



## The International Ocean Institute celebrates World Ocean Day 2008

and presents the activities held throughout the  
IOI Network of Operational Centres.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> June of each year, the International Ocean Institute (IOI) network 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. 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 South Western Atlantic Ocean (Brazil)

IOI SWAO celebrated this day by organising activities for students from coastal communities regarding World Ocean Day and (the local) Oceanographers' Day. A video was produced containing statements from youths giving their viewpoint on the necessary attitude required from the scientific community in order to improve the human and environmental quality of the oceans and coastal zone and requesting them to consider the different scenarios under the Global Changes assessments.

*(Left: the youth group who took part in the video)*

### IOI Canada

*(Right: the IOI stand on Halifax waterfront; Dr M Butler, Director IOI Canada is to the right of the picture)*

Since 2005, IOI Canada commemorated World Ocean Day, 2008, 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 objective is to further encourage the debate on ocean issues by inviting internationally renowned speakers to discuss important and timely ocean-related topics to generate awareness among stakeholders, academics, students and the general public. The 2008 lecture took place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June with Dr Elliott A. Norse, President, Marine Conservation Biology Institute speaking on "*Oceans of Hope: Encouraging Signs in Marine Conservation*". 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. A large number of persons toured the waterfront exhibits and attended the EMB lecture at Dalhousie University; both events were considered to be very successful in disseminating the message of IOI and World Ocean Day.





### **IOI China**

IOI China OC partnered with its host Institute to celebrate the annual "Ocean Day" nationally on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The main thrust was awareness promotion on issues concerning oceans and sustainable marine development nationally. Besides the grand opening ceremony in Qingdao, 14 coastal provinces also carefully designed various activities to celebrate Ocean Day including a Marine High-tech Symposium, marine knowledge contest among university students, summer camp for youths, beach cleaning, etc. By implementing such activities, more and more Chinese people will have a better understanding of oceans and actively shoulder the responsibility of promoting sustainable utilization of oceans.

*(Right: Students visiting an Aquarium during ocean day activities)*



### **IOI-Costa Rica**

For World Ocean Day, IOI-Costa Rica offered to the general public a selection of lectures and presentations at the Pacific Marine Park, Puntarenas, Costa Rica. All the topics were closely related to current ocean affairs and touched on topics from algae blooms, climate variability and global warming to social issues and Tsunami threat, vulnerability and risk management in Costa Rica. These conferences were mainly devoted to youths – high school students – and local decision makers.

*(Left: Dr A Gutierrez, Director IOI Costa Rica during the opening ceremony)*

### **IOI Cuba**

*(Below: Presentations of posters and printed material to the fishermen)*

IOI-OC Cuba partnered with the NGO Pro-Naturaleza to organise a field trip to Punta Frances at the Isle of Youth where two IOI OC Cuba-sponsored projects are being carried out. The main objective was to meet with



fishermen in their working environment and talk to them about this important date, making clear the vital role they play in preserving our ocean resources. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the fishermen were shown a documentary about the conservation of manatees after which a talk was given by the IOI OC Cuba Director about the significance of World Ocean Day, the role of IOI and the relevance of the Elizabeth Mann Borgese personality and legacy. A translation of the message from the President of IOI, Dr Awni Behnam, on the occasion of Ocean Day 2008, was also presented to fishermen. At the end T-shirts and posters about World Ocean Day were distributed among the fishermen who expressed their appreciation for this kind of

activities and recognized their relevance. They also expressed their willingness to collaborate with the IOI-OC Cuba, the Pro-Naturaleza NGO and the University of Havana in the research projects being implemented in their fishing zone. All in all, this successful activity lasted 3 days. Another activity was held at a local fishing community near Punta Frances where IOI OC Cuba had the opportunity to meet with community leaders and distribute several materials to carry out environmental education activities in the local school in appreciation also for the collaborative work ongoing between the village community and IOI OC Cuba over the last five years.

### **IOI Pacific islands - Fiji**

IOI-PI celebrated Ocean Day with an open day for senior and primary school students where the University of the South Pacific and IOI, together with other NGOs involved in ocean management, provided exhibits on the ocean and presentations on the need to care for it. NGOs Greenpeace, WWF, WCS, Partners in Community Development, and Live and Learn partnered with IOI in this activity.



### **IOI India**

World Ocean Day was celebrated at the IOI Anawim Training Centre at Trichendur with the participation of 74 children and Anawim staff as well as visiting dignitaries and officials of the region. A full programme of events was organized and included an awareness programme, drawing, elocution and poetry competitions related to the Ocean, and an entertainment programme which served to highlight the various aspects of the Ocean and its resources. Prizes and gifts were distributed to the children for the various competitions. *(Left: Inauguration of Ocean Day: traditional lighting of the lamp by the children.)*

### **IOI-Indonesia**

The World Ocean Day celebration is planned for August 17<sup>th</sup> to coincide with other activities being organised by the operational centre and to maximise the exposure of the target audience to the IOI mission to protect the oceans. This event will be held during a trip organised for college students to Seribu Islands (a local marine conservation area) and feature various conservation activities such as coral transplanted and guided snorkelling in coral reef areas.

