from a JIU report on the subject, CEB took some bold decisions to infuse new enthusiasm and meat into the inter-agency processes. It changed the name of ACC to CEB, changed also the manner it functioned and delegated much of the standard or routine coordination work to two new High-Level Committees – one on programmes and the other on management. It also decided to do away with all ACC standing bodies whose overall responsibilities were to be subsumed by the two high-level committees. In taking this decision, CEB made clear that the intention was not to discourage interagency collaborative work in specific areas. Rather, the idea was to enable CEB and its new High-Level Committees to concentrate on key policy issues and matters of strategic concern, freeing it of having to deal with technical issues and numerous reports from the standing bodies for which the Executive Heads had little time to carry out a realistic review. In addition, the Board had concluded that more dynamic methods were needed to ensure concrete progress in the different areas of inter-agency concern beyond the UN system involving new stakeholders and other key external partners. Last but not least, more flexible and function-based approaches were needed to replace machinery which had become formalistic and bureaucratic.

III. Follow-up to WSSD

8. The JPOI requested that inter-agency collaborative arrangements be worked out in four areas of WSSD—(i) Freshwater and water and sanitation; (ii) Energy; (iii) Oceans and coastal areas and (iv) Changing unsustainable

patterns of consumption and production. The CEB entrusted this endeavour to its High Level Committee on Programmes.

9. In discussing the mechanisms for follow-up to WSSD, CEB highlighted the need for:
 - coherence and consistency – at operational, regional and global levels – and strong linkages among these levels;
 - country ownership of the follow-up process, coordination support for capacity-building and full use of existing country-level mechanisms;
 - a focus on sustainability and productivity and on natural resources as the engine for sustainable growth;
 - greater attention to the regional dimensions of the follow-up to WSSD, given the growing need for cooperation on issues that cut across national borders;
 - implementation to be linked to the broader processes of integrated follow up to United Nations conferences and summits, particularly the Millennium Summit;
 - and HLCP to assist in identifying ways of streamlining parallel processes and duplicative reporting.
10. Based on these general directives, HLCP endorsed a function-based approach with emphasis on implementation, greater integration in follow-up programmes and actions, while underlining the need for reduction in transaction costs for coordination and for drawing upon the experience of past coordination mechanisms.

IV. Oceans and Coastal Areas

11. As you are well aware WSSD emphasized that oceans, sea islands and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical for global food security and for sustaining economic prosperity. This recognition led to the adoption of a number of concrete goals and specific targets in such areas of the ecosystem as fish stocks, biodiversity, protection of the marine environment, particularly from land based activities, maritime safety and improving

the scientific understanding and assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems.

12. In adopting these specific goals, the Summit recognized that ensuring sustainable development of the oceans, covering such wide range of issues, would require effective coordination and cooperation, including at the global and regional levels as well as among the relevant bodies. In this context, the JPOI called for steps to “establish an effective, transparent and regular inter-agency coordination mechanism on oceans and coastal issues within the United Nations system.” The Summit’s recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the 57th session of the UN General Assembly (A/RES/57/141).
13. It should be emphasized that, from the start of the process in HLCP/CEB, there was a widely shared view, that enhanced coordination of activities relating to oceans and coastal areas would require both review and harmonization of on-going activities as well as addressing the emerging challenges and launching of new joint initiatives. To cover all aspects, including political, legal, security, economic, social, and environmental, this mechanism should include not only former SOCA members but also international financial institutions and other institutions like the International Seabed Authority and secretariats of multilateral environment treaties like CBD, UNFCCC, etc.
14. All of these elements were present in the approach eventually agreed upon by HLCP and endorsed by the CEB which is as follows:
 - An Oceans and Coastal Areas Network (OCAN) has been created. This Network is to build on SOCA covering a wide range of issues. It will be composed of the relevant programmes, entities and specialized agencies of the UN system and the secretariat of the relevant international conventions, including the International Seabed Authority.
 - This network is to operate as a flexible mechanism to review joint and overlapping ongoing activities and to support related deliberations of UNICPOLOS.
- A steering group of the Network, composed of senior representatives of the most directly involved organizations/programmes should meet as required to coordinate programmes, harmonize reporting and review ongoing activities. The timing of such meetings could be coordinated with UNICPOLOS sessions.
- At the same time, the Network can pursue time-bound initiatives, with well-defined terms of reference, through task-oriented groups, open to the participation of NGO’s and other international stakeholders.
- Emerging challenges or new initiatives are to be identified by the Network, based on relevant work inside and outside the UN system. An example of such task-oriented groups could be the establishment of a task force comprising leading agencies dedicated to the coordination, planning and implementation of the Global Marine Assessment (GMA) or on regional ocean governance.
15. The modalities of work recommended for the Network included the intensive use of electronic communication; holding meetings normally in conjunction with other related meetings; the establishment of written agreements among Heads of Agencies or Responsible Managers; and open dialogue with non-UN system actors and transparent communication with all partners – including through the use of a dedicated website.
16. The proposed new coordinating mechanism is to build on the experience, and make full use of, existing inter-agency cooperative mechanisms or projects, including the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment (GPA), Global International Water Assessment (GIWA), UN Atlas of the Oceans (UNAO), Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), Global Oceans Observing System (GOOS) as well as others.
17. In adopting this approach a process is being set in motion to draw up the Network’s terms of

