



IOI celebrates the contribution and success of Women on the occasion of International Women's Day 2009 and presents its "Women, Youth and the Sea" network-wide programmes

The IOI takes the opportunity, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2009 to remember and celebrate the vision and work of its founder, Professor Elisabeth Mann Borgese (*right*). She was known worldwide as "The Mother of the Oceans" and dedicated all her life to the understanding of ocean matters, to the development of a constitution for the oceans and to the consideration of the oceans as:

"a great laboratory for the making of a new international order based on new forms of international cooperation and organisation, on a new economic theory, on a new philosophy".

She dedicated her passionate life to the ocean where dreams could become policies; where grand ideas could be tied down to practical activities and realities. She was not only a woman with great passion for her work but also an intellectual giant and a total human being with an outstanding simplicity.



On this day, IOI also celebrates especially the work and achievements of its female members of staff, and Directors of Operational Centres, who by their unstinting devotion to their work make the IOI message of "Pacem in Maribus" widespread throughout the global outreach of the centres' network.

IOI aims for and achieves gender balance in all its training programmes, most notably the flagship training courses on Ocean Governance and Governance of the Regional Seas (Mediterranean, Black Baltic and Caspian) held annually in Canada and Malta respectively.

Since 2000 the International Ocean Institute presents an annual Scholarship for one woman from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) involved in marine related research activities to improve their knowledge in the subject of attending training or University Degree programmes. The scholarship has been established to honour the memory of the late Danielle de St. Jorre, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Environment and Tourism of the Republic of the Seychelles and a member of the Governing Board of the International Ocean Institute, in consideration of all she did in her short life for the benefit of her country, the small island developing states and the world at large.

IOI's Women, Youth and the Sea Programme

The IOI and its Operational Centres, through their participation in the system-wide IOI programme for "Women, Youth and the Sea" which is one of IOI's programmes aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals for the eradication of poverty, the promotion of gender equality and for the increase of gender-based contributions to MDGs.

The Women, Youth and the Sea Programme objective is to enhance the capacity and participation of women and youth from developing countries in ocean and coastal affairs and to help ensure environmental sustainability. Since 2000 it aims to provide both women and youth with an "opportunity space" to develop alternative knowledge and skills leading to a durable income earning environment. It seeks to address the needs of developing countries, particularly coastal communities and the role of women and youth, by increasing their abilities to develop and manage the ocean and coastal resources sustainably.



The projects submitted by Centres for implementation each year are balanced and dedicated; the main focus is on grass root level work in poor and very disadvantaged coastal communities. A commonality of values and aims guides the individual projects; some examples of work carried out by the various Operational Centres in different countries throughout this time are:

IOI Centres, Regions Women, Youth and the Sea Programme Themes	Africa				E Asia, Pacific				W Asia			Europe		The Americas			
	Egypt	East (Kenya)	South Africa	West (Nigeria)	Australia	Indonesia	Pacific Islands	Thailand	Caspian Sea	India	IR IRAN	Malta	Ukraine	Canada	Costa Rica	Brazil	Cuba
Nurturing of leadership and empowerment of Women				+			+		+				+	+	+	+	
Sanitation															+	+	
Health and safety	+												+				
Food production and processing; training in.	+			+											+	+	
Enterprise establishment	+			+		+									+	+	
Increasing awareness on the protection of the coasts and the ocean and IOI activities;	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
On-job training				+						+	+				+	+	+
Credit line provision				+						+							
Employment	+			+											+	+	
Sustainable resource management; recycling		+				+	+			+					+	+	
Environmental education / training				+		+	+		+			+	+				+
Youth and Children's Projects				+	+	+			+			+			+	+	

A number of the proposals were built on the achievements of Women, Youth and the Sea projects funded over previous years, thus making them more effective and significant in further supporting the improved livelihood of women and youth in disadvantaged coastal communities. It is strongly felt that all these actions should leave significant results with an impact on the sustainability of coastal communities and contribute to the MDG targets.

"I will work hand in hand with women's groups worldwide. The progress over the past century happened thanks to them, and they will be our chief standard bearers in the future too".

From "Remarks to the Commission on the Status of Women".
Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General; N.Y., 25.02.2008



Images taken from the Women, Youth & the Sea projects implemented in 2008 in Indonesia, Egypt and Brazil (l-r)