### **IOI Iran**

IOI-IRI celebrated this important day by holding a seminar entitled "World Ocean Day" which was attended by experts and authorities in charge of marine related issues. During this event, some of the most experienced oceanographers of Iran were honoured for their work.

### **IOI Japan**

IOI-Japan promoted World Ocean Day in partnership with the host institute's network throughout Japan. The event met with much success. Events organised included a children's fieldtrip to the coast, the release of fish fingerlings, children's artwork sessions on ocean events and presentations on ocean related topics. *(Above: Release of fish fingerlings during the Ocean Day Celebrations)*



### **IOI-Eastern Africa (Kenya)**

In this year's World Ocean Day celebrations, IOI-EA together with the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute invited different stakeholders for a one-day awareness campaign on the value of mangrove ecosystem services. Participants sourced from government departments, local community, media, and non-governmental organization replanted more than 30,000 mangrove propagules in an area impacted by the El-Nino rains that hit the country in 1997/98. Speaker after speaker during the occasion re-emphasised the important role played by mangroves and associated ecosystem in biodiversity conservation, coastal protection and assimilation of waste products. During this occasion, Dr James Kairo, Director, IOI-EA informed the participants of the forthcoming training course on rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable utilization of mangrove resources being organized by the centre in collaboration with Earthwatch Institute and Africa Mangrove Network. The course targets young scientists and middle level career managers interested in mangroves.



*(Left: Mangrove reforestation, Mwache creek, Kenya)*



## IOI Western Africa (Nigeria)

*(Right: Students during the cleanup at Akodo Beach, Nigeria)*

At IOI - WAOC this year, the focus was on Marine Debris and the target audience were primary (6-11yrs) and secondary school (11-16yrs) children from two communities where there have been previous activities by IOI – WAOC. Thirty primary and twenty five secondary school pupils participated in the exercise which was also covered by the mass media. The activities started with a visually aided awareness and sensitization session on the provenance, fate, ecological and socio-economic impacts of Marine Debris at Akodo Primary School. This was followed by a clean-up session at Akodo Beach. The event generated much interest both in World Ocean Day as well as in the mission of IOI through its local operational centre.



## IOI-Black Sea (Romania)

The IOI operational centre in Romania marked the 2008 World Ocean Day together with its host institution – GeoEcoMar – with the organisation of a seminar dedicated to hazard phenomena in the Black Sea; participants came from several different organisations nationally.



## IOI Slovenia

IOI Slovenia celebrated World Ocean Day with different activities in the week of 2 - 10 June; amongst these activities were exhibitions, lectures and presentations related to the marine environment and targeting a youth audience. The activities were also attended by the Slovenian president, H.E. Dr. Danilo Turk and the Mayor of Piran Municipality where the IOI Slovenia operational centre is hosted.

*(Left: HE Dr Turk during the Slovenian Ocean Day celebrations).*

## IOI Thailand

In 2008, IOI-Thailand, NDWC and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) jointly organized the World Ocean Day activity. Since the United Nations designated the year 2008 as the International Year of the Reef, the children's artwork contest was organised under the theme "Thai Sea Restoration and Coral Reef Conservation" and provided an opportunity for children up to 16 years of age to display their imagination and awareness of ocean matters. The World Ocean Day Children Artwork Exhibition was held at the Phuket Marine Biological Center, Cape Panwa in Phuket, Thailand culminating in an Award Ceremony where scholarships and certificates to the winners were sponsored by IOI and its partners the Siam Commercial Bank Co. Ltd., the Federation of Thai Industries and S. Napa Co. Ltd. IOI-Thailand received altogether 716 artworks from 110 schools in 37 provinces of Thailand – a sure reflection of the success of the World Ocean Day Celebrations in Thailand.



*(Right: Prize-winners, Group Photo)*



### IOI Ukraine

*(Right: Children's Dance troupe, Ukraine)*

The World Ocean Day celebration was organised by IOI OC Ukraine in Sevastopol in close collaboration with the Sevastopol Administration on Education and Science. To commemorate this event a youth festival entitled "Youth Vision of the Sea and Coast" was organised and featured cultural contests and exhibitions for art, poetry, dance and song among youth groups. A large number of students from nearly 50 schools took part in this event and all winners were invited to participate in an ecological excursion on a boat during which water and marine organisms sampling were conducted, followed by a visit to the Sevastopol marine aquarium. The round table "The Problems of Sevastopol Region's Sustainable Development", also conducted to commemorate World Ocean Day attracted an adult audience from NGOs, scientific institutions, universities, City council and administration and the State Departments working on regional development. The outcome was the adoption of a Declaration calling for the improvement of education in ecological science and public awareness; the decision to organise an Aarhus informational centre and the initiation of participation of interested parties in the programmes of the ecological certification and labelling.



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