



Pacem in Maribus (PIMXXXII) Conference Special Edition

"Waves of Change: Women, Youth and the Sea. Partnering for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Use of its Resources".

Malta; 5 - 8 November 2007

PIMXXXII gathered about 300 participants in Malta to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the famous speech of the Ambassador of Malta, Arvid Pardo at the UN Assembly where the Ocean was proclaimed as a Common Heritage of Humankind. Thus the location of PIMXXXII in Malta was also a symbolic reminder of this event. PIMXXXII participants came from high level segments of governmental, inter-governmental bodies, non-governmental organisations and civil society.

Apart from a High Level Segment, Plenary and Parallel Sessions were organized around 3 themes concerning Women/Youth. The chosen themes - "State of the Ocean: Current Challenges, Future Prospects", "MDG Strategies - Options and Challenges for Ocean Protection" and "New Solidarities for Sustainable Ocean Governance" - were directly relevant to women and youth and explored how changes in oceans affect lives and livelihoods and endanger the environmental patrimonies of the target audience.

PIMXXXII succeeded in breaking new ground by engaging two new constituencies - women and youth - on whom the future of the Ocean depends. PIMXXXII mobilised considerable skills, talents, experience to advance and promote the sustainable use of marine resources and sound ocean governance and emphasized participant interaction by dialogue and broad participation. It succeeded in its aim to help youth shape their future and emphasised the economic contribution that women offer in maritime and coastal activities.

The Conference was opened by H E the President of Malta, Dr E Fenech Adami, and Dr Awni Behnam, President IOI. The Hon. Mario Soares, patron of IOI, followed with an address to PIMXXXII. During the conference, Ministers of the Maltese Government chaired sessions while Heads or representatives of international, governmental and non-governmental organisations also chaired and participated fully in the Conference.

Overall, the benefits to participants in attending this conference were substantial. Information exchange was a common benefit experienced by all but more significantly, for many was the realization that youth were demanding to be involved in decisions that affected the well-being of the world's oceans and their concern for the future of the planet. The **Youth Parliament** organised during PIMXXXII made it possible for the youth present to participate fully in the discussions and in many instances, recommend solutions and offer comments for improvements that were feasible and implementable.

(Left: the International Youth contingent at PIMXXXII)



PIMXXXII made possible, through the participation of a network of leading international experts, the discussion and identification of the role of women and youth in responding to critical issues relevant to ocean governance. The Conference also encourages the formation of lasting relationships that contribute to better management of the world's coastal and ocean resources.



The Conference agreed to launch a **"Waves of Change Campaign"**; a campaign of marine and environmental conservation groups, scientists, experts, educators, young innovators, media professionals that seeks to heighten awareness of the value and importance of oceans; to adapt and expand IOI education/training/capacity-building programmes to engage youth; to establish partnerships to explore new approaches and methodologies for ocean space management, sustainable ocean governance and advance sound ocean policy; to elevate ocean issues on local/national/regional agendas and to promote the interests of women and youth in meeting the MDG objectives. We therefore invite all to join in making this campaign a reality.

In recognition of the contribution to Ocean Governance and support to the International Ocean Institute, the following persons were awarded the **Elisabeth Mann Borgese Medal** and Diploma:

- *President Emeritus of Malta, Prof. Guido De Marco* in recognition of the invaluable contribution to IOI and the unfailing support to the mission of the IOI founder, Prof. Elisabeth Mann Borgese
- *Prof. Alexander Yankov* in recognition of life-long achievements and dedication to the course of Ocean Governance. Prof Yankov also gave the traditional Arvid Pardo Memorial Lecture during PIMXXXII
- *Dr Iouri Oliounine*, IOI Executive Director (2002-2008) in recognition of the inspired leadership of the IOI during the critical years of transition and for maintaining the legacy of the IOI founder, Prof. Elisabeth Mann Borgese.

As a side event to the Conference, the **Children's Artworks Exhibition** was organised on the Conference premises and featured the nomination and selection by PIMXXXII participants of the 5 winners of the Artworks competition. These were:

- 1st Prize Tapanat Peetarakorn, Thailand, (14 yrs), *"My Beautiful Ocean"* (R)
- 2nd Prize Mariya Boipruv, Turkmenistan, (13 yrs), *"Fishing"*
- 3rd Prize Camille Felice, Malta, (15 yrs), *"Listen to the Sea"*
- 4th Prize Klitiya Koraneeekit, Thailand, (13 yrs), *"This is what I saw"*
- 5th Prize Kristina Kashirskaya, Russia, (10 yrs), *"Ocean inhabitants are just like us"*



Other **side events** included the launch of a joint IOI-World Meteorological Organisation Children's Artworks Album entitled "Skies and Oceans" and the demonstration of films on marine life by the World festival of underwater pictures.

The PIMXXXII Conference participants adopted the **Malta Declaration** which is attached with this *IOInforma*

In the second half of 2008, the PIMXXXII Conference Proceedings will be published in hard copy and on CD.

The IOI wishes to thank the following sponsors for their help in making PIMXXXII a great success: *(Alphabetically)*

AirMalta, Bank of Valletta, Commonwealth Foundation, Corinthia Hotels International, European Commission, Government of Malta, IMarEST, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, International Polar Year, Lighthouse Foundation, Malta International Airport, Malta Maritime Authority, Malta Tourism Authority, Quiksilver Foundation, the Office of the Speaker (Malta), UNDP/Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, United Nations University/EHS, World Festival of Underwater Pictures, World Ocean Network