

INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION

13th Bi-annual Meeting of IORA of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

Date: 13-14 June 2023

Venue: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Time: 09:30 to 17:00 (Bangladesh Standard Time (GMT+6))

Theme: “Harnessing the opportunities of the Indian Ocean sustainably for inclusive development”

Draft Agenda

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 13 JUNE 2023

1. OPENING SESSION

- 1.1 Welcome Address and Opening Remarks by Chair (**Bangladesh**)
- 1.2 Remarks by the Vice-Chair (**Sri Lanka**)
- 1.3 Remarks by the Past-Chair (**UAE**)
- 1.4 Outline of Arrangements and Adoption of the Agenda (**Chair**)
- 1.5 Report of the Secretary-General (**Secretariat**)

2. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND BROADENING ENGAGEMENT (IABE) - *Coordinating Country: Sri Lanka*

- 2.1 Report: High-Level Strategic Dialogue, 20-22 June 2023, Mauritius (**South Africa/ Secretariat**)
- 2.2 Report: Strategic Review Session focusing on Africa’s approach to the Indo-Pacific, 23-24 June 2023, Mauritius (**South Africa**)
- 2.3 Dialogue Partner’s application (**Secretariat**)
 - 2.3.1 Report: Status of Application by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Dialogue Partner
 - 2.3.2 Update: Status of the application of European Union as Dialogue Partner
- 2.4 Implementation of the Regulations for implementation of Article 4 (b) (i) of the IORA Charter on status of Dialogue Partnership (**Secretariat**)
 - 2.4.1 Update: Coordinating countries for Dialogue Partners
 - 2.4.2 Update: Consideration of Process for identification of coordinating countries for Dialogue Partners, second process
 - 2.4.3 Status of Programmes/Commitments made by Dialogue Partners
- 2.5 Update: Follow-up on IORA’s Vision on the Indo-Pacific Region (**India**)
- 2.6 Report: Third Meeting of the IORA Functional Body Chairs and the Coordinating Countries, 29 May 2023, Virtual (**Secretariat**)
- 2.7 IORA Action Plan (2022-2027)
 - 2.7.1 Identification of future Coordinating and Cluster Countries (2023-2025) (**Secretariat**)
 - 2.7.2 Update: Implementation of the IORA Action Plan (**Secretariat**)
- 2.8 Update: Draft Terms of Reference (ToR): Format of the Meetings of CSO-COM (**Secretariat**)
- 2.9 Consideration of proposed change of the format of CSO agenda (**Secretariat**)
- 2.10 Update: Consideration of the Draft Terms of Reference (ToR): Institutional Arrangements and Broadening Engagement (IABE) as a Functional Body (**Secretariat**)
- 2.11 Status of Institutional arrangements with other regional organisations and the UN (**Secretariat**)

- 2.11.1 Update: Proposed activities between IORA and the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre), India
- 2.11.2 Update: Collaboration with International Seabed Authority (ISA)
- 2.11.3 Update: Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)
- 2.11.4 Update: Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)
- 2.11.5 Update: Collaboration between IORA and International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- 2.11.6 Update: International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- 2.11.7 Update: Collaboration between IORA and Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- 2.11.8 Update: Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- 2.11.9 Update: Collaboration with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- 2.11.10 Update: Collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa (UNECA SRO-EA)
- 2.12 Update: Implementation of e-Office at the Secretariat (**India/ Secretariat**)
- 2.13 Update: Preparation of the Third IORA Familiarization Visit for Media Practitioners and Journalists from IORA Member States to Bangladesh (**Bangladesh**)
- 2.14 Update: Review mechanism of IORA Special Agencies (**Iran/ Secretariat**)
- 2.15 Update: Calendar of Events 2023-2024 (**Secretariat**)
- 2.16 New proposal: Guide to IORA practices and Protocol (**Secretariat**)
- 2.17 Consideration of the Secretariat's Annual Operation Plan (AOP) (**Secretariat**)