reference and work programme, which is to be reviewed by HLCP before the end of the current year. It was stressed that OCAN should be involved, with UN-DOALOS in the lead, in the preparation of the Global Marine Assessment (GMA) report; and the need to better utilize and build upon existing coordination mechanisms, such as the UN Atlas on the Oceans, the Global Oceans Observing System (GOOS) and the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP).

18. The Committee has also requested the UN (DOALAS) to keep it informed of progress achieved in the establishment by 2004 of a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, as called for by the JPOI and the GA resolution 57/141.
19. This is where we are at this time. We are now working on ensuring that these decisions are implemented quickly and effectively – not for the sake of process but for advancing the substantive goals in the vital field of oceans and coastal areas. This will require all actors to look beyond processes and to focus on how progress is to be achieved. While reporting is important – even necessary – the object of the new mechanism should be to achieve a real impact on the ground. At a time when the UN system and the international community is facing growing challenges in this field and when the UN system is facing budgetary constraints, it is necessary to look for out of the box solutions. I hope that the new Network will help realize a new vision of collaborative work in involving all actors in the field of oceans and coastal areas.
20. I take the opportunity to wish you success at this meeting and to assure you that CEB Secretariat stands ready to assist and facilitate stronger and substantive coordination work on oceans and coastal areas.

Thank you.

5. The Committee had also considered the generic objectives for future inter-agency mechanisms. These include:¹
 - *“Advocacy/Public profile:* Promoting public profile of the issues through outreach to media, advocacy campaigns and the active involvement of a broad range of actors.
 - *Clearing-house:* Serving as a clearing-house for policy and programme information exchange, and for sharing lessons learnt and experiences. This could include preparation of a comprehensive annual report providing an assessment of the state of play. While this should be approached as a continuing function, the conveying of special annual meetings of all relevant actors, including bilateral donors, may prove desirable for sharing information and future plans.
 - *Policy coherence/development:* Promoting policy coherence at all levels in line with the JPOI and identifying specific areas where there is a need/opportunity for further policy development.
 - *Promoting collaboration among actors:* Encouraging and facilitating collaborative arrangements in relation to programmes and projects among relevant actors, in order to avoid duplication and ensure optimal utilization of resources.
 - *Strengthening the knowledge base:* Establishing linkages among and with research centers, institutes, networks and other sources of knowledge related to a particular sector.
 - *Encouraging linkages:* Serving as a link between global, regional and national level activities.
 - *Capacity building:* Supporting initiatives for capacity building in developing countries.
 - *Monitoring and evaluation:* Evaluating progress towards the achievement of goals/targets and harmonizing the reporting formats”.

