



India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference

‘Furthering the FIPIIC Agenda through Sustainability Initiatives’

May 25 – 26, 2017 | Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji

Concept note : Plenary session 1- Blue Economy as a Template for Sustainable Development

Plenary session: Blue Economy as a Template for Sustainable Development

Blue Economy is a new paradigm in the development discourse which gives equal weightage to economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Given the economic potential of the oceans and the seas, a number of countries are investing enormous financial, technological and human capital to develop maritime economies and are striving to leverage their unique strengths. Among the island states, Seychelles and Mauritius have been spearheading the discourse. They were the first to articulate a coherent and convincing argument for the Blue Economy at the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) at Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. European Union has developed a sophisticated framework for harnessing the oceans.

Sri Lanka has been paying close attention to developing Blue Economy opportunities. To harness the Blue Economy, South Africa launched “Operation Phakisa” in 2014, identifying four key sectors for developing Blue Economy as new growth sources. These ocean-driven activities are: transport and manufacturing, offshore oil and gas, aquaculture, and protection and governance.

India’s engagement with the Blue Economy has been one of PM Modi’s foremost foreign policy priorities. PM Modi’s vision for the seas through “Security and Growth for All in the Region” (SAGAR) endorsed Blue Economy as a new pillar of economic activity in the coastal areas and linked hinterlands through sustainable tapping of oceanic resources.

Further the ambitious Sagarmala initiative has a strong connect with the development of Blue Economy in India and linking to ocean neighbours for mutual prosperity.

To promote this connect, Hon’ble PM has accorded great priority to building a connect with Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries and the 14 Pacific Islands nations where Blue Economy is identified as a key area of cooperation. 2017 is the Pacific year for the Ocean which vows for enhancing collaboration in achieving SDG14 targets where all are advocating towards a common mission, recognising the threats posed to Pacific Oceans through the over harvesting and mismanagement of resources, as well as land-derived sea-based pollution, recognising the impact of climate change on the oceans ecosystems and livelihoods of local communities, and recognising the need to control emissions that cause climate change particularly carbon dioxide and methane emissions. The session aims to discuss the following issues -

- What is Blue Economy and what is the potential of Blue Economy in the Pacific Islands?

- What is the normative model for defining Blue Economy and accounting for the size and potential contribution of Blue Economy to these nations?
- What are some of the inspiring case studies of successful Blue Economy development among small islands?
- What are the impediments or challenges when it comes to harnessing Blue Economy potential?
- How to develop a business model and find real potential of Blue Economy globally and in the region?
- How can India assist through capacity building and technical support?
- How can Blue Economy help small island development states (SIDS) achieve SDGs goals with specific reference to women's entrepreneurship, youth empowerment, involving local communities and MSME development?