PACEM IN MARIBUS XXXII: WAVES OF CHANGE

Empowering Women and Youth to Promote Ocean Sustainability

Ocean Threats and Ocean Loss

As one of our most precious assets, the **Ocean** is indispensable to life itself. It is the largest habitat for living things in our solar system and provides over 50 percent of the Earth's oxygen.

The Ocean and coastal resources also supply us with:

- **A vital source of food** – it is the primary source of protein to over 2.6 billion people worldwide;
- **A source of employment and livelihood** – economic activity resulting from the ocean indirectly and directly supports 200 – 400 million people each year;
- **Energy that powers the planet** – many of the world's existing and potential oil reserves lie beneath the ocean;
- **A place for leisure and sports** – more than 200 million people visit coastal cities and countries each year;
- **A place to live** – over half of the world's population lives within 200 km of a coastline.

Increasing economic activity and climate change, however, have put our marine environments, and our own existence, in great peril. Marine ecosystems are at risk of being lost forever, fisheries are facing declining catches and island states are threatened by rising sea levels. The specter of global terrorism and nuclear activity in the oceans also pose a great danger to our lives.

Protection of the ocean is a necessity – the world and our overall quality of life depend on it. ***Without our ocean, we wouldn't be able to breathe; we wouldn't be able to eat; we wouldn't be able to live***.

Waves of Change, Pacem in Maribus 32

The International Ocean Institute's (IOI) 32nd annual Pacem in Maribus (Peace in the Oceans) conference – **Waves of Change:** ***Women, Youth and the Sea: Partnering for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Use of its Resources*** – will be one of the most significant conferences to be held within the past three decades. The future of our oceans depends greatly on women and youth, two social groups whose considerable skills and talents must be mobilized for the oceans' protection, and whose interests are highly dependent on the world's coastal areas.

Waves of Change will bring together key and influential stakeholders to develop new approaches, effective solutions and actionable outcomes to overcome ocean threats and promote sustainable ocean governance. The conference will explore the most effective ways of supporting Agenda 21, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Plan of Implementation and the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Also, since the it is meeting during the International Polar Year (a scientific campaign that is trying to build public awareness about Polar Regions and arctic threats), it is particularly significant that PIM 32 considers the special challenges of the polar region and encourages governments to consider a "Pacem in Arctic Maribus" (Peace in the Arctic Seas) convention .

We invite you to peruse the conference information listed below. For inquiries or further details, please contact Rachel Alexander at rachel@thewavesofchange.org or +1 (212) 588-1802.

Take a chance to effect change and share renewed interest in our