Some of the specific goals/targets contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation are as follows:

- (i) Encourage the application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach for the sustainable development of oceans;
- (ii) Maintain or restore fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015;
- (iii) Put into effect the FAO international plans of action by the agreed dates - for the management of fishing capacity by 2005; and - to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by 2004;
- (iv) Develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, including the

ecosystem approach, the elimination of destructive fishing practices, the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012;

- (v) Establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment;
- (vi) Eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to overcapacity.

(Footnotes)

¹ CEB/2003/HLCP/CRP.2

GLOBAL CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CAPACITY BUILDING*

1. Introduction

The first capacity-building session on November 9, co-chaired by Indu Hewawasam, World Bank and François Bailet, International Ocean Institute, reviewed goals, initiatives and limited resources for capacity building for the governance of oceans, coasts and islands. The purpose of this session was to call on participants to identify the main obstacles to, and draw a list of top priorities for capacity building. Participants identified key priorities, including: creating academic institutions specialized in ocean management; implementation; refining good practices; adopting a multidisciplinary approach; bringing about the understanding of ocean issues at the political level; and making capacity building available to a wide range of people.

The group reviewed recommendations of the Working Group on Capacity Building at the 2001 Conference. Key elements of these recommendations include:

- a) Human resource development through education and training. This should target increased knowledge as well as skills development;
- b) Institutional and infrastructure development that meets the human resource development needs; and
- c) Development of a favorable enabling policy environment. Human resource development support should be related to national goals to ensure continuity of support once external support ceases;
- d) Capacity building programs should be based on actual needs determined through careful needs assessments to ensure that the mode and methods of human resource development are appropriate to the level of education and training that exist. The programs should involve local institutions and be sustained over time.

* This document highlights the report of the Working Group on Capacity building at the Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands held in UNESCO, Paris, November 10-14, 2003, co-chaired by Dr. Indumathie Hewawasam (World Bank) and Dr. Francois Bailet (International Ocean Institute).

2. Recommendations from current working group discussions

Capacity building for ocean and coastal initiatives was recognized as a cross-cutting issue, and as such addressed under different related programs. The group agreed that there was a need to identify gaps and set priorities:

The key goals noted were:

- need for a critical mass of integrated coastal management (ICM) managers and professionals;
- more ICM capacity building at the national level;
- need to move from capacity building to capacity utilization and enhancement.

Follow-up small working group sessions assessed the goals further and identified possible future actions.

3. Main Obstacles/Issues

There are numerous capacity-building programs around the world focusing on oceans, coastal and small island issues. While there are significant successes, the group agreed that there are also key obstacles that prevented scaling up, coordination and targeting. Main obstacles noted include:

- Short term nature
- Fragmented and Uncoordinated
- Not in keeping with local, national or regional priorities
- Not context specific
- Not addressing all of the needs at all levels
- Not supported through long term targeted financing

The group recommended a strategy to be developed to identify key constraints and options in a systematic manner.

4. Towards a Capacity Building Strategy to Promote sustainable Ocean and Coastal Governance

It was agreed that capacity building should consist of several basic components depending on actual needs including:

- Human resource development through education and training. This should target increased knowledge as well as skills development
- Institutional and infrastructural development that meets human resource development needs
- Development of a favorable policy environment. Support should be related to and integrated into national goals to ensure continuity of support once external assistance ceases
- Strengthening of governance skills including development of legislation, implementation, enforcement, compliance, monitoring and evaluation; and
- Building civil society skills in participation, negotiation and networking.
- Identify mechanisms for capacity utilization and enhancement
- Define activities to enhance existing efforts and help with implementing good practice
- Develop a program to advance the knowledge and experience to civil society
- Identify current financial and technical resources and gaps
- Contextualize academic programs to build a critical mass of in-country ICM professionals and practitioners
- Build broad-based partnerships to urgently mobilize technical and financial resources to achieve the outcomes above
- Tie training efforts to current, real needs in the locality/nation/region
- Scaling efforts and resources to where needs are greatest
- Identify and promote indigenous knowledge
- Transfer of knowledge and experience - development of networks and knowledge sharing
- Promote more hands-on training, based on mentoring and real life experience
- Emphasize continuity, long-term needs and financing for capacity building programs

i) Principal elements of the strategy:

1. Undertake an assessment of existing capacity-building programs to identify whether the programs are:

- Achieving their stated goals and if not, assess the key reasons and gaps
- Addressing the current and evolving issues in OCI
- Resulting in improved governance for OCI at regional, national and local levels
- Also aimed at capacity utilization
- Contextually relevant
- Coordinated, and if not to identify a mechanism for addressing the problem

2. Formulate an action plan to assess the demand and also mobilize demand

- Determine and demonstrate economic value and social and political relevance of OCM
- Identify partnerships for building a broader constituency for OCI management within the donor community, governments and civil society

3. Define modalities to make current capacity-building programs more relevant to end-users and sustainable

ii) Regional connections or applications

Possible role of the intergovernmental organizations should be considered more in terms of providing resources and technical assistance for capacity development and utilization. One idea might be to develop regional clearing-houses and relevant generic training modules/curricula for local adaptation. Information could be made available on a Web-based forum to train trainers.

iii) Analyses that need to be done

Needs assessments based on existing knowledge and training context and political reality. Attempt some kind of assessment of the costs of achieving the WSSD targets.

iv) Possible role of the Global Forum

The Global Forum could champion the development of the strategy, coordinate partnerships and mobilize financial resources for implementation on a regional/national basis. The Global Forum could also facilitate the development of regional clearing-houses and/or training modules.

v) Funding required and sources

The scope and financial commitment needed to develop such strategies on a global or even regional scale is expected to be determined as part of the proposed strategy.

vi) Next steps, including where to take the issue next

- Agree on who should lead, coordinate and finance the development of the strategy
- Prepare a proposal for carrying out this task, including a cost estimate and timeline

STATEMENT

by

Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury

Under-Secretary-General & High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and Secretary-General of the Mauritius International Meeting for the Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Small Island Developing States, at the opening ceremony of The Bahamas Interregional Meeting, Nassau, 26 January 2004

His Excellency the Prime Minister, Distinguished President of the United Nations General Assembly, Chairman of the Alliance of the Small Island States, Chairman of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, Excellencies, Heads of international organizations, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Indeed, it is a great pleasure to participate at this important Interregional Meeting of the three regional groups of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The SIDS strategy that will be adopted at Nassau will be the main working document for the preparatory committee meeting in April in New York, finally culminating in the outcome of the International Meeting in Mauritius from 30 August to 3 September.

I bring with me the warm greetings of Secretary-General Kofi Annan to all of you and convey his best wishes for the success of this Ministerial-level gathering.

I take this opportunity to thank the Government and people of the Bahamas for the hospitality that they are extending to us in these sparkling islands of the Caribbean. I am confident that your warmth will contribute immensely to our working atmosphere and, of course, to a most meaningful outcome.

The Bahamas is a leading member of the Alliance of Small Island States. The progress that this country has made in economic development has been impressive. I believe that other SIDS can learn from the many good examples and practices that the Bahamas has to offer.

I am heartened by the presence of so many high-level delegations from the SIDS. The importance of this Meeting is also evident from the participation of many representatives from the international community - the development partners, the multilateral financial

institutions, regional and subregional bodies, members of the Group of 77 and China including its Chairman, civil society, NGOs and private sector. Your presence demonstrates the interest and attention you pay to the sustainable development objectives of the Small Island Developing States.

As the Secretary-General of the Mauritius International Meeting, it will be an endeavour not only to facilitate the organisation and overall coordination of that Meeting and its preparatory process as well as to ensure effective participation of SIDS members, but also assist in every possible way the adoption of a worthwhile outcome in Port Louis. I believe in the success of a conference determined by its outcome - a document that is implementable not just a well-intentioned paper consensus.

Adopted a decade ago, the Barbados Programme of Action remains the principal international instrument addressing the sustainable development issues of SIDS. Since then new issues have emerged that affect their development prospects and therefore need reflection in the Mauritius outcome.