3. UPDATE: CLIMATE CHANGE AS A CROSS CUTTING ISSUE OF IORA (Bangladesh)

4. IORA SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

- 4.1 Update: Scholarship from Dhaka University (**Bangladesh**)
- 4.2 Update: Workshop on IORA Development Initiative (IDI) (**UAE**)
- 4.3 Update: The Sheikh Zayed IORA Scholarship for Humanitarian Action and Development (**UAE**)
- 4.4 Update: Second iteration of the IORA Nelson Mandela Internship Programme (NMIP) 2023 (**Secretariat**)

5. MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY (MSS) – Coordinating Country: Sri Lanka

- 5.1 Report: Third Meeting of the IORA Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security (WGMSS), 20 March 2023, Colombo (**Sri Lanka**)
- 5.2 Report: Workshop on cooperation for maritime security, 21-23 March 2023 Colombo (**Sri Lanka**)
- 5.3 Update: Establishing legal frameworks in the Indian Ocean region in the field of Maritime (**India**)

6. TRADE AND INVESTMENT FACILITATION (TIF) –Coordinating Country: Australia

- 6.1 Report: 21st Working Group on Trade and Investment (WGTI), 23 May 2023 (virtual) (**Australia**)
- 6.2 Update: Collaboration between IORA and Global Trade Review (GTR) (**Australia**)
- 6.3 Update: Preparations for the 28th Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF) (**Sri Lanka, IORBF Chair**)

7. FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (FM) – Coordinating Country: Indonesia

- 7.1 Update: Preparations for the third Core Group on Fisheries Management (CGFM) meeting, (**Indonesia**)
- 7.2 Report: Projects under IORA-AFD MOU (**France/ Reunion**)
- 7.3 Report: Activities of the Fisheries Support Unit (**FSU**)

8. DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM) – Coordinating Country: India

- 8.1 Update: Preparations for the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Disaster Risk Management (WGDRM) **(India)**
- 8.2 Update: Establishing legal frameworks in the Indian Ocean region in the field of Disaster Risk Management **(India)**
- 8.3 Update: IORA Sustainable Health Initiative **(Mauritius)**
- 8.4 Update: IORA Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (DRI) Workshop **(Mauritius)**
- 8.5 Update: Proposed activities on the workplan under the MoU between Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and IORA and Work-Plan under the MoU **(Secretariat)**
- 9. ACADEMIC, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION – Coordinating Country: India**
- 9.1 Update: Preparation for the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Science Technology and Innovation (WGSTI), **(India)**
- 9.2 Update: IORA Centre of Excellence (ICE) for the IORA Member States **(India)**
- 9.3 Update: Preparation for the 28th Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG), 14 September, Virtual **(South Africa)**
- 9.4 Update: Establishment of the Research Support Unit (RSU) and the position of Policy Advisor and Research Coordinator (PARC) **(South Africa)**
- 9.5 Report: Activities of the Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer **(RCSTT)**
- 9.6 Update: IORAG Research Study funded by GIZ on “COVID-19 and Climate Change: Prospects for a “Blue” Recovery in the Indian Ocean Region” **(Secretariat)**
- 9.7 Update: Proposed activities between IORA and the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) **(Secretariat)**
- 9.8 Update: 2023 subscription for the Journal of the Indian Ocean Region (JIOR) **(Secretariat)**

