



## The International Ocean Institute celebrates World Ocean Day 2009 and presents the activities held globally by the IOI Headquarters, the IOI Operational Centres and Focal Point

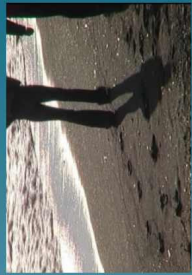
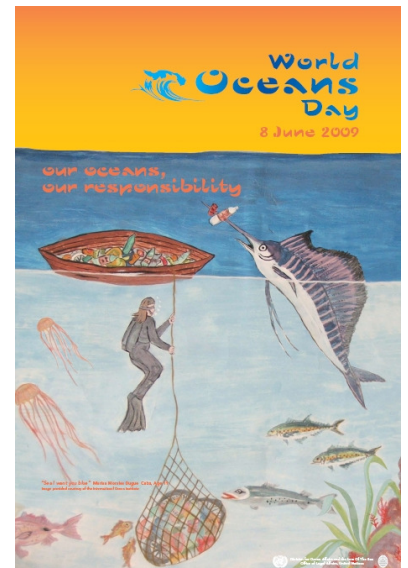
On the 8<sup>th</sup> June of each year, the International Ocean Institute (IOI) joins the rest of the maritime world in celebrating **World Ocean Day**. World Ocean Day began on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and is a yearly opportunity to honour the ocean that connects us and sustains us with its bounty and that is such an important component of world climate conditions. This is a day to reflect on the crucial role of the ocean in our lives as well as on the ways to build much greater awareness of the oceans and of how our lives depend on it and the important ways we can help to protect it.

This year also marks the designation of 8<sup>th</sup> June as World Ocean Day by the United Nations following paragraph 171 of its resolution 63/111 on Oceans and the Law of the Sea. The theme of this year's celebrations was appropriately – *"Our Oceans, Our Responsibility"*.

The global IOI network of centres responded enthusiastically to the invitation to commemorate this day by organising a diverse range of scientific, social and cultural activities ranging from encounters with local communities to scientific and official seminars and lectures for specialists and students; hands on activities to themed exhibitions. Please read on to see how World Ocean Day was celebrated by the IOI network worldwide.

### IOI Headquarters

IOI, through the work of its Headquarters, participated in the UN's first official observance of Ocean Day in 2009 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. An exhibition of IOI's Children's artworks around the theme *"Our Oceans, Our Responsibility"* was shown near the Vienna Café within the UN. The poster advertising the event (Right) was illustrated by Marian Morales Dugue, an 11 year old child from Cuba whose picture entitled *"Sea, I want you blue"* was also exhibited in New York.

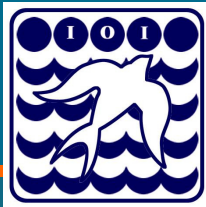


### IOI South Western Atlantic Ocean (Brazil)

The IOI Operational centre in Brazil (IOI South Western Atlantic Ocean) and the Physical Oceanography Department of the Host Institute created a video to commemorate World Ocean Day 2009. The video in Portuguese was launched on YouTube on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=se8Y5EOMhCA>. The youths onscreen talk about the ocean and their studies and some of their comments are translated:- *"the sea is very important to mankind - it is not an obstacle but a way of connecting nations"*; *"the ocean is full of wisdom and knowledge available to all who are willing to understand it"*; *"Oceanography....is a style of life that leads us to understand deeply what marine life is, revealing even the origin of all beings in this planet"*; *"An ocean is similar to people's souls... deep, and unknown"*; *"understanding the ocean we can understand ourselves and our survival in this planet"*. (Above: Screen shot from the YouTube Video)



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### IOI Canada

Since 2005, IOI Canada commemorates World Ocean Day with the Elisabeth Mann Borgese Ocean Lecture. This series commemorates and celebrates the life and work of Elisabeth Mann Borgese, founder of the International Ocean Institute and its interdisciplinary training programmes. The 2009 EMB lecture took place on World Ocean Day with guest speaker Dr Rob Huebert, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary and Associate Director of its Centre for Military and Strategic Studies. He spoke on “Canada and the Coming Blizzard”. Further information and the presentation itself are available on [www.internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca/emblecture.html](http://www.internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca/emblecture.html). An Oceans Day event was also organised on the waterfront at Halifax and IOI Canada participated along with other marine and ocean-related organizations. The Oceans Day exhibits involved approximately 30 exhibitors, and 1,000 + visitors, including 400 school children.



(Above: The IOI stand and visitors)



**Alejandro Gutierrez**  
 T res días después de la inauguración del Día del Océano en el Puerto de Veracruz, una de las ciudades que han sido testigos de la historia de la humanidad, se celebró una reunión con representantes de los organismos internacionales y locales para discutir el futuro del océano y el papel de la ciencia en su conservación.

El océano es el hogar de millones de especies de animales y plantas, y es una fuente vital de alimentos y recursos para millones de personas. Sin embargo, el océano también está sufriendo una crisis sin precedentes debido a la contaminación, el cambio climático y la explotación excesiva de sus recursos.