Despite the efforts made by the Small Island Developing States, the expectations for international cooperation for the implementation of Barbados have not materialized. International resources to implement the Barbados Programme, as evident from the outcome of the five-year review in 1999, have fallen severely short of those expectations. Not only that, but the overall disbursement of international assistance to SIDS has fallen from \$2.3 billion in 1994 to \$1.7 billion in 2002. Though the Millennium Declaration, the Monterey Consensus, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation recognized the special needs of SIDS, international support to these countries has been minimal. As we engage ourselves in the ten-year review

of the Barbados Programme, prospects for enhanced international development assistance are not significant in any way. Hence, a greater degree of realism is called for in the exercise we are embarking upon, especially for the priorities that the SIDS intend to set for themselves. Importantly, we have to determine what worked against the effective and speedy implementation of the Barbados Programme.

Against this sombre backdrop, I am happy to note that many SIDS have introduced domestic reforms in macroeconomic policy to facilitate their integration into the global economy. At the regional level, SIDS have made advances in putting into place appropriate policy frameworks and arrangements to integrate their economic, social and environmental approaches to a sustainable development focus. These actions will undoubtedly help them maximize the opportunities available to them.

In order to restart the implementation of the Barbados commitments, it might be useful to enhance the focus on priorities in the areas of environment, trade, finance, governance and capacity-building – all through strengthened partnership and genuine cooperation. At the same time, we need to address the new issues that impact on the development prospects of the SIDS. I have in mind particularly the threat of HIV/AIDS and the potentials of information technology (IT). Market access and security issues for SIDS are also to be addressed.

Let me elaborate a bit on two of the emerging issues.

HIV/AIDS is making rapid inroads into the regions of the Small Island Developing States. Effective programmes - at national and regional levels - to contain this menacing disease must be urgently taken up. I would like to praise here the wonderful initiatives undertaken by a group of men and women, referred to as “change agents” (from both public and private sectors and civil society organizations), who, across the Caribbean region, are helping people at risk of contracting the virus stay safe and working to overcome stigmas against people living with HIV/AIDS.

Deliberate and prudent use of information technology will go a long way in reducing isolation of remote islands, enable them to deal more effectively with a host of constraints particularly in the areas of trade, development, health, education, security and technology transfer.

The problems of remoteness, difficulties of transportation, a single or a narrow range of exportable products due to a lack of economics of scale, contrast sharply with their import needs of oil, food and other goods. SIDS no doubt need and should seek special and differential treatment for their export products. Exporters and transporters to SIDS, especially of energy-related products, should be approached to grant preferential treatment to reduce costs. After the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun, negotiations towards these ends will need a lot more political will and effort within the international community. But, most importantly, the SIDS need to strategize in the context of their group solidarity to reach that goal.

Security issues arising out of the threat of terrorism have been of increasing concern to SIDS, particularly when tourism is a major contributor to their economies. These countries are little prepared to deal with this global scourge. They need resources and technical assistance to help them tackle this growing menace.

The smallness and the remoteness of the SIDS continue to pose serious problem in providing international aid and enhancing foreign investments. Projects and programmes in many cases are not viable when targeted for specific countries. However, when SIDS band together to integrate their economies and meet common challenges, many of the social, economic and human development projects and programmes could prove viable and yield better results. I therefore urge the small island developing countries to increase their efforts to hasten the pace of regional economic integration.

Attracting more foreign direct investment to take advantage of the economic potentials of the SIDS and strengthen the hands of the domestic private sector is easier said than done. The inherent handicaps of SIDS, particularly small population, lack of technological sophistication and narrow resource base, pose obstacles in competing for the foreign direct investment (FDI) necessary to avail themselves of opportunities offered by the globalization process. Globalization is based on opportunities for cost reduction and economies of scale, which small islands cannot easily offer. Special and creative ways and means must be found to attract foreign investments.

Here I would like to bring to your attention the potential of South-South cooperation, to enhance the sustainable development efforts of the SIDS, an opportunity that curiously did not find any reflection in the Barbados

Programme. The recent High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Marrakech underscored the need to reflect this aspect in the Mauritius outcome.

Finally, for tangible progress towards full and effective implementation, it is absolutely necessary that an effective monitoring system be built into the SIDS strategy. Such a monitoring system should be also an integral part of the Mauritius document.