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2023

- 10. TOURISM AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES (TCE) – Coordinating Country: Mauritius**
- 10.1 Report: Workshop on Nature-based tourism: “Boosting Livelihoods across the Indian Ocean Rim through Nature-Based Tourism”, 3-5 May 2023 **(Mauritius)**
- 10.2 Report: Fourth meeting of the Core Group on Tourism (CGT), 5 May 2023, In person **(Mauritius)**
- 10.3 Update: Establishment of a website and a resource centre on tourism **(France/Reunion)**
- 11. BLUE ECONOMY (BE) – Coordinating Country: South Africa**
- 11.1 Update: Preparations for the Third Working Group on Blue Economy (WGBE) **(South Africa)**
- 11.2 Update: Preparations for webinar on final report of the ‘Earth Observation for an Indian Ocean Blue Economy - Consultation Workshop’, Virtual **(Australia)**
- 11.3 Report: Training workshop on “Research and sustainable management of Blue Carbon Ecosystems in the Indian Ocean”, ISDP, 27 November – 2 December 2022, Toliara **(Madagascar)**
- 11.4 Update: Implementation on the Strategic Framework of Action on Marine Debris in the Indian Ocean **(Indonesia)**
- 11.5 Update: Preparations for the Fourth IORA Ministerial Blue Economy Conference (BEC-IV) **(Sri Lanka)**
- 11.6 Report: Ninth Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) 22-23 May 2023, Zanzibar **(Tanzania)**
- 11.7 Report: Training Workshop on Best Practices in Sea cucumber seed production and Seaweed tubular farming (through two demonstration projects in Mozambique and Zanzibar, Tanzania), Special Fund, 7-11 November 2022, Zanzibar **(Tanzania)**
- 11.8 Report: Third phase of Workshop Series on the effect of Climate Change on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment for IORA Countries, Special Fund, 20-22 February 2023, Tehran **(RCSTT)**

12. WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (WGWE) -Coordinating Country: Islamic Republic of Iran

- 12.1 Report: Seventh Working Group on Women's Economic Empowerment (WGWE), 22-23 May 2023, Tehran **(Iran)**
- 12.2 Report and Update: WEE Chairs Webinar Series hosted virtually by Iran **(Iran)**

13. FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- 13.1 Report: Sub-Committee on Finance (SCF), 1 June 2023 **(Chair of SCF, Bangladesh)**
- 13.2 Report: Fraudulent Financial Activities at the IORA Secretariat and measures taken by the IORA Secretariat **(Secretariat)**
- 13.3 Update: Concept Note on Review of the Membership of the Sub-Committee on Finance (SCF) of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) **(Mauritius)**
- 13.4 Update: Rotational Audit of IORA Secretariat **(Tanzania/ Secretariat)**
- 13.5 Consideration of revising the Annual membership contribution **(South Africa)**

14. IORA SPECIAL FUND

- 14.1 Special Fund projects (approved)
 - 14.1.1 Update: IORA-India Cruise Tourism Conference "Spotlight on the Indian Ocean", Special Fund **(India)**
 - 14.1.2 Update: Pilot Project entitled "Building Capacity of young environmental leaders across the Indian Ocean Rim to promote sustainable fisheries management" **(Madagascar)**
 - 14.1.3 Update: Creation of an IORA Centre of Excellence for Dispute Resolution, Special Fund **(Mauritius)**
 - 14.1.4 Update: Progress on Project on Ocean Knowledge Education Programme to strengthen the Blue Economy concept in the IORA region – A pilot study incorporating "Sustainable Ocean Management" into the curriculum for 12 to 13 yr old" **(Seychelles)**
 - 14.1.5 Update: Research and Capacity Building Project in the African Diaspora on Cultural Heritage for Coastal Tourism and Climate Action in the Indian Ocean Region, **(South Africa)**
 - 14.1.6 Update: Training study tour on health management, disease diagnosis and treatment of cultured species in IORA Region for aquaculture sustainable development **(FSU)**
- 14.2 Consideration of Proposals for future funding under Special Fund
 - 14.2.1 Update: Proposal under IORA Sustainable Development Programme (ISDP) **(Secretariat)**
 - 14.2.2 Update: Development of the IORA IUU Fishing Guideline **(Indonesia/France)**
 - 14.2.3 Sustainable Whale watching network **(France/Reunion)**
- 14.3 Administrative Arrangements of the Special Fund
 - 14.3.1 Update: Review of the Administrative Arrangements of the Special Fund at paragraph 8.12 (f) **(Chair, Bangladesh)**
 - 14.3.2 New Proposal: Review of the streamlining process for application for Special Fund and Administrative Arrangements of the Special Fund **(Secretariat)**

15. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 23rd COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING, AND RELATED MEETINGS AND CONSIDERATION OF THE THEME UNDER SRI LANKA CHAIRSHIP (Incoming Chair, Sri Lanka)

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB) (Chair, Bangladesh)

17. ADOPTION OF THE DECISION REPORT AND CLOSING REMARKS (Chair, Bangladesh)
