

Workshop on 19 Aug 2022 at 1400 hrs **Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) Framework for** **Effective Blue Frontiers in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**

Background

The United Nations (UN) has declared this decade (2021 – 2030) as the Decade of the Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development. The oceans and the freshwater systems are primary regulators of the environment on Planet Earth and it is important that we generate significant knowledge and understanding of the huge water bodies that exist.

The Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) framework as proposed by the Maritime Research Centre (MRC), in collaboration with M/S NirDhwani Technology Pvt Ltd (NDT), facilitates nuanced policy & technology intervention, along with acoustic capacity & capability building. The socio-economic challenges in the region, should be reason to prioritise Science & Technology (S&T), to drive long term sustainable development activities, including the physical challenge of sub-optimal Sonar performance in the tropical waters. Field experimental R&D is important, however it is highly resource intensive and thus nations in the IOR find it difficult to encourage such efforts. Local site specific appreciation is the key to plan any initiative. The Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) will require, very specialized focus and high end Science & Technology (S&T) support.

Proposal

The Maritime Research Centre (MRC), Pune and the M/S NirDhwani Technology Pvt Ltd (NDT), in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), India is hosting a workshop titled “Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) Framework for Effective Blue Frontiers in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)” on the 19 August 2022, at 1400 hours, at UNESCO, based on invitation only. The event will bring together the experts and UNESCO staff, to present and discuss cooperation and synergy opportunities based on UNESCO designated sites, and science-education.

Detailed Programme

The detailed program for the event will be as follows:

- 1400 hrs- Welcome Remarks - **Mr. Eric Falt, Director UNESCO India.**
UNESCO designated sites in the New Delhi cluster countries and major culture, education, and science focus related to the coastal and marine environment, and freshwater bodies.
- 1410 hrs- UDA Framework in the Indo-Pacific Strategic Space.
Dr(Cdr) Arnab Das, Founder & Director MRC, Pune.
- 1430 hrs- Water Resource Management and the Challenges in the IOR.
Mr. Avinash Mishra, Advisor Water Resources NITI Aayog.

- 1445 hrs- Strategic Challenges and Opportunities in the IOR.
Shri Shekhar Dutt, Former Deputy NSA and Former Defence Secretary,
Government of India.
- 1500 hrs- Sustainable Blue Economy Challenges & Opportunities in the IOR.
Dr. Pooran Pandey, Resident Representative at Climate Scorecard,
Milton US.
- 1515 hrs- Keynote Address on Specific Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region.
Dr. Armoogum Parsuramen GOSK, Former Education Minister
Mauritius, Former UNESCO Director and Chairman of Global Rainbow
Foundation.
- 1530 hrs- Discussion
- 1545 hrs- Closing Remarks - Amb Anup Mudgal,
Former Diplomat and Member Blue Economic Committee at FICCI.
- 1600 hrs- Summing Up and Way Ahead - Dr. Benno Boer.
Chief of Natural Sciences, UNESCO India.
- 1615 hrs- Vote of Thanks.

Convener

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