In your deliberations and while preparing the outcome of this Meeting, I urge you to be realistic and Practical in you approach. While it is tempting to have an all-embracing and comprehensive document out of the Bahamas and Mauritius, it is also essential to assess what would genuinely be doable in the immediate future. It is of little use to have a wonderful document if the support of the international community is not fully and enthusiastically behind it. After all, it is the implementation of the priorities that the International Meeting will establish that we all want to see taken up with right earnestness.

In concluding, let me express my concern that the SIDS are continuously getting marginalised in terms of global attention. In order to enhance implementation of priorities that the SIDS identify, I urge development partners to enhance Official Development Assistance

directed towards these countries. I also urge them and the international financial institutions to enhance flows of concessional financing through regional and other multilateral financial institutions to promote the economic growth and human development and enhance the domestic and regional capacities of the SIDS. The United Nations system will continue to be a true partner of the SIDS. Bearing in mind the diversity of locations of UN entities supporting SIDS, I believe that for better coordination of their needs, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) needs to set up its chapters in various UN locations.

In our preparatory process leading to the International Meeting, we have to be clear that the attainment of the objectives of Barbados requires a strong spirit of partnership and cooperation, much more than what has been forthcoming till now - of the entire international community and the donor countries in particular. Civil society and the private sector have also a major role to play. The need for advocacy at all levels, and especially at the global level, and the need to raise awareness in the next months leading up to Mauritius and thereafter, is a critical component of our work.

For the conference in Barbados, our slogan was "Small Islands, Big Issues". For Mauritius, reflecting today's realities, I would adjust it to say: 'Small Islands, Big Potential'.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING MAJOR OCEAN-RELATED EVENTS IN 2004

International Coastal Symposium (ICS'04)

Universidade do Vale do Itajai, Brazil
March 14-19, 2004

ICS 2004 is the 8th in a series of International Coastal Symposia supported by the Coastal Education and Research Foundation - Journal of Coastal Research. This multi-disciplinary international symposium is convened for scientists, engineers, planners and managers to be able discuss recent or new advances in scientific, technical, and socio-economic understanding of environmental issues related to coastal processes.

White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Initiative Stakeholders' Conference

Miami, Florida
March 21-27, 2004

This conference will focus on the creation of public-private partnerships by bringing together national delegations from each of the 28 Wider Caribbean Region countries. The participants will network and brainstorm about best practices and novel ways to address national and regional watershed and marine ecosystem-based management needs with potential partners from civil society and the private sector.

Aquaculture 2004

Honolulu, Hawaii
March 1-5, 2004

The triennial meeting combines the annual meetings of the National Shellfisheries Association, Fish Culture Section of the American Fisheries Society, and the World Aquaculture Society. Beside the annual meetings of the main sponsors, AQUACULTURE 2004 includes the meetings of many of the Associate Sponsors. Aquaculture America will also have its 2004 meeting included in AQUACULTURE 2004.

8th Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Jeju, Korea
March 29-31, 2004

The Global Ministerial Environment Forum is the only global forum of Ministers responsible for the environment that meets annually to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment. The Ministerial Consultations will consider the theme Environmental dimension of water, sanitation and human settlements as it relates to the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and in preparation for CSD 12. WSSD identified the scarcity and quality of water as one of the most critical issues requiring attention in the 21st century. In light of the objectives of sustainable development and targets set by the Millennium Development Goals, an ecosystem approach to the management of water, sanitation and human settlements is no longer an option, but a requirement.

12th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

New York
April 14-30, 2004

The twelfth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12) will meet at UN Headquarters in New York from 14-30 April 2004. For the first three days (14-16 April), CSD-12 will serve as a preparatory meeting for the ten-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The following two weeks (19-30 April) will serve as the CSD-12 Review Session.

Global H2O: Hilltops-2-Oceans Partnership Conference

Cairns, Australia
May 11-14, 2004

Cosponsored by the Australian Government's Department of the Environment and Heritage and the United Nations Environment Programme, the conference is an integral part of the H2O Partnership Initiative

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Major Ocean Events...continued

launched during the World Summit. The aim of the H2O Partnership Conference is to promote realistic actions and partnerships that address river, coastal and marine pollution. Emphasizing the linkages between freshwater and marine environments, the conference will provide an open forum for stakeholders to address freshwater and saltwater issues in an integrated fashion. The H2O Partnership Conference will follow shortly after the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (29 – 31 March 2004) and the 12th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (19 – 30 April 2004), where discussion will focus on WSSD targets relating to water, sanitation and human settlements. It will provide a timely opportunity to further focus international attention/dialogue on the concrete actions needed to realize the WSSD targets related to freshwater, coasts and oceans, and specifically the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

10th International Coral Reef Symposium

Okinawa, Japan
June 28-July 2, 2004

The 10th Symposium, convened every four years, will discuss coral reef issues, particularly the urgent need to save coral reef ecosystems from further degradation. Developments in the basic sciences, and recent work on effective conservation and management strategies will be reported. These disciplines are expected to work together effectively to accelerate a new coral reef science.

5th U.N. Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS)

New York, New York
June 7-11, 2004

The fifth meeting of the Consultative Process will be convened in New York from 7 to 11 June 2004. Discussions at the Consultative Process will be focusing on new sustainable uses of the oceans, including the conservation and management of the biological diversity of the seabed in areas beyond national jurisdiction, as well as issues discussed at previous meetings.

Coastal Zone Canada 2004

Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada
June 27-30, 2004

In June 2004, St. John's will host the biennial conference of the Coastal Zone Canada Association. CZC04 will be the 6th CZC conference and the first held in Newfoundland and Labrador. It marks the 10 anniversary of the conference series and will provide an opportunity to review the progress that has been made in coastal zone management over the last decade. Prior to the conference, registered participants will receive an introduction that outlines how perception and use of the oceans have been transformed over the past few decades.

The 10-Year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA +10)

Mauritius
August 28-September 3, 2004

In 2002, the United Nations General Assembly called for a comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) which was adopted in 1994. The BPoA sets forth specific actions and measures at the national, regional, and international levels in support of the sustainable development of the small island developing States (SIDS). In 2004, the International community will convene in Mauritius to discuss recommendations for further and successful implementation of the BPoA.

Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting for the 10-Year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA +10)

Nassau, Bahamas
January 26-30, 2004

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Preparatory Meeting for the 10-Year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA +10)

United Nations, New York
April 14-16, 2004

ABOUT US

The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands Newsletter (<http://www.globaloceans.org>) covers:

- Major global news related to oceans, coasts, and islands;
- Major developments in international negotiations and implementation of international agreements related to oceans, coasts, and islands;
- Major news from Global Forum partners— international organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations, and private sector;
- Progress in the implementation of the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the voluntary partnerships (Type II) created at the WSSD;
- Regional and national-level news related to oceans, coasts, and islands of global significance; and
- Events, conferences, and major meetings related to oceans, coasts, and islands.

Contributions are invited in the following categories:

- Feature articles: Interpretative articles about developments related to oceans, coasts, and islands;
- News reports from international organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector;
- Reports about WSSD implementation and progress in WSSD partnership initiatives;
- Summaries of reports and meetings; and
- Opinion section: Critical analyses of important issues related to oceans, coasts, and islands.

The newsletter will be published on a bimonthly basis. This schedule may, at times, be altered to focus, in a timely manner, on an important international development. The newsletters will be archived as part of the Oceans, Coasts, and Islands website accessible at www.globaloceans.org.

Potential contributors are kindly requested to follow the schedule noted below. Submissions will be evaluated by an editorial committee. Please note that some submissions may not be accepted due to appropriateness, timeliness, and space considerations.

Contributions to the Newsletter should be sent to Dr. Miriam Balgos, Center for the Study of Marine Policy, mbalgos@udel.edu, two weeks before the following publication dates:

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Issue 7: July 15, 2004

Issue 8: September 15, 2004

Issue 9: November 15, 2004

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We kindly request your involvement in making this newsletter a useful contribution in the global dialogue on oceans, coasts, and islands.