Nuestra única responsabilidad es la protección de nuestros océanos y garantizar que las generaciones futuras puedan disfrutar de sus beneficios.

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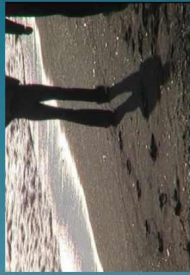
### IOI Costa Rica

An awareness-raising article was penned by IOI Costa Rica Director, Dr Alejandro Gutierrez, and published in the leading Spanish language newspaper in Costa Rica. The article which concerned “World Ocean Day” refers to the oceans as a source of life, a mediator of climate change and atmospheric stability, a pharmacopoeia of hitherto unknown cures which when abused and treated as a garbage dump or a reserve to be ransacked will show signs of malaise in the form of red tides, coastal and marine and climate hazards. He concludes by speaking of our responsibility to manage the oceans sustainably, mindful of the oceans’ role as the primary source of life.

### IOI Focal Point (Cyprus)

All feedback received points to the fact that the first World Ocean Day celebrated officially in Cyprus under the title “Sea, Technology and Culture”, was a big success. The event was held under the auspices of the Minister of Transport and Public Works Mr. Nicos Nicolaides, organized by the Department of Civil Engineering and Geoinformatics, the Department of Graphic Arts and Multimedia of the Cyprus University of Technology, jointly with the International Ocean Institute (Cyprus). It took place in the amphitheater ‘Pefkios Georgiades’, of the Cyprus University of Technology in the seafront city of Lemesos. The event included presentations on the use of technology for the proper use and protection of the marine environment and the great influence of the sea to the definition and development of culture. Dr. Nicholas Kathijotes (Right), IOI Focal Point in Cyprus, explained the aims and objectives of the IOI, and stressed the importance of the ocean in our lives, emphasizing the need for immediate action in creating a sustainable relationship with it. The event also included presentations by students of the Department of Civil Engineering and Geoinformatics and a theatrical adaptation of poems accompanied by live harp music. A poster competition was held for the celebrations of World Ocean Day, involving students of the Department of Multimedia and Graphic Arts with prizes awarded to winning posters. An open air cocktail party concluded the event which was attended by many persons.





(Left: Panel Discussion at IOI IR Iran)

### IOI Islamic Republic of Iran

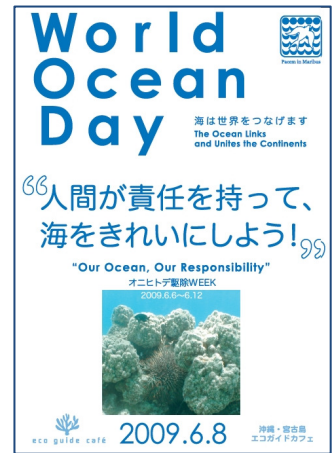
The IOI Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian National Center for Oceanography (INCO) and the Iranian National Committee for Oceanography celebrated World Ocean Day at the INCO conference hall in Tehran by hosting a panel discussion on the Ocean. This occasion was celebrated in the presence of the director and managers of INCO, the directors of Natural Sciences Department of Iranian National

Commission for UNESCO and representatives of the following organizations: IR Iran Meteorological Organization, Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran, Geological Survey of Iran, Fishery Research Institute, Research Center for Caspian Sea Water Resources, Journal of the Persian Gulf, Journal of Oceanography. Dr. Vahid Chegini, Director of INCO and Director of IOI-IR Iran, welcomed the participants, expressed his congratulations on this day and noted the importance of Oceans for human life - he underlined the role of oceans as part of climate and world ecosystems. A tri-panel discussion on "Climate Change", "Oceans, Seas and Coastal Zone Monitoring" and "Harmful Algal Blooms" was held and in every panel, the members of different organizations talked about their activities and answered participants' questions.

### IOI Japan

In collaboration with "Eco Guide Cafe" - a local NGO in Okinawa, IOI-Japan organised an activity on the conservation of coral reefs in Miyako Island, Okinawa. A report of World Ocean Day with photos is available on <http://www.japanhotspot.net/feel/news/000230.html> (Japanese).

(Right: Poster advertising IOI Japan's World Ocean Day activity)



### IOI Western Africa (Nigeria)

This year's Ocean Day was marked with a Career Talk on Oceanography organized by IOI – Western Africa Operational Center in collaboration with the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR). The target groups were secondary school children in the 10 – 12 year age bracket as well as University undergraduates (16 – 22 yr. age bracket). The essence was to highlight the core content of oceanographic science and the relevance of physical and social sciences. In addition, it was designed to create awareness in these young minds on the importance of the ocean to life on earth and the relevance and indeed imperative of promoting the peaceful use of the sea, while managing the resources therein sustainably. Some adults outside these target age brackets also participated. There were a total of 55 participants. An opening ceremony with speeches from the Director of IOI – WAOC and the Executive Director of NIOMR was followed by career talks presented by four resource persons. Thereafter, the participants were conducted on a guided tour of NIOMR facilities and treated to a mini lunch.



(Above: The IOI WAOC Director with some of the students after the talk)



### IOI Slovenia

World Ocean Day was celebrated in two locations by the IOI Operational Centre in Slovenia. In Ljubljana, a one day event was organised under the honorary patronage of Mrs Barbara Miklic Türk, wife of the President of Slovenia, during which there was a short presentation of the IOI as well as a lecture titled "World Ocean Day: Why do we need it?" and the launch of a photographic exhibition entitled "Sea and Salt".

At the Marine Biology Station in Piran - IOI Slovenia's Host Institute - a topical lecture was given by Dr Alenka Malej, Director of the IOI Operational Centre, to the students. This was followed by a tour around the station to familiarise visitors with the oceanography work carried out there.

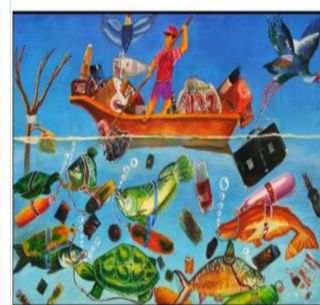


*(Above left: Dr Malej (L) presents a copy of the IOI Publication of Children's Artworks to Mrs Türk; the vernissage of the photographic exhibition "Sea and Salt" is shown on the right.*

### IOI Thailand

In Thailand, World Ocean Day was celebrated from May 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 under the theme "Thai Seas and Global Warming". On May 18th, events were opened during an Award Ceremony for the best artwork submitted by children under the competition theme at the Chiang Mai Night Safari. During the ceremony, scholarships and certificates were presented to all the winners under sponsorship from IOI and its partners the Siam Commercial Bank Co. Ltd., the Federation of Thai Industries, King Power Group International Co., Ltd., Thai Life Insurance Co., Ltd, and Thai Equipment Research. The Ceremony on 18<sup>th</sup> May was presided over by H.E. Dr. Smith Dharmasaroja, Honorary Advisor of IOI Thailand and Chairman of the Committee of National Disaster Warning System Administration and accompanied by many distinguished guests from the partnering organisations. The celebrations rewarded the work of four contest groups including Kindergarten, Primary School and Secondary School levels. IOI-Thailand received all together 247 artworks from 53 schools in 23 provinces of Thailand. The pictures were subsequently exhibited at the Chiang Mai venue.

*(Below: Ceremonial inauguration by H.E. Dr. Dharmasaroja; (Right) Collage of the winning pictures.*





# International Ocean Institute

**IOInforma**

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## IOI Ukraine

A number of events were organized to celebrate World Ocean Day in Sevastopol targeting different audiences and attracting the attention of different organizations. On the 4<sup>th</sup> June, a student's conference dedicated to World Ocean Day drew the participation of 87 students while a showcase exhibition of art and handcrafts made from seashells reflected the dedication and work of the 12 persons attending a special course at the Rehabilitation centre for Disabled Persons. A Blue Flag Seminar organised in the Municipality of Yalta city on 27th of May, preceded the events.

*(Left: The award winning marine-inspired handcrafts)*



## CELEBRATE WORLD OCEAN DAY

The International Ocean Institute—USA cordially invites you to a screening of the documentary

***A Sea Change: Imagine a world without fish***  
It seems inconceivable. But top scientists warn that such a catastrophe may in fact play out in coming generations unless widespread awareness is raised to stop ocean acidification. ([www.aseachange.net](http://www.aseachange.net))

The *Marin Maven* (CA) wrote: "Ocean acidification is the flip side of global warming and if you have children, grandchildren or any investment in life as we know it continuing on this planet, this is a must-see film."

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Monday — June 8 — 6:30pm

Stedinger Auditorium  
727-496-9128 (for directions)  
100 8th Ave, SE, St. Petersburg  
(inside the Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute)

727-873-4745 (Mara @ IOI-USA, for questions)

Q&A/discussion panel to follow with:

Isa B. Kuffner, Ph.D., Research Ecologist  
FISC, Coastal and Watershed Science Team, USGS

David White, Director, Southeast Atlantic &  
Gulf of Mexico Region, Ocean Conservancy

Lori Adomato, Research Engineer, SRI International

Parking available in USF lots #6,7,8 on the Peninsula and lot #12 east of and next to the Campus Activities Center. See map at: <http://www.stopsa.usf.edu/aboutus/magn/CAMPUSMAP-300.pdf>

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## IOI USA

IOI-USA organized a community event for Ocean Day. The film "A Sea Change" which highlights ocean acidification was screened at the auditorium of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute. A panel comprising 3-4 experts moderated the discussion following the film.

*(Left: Invitation to IOI USA's Ocean Day Screening.)*

*Photo credits throughout go to the Directors and staff of the respective centres – with thanks.*

## Our Oceans, Our Responsibility



IOInforma is the news and information bulletin of the International Ocean Institute (IOI). Any feedback or request for information should be sent to the International Ocean Institute HQ Malta, PO Box 3, Gzira GZR 1000, Malta or Email: [ioihq@ioihq.org.mt](mailto:ioihq@ioihq.org.mt)

[www.ioinst.org](http://www.ioinst.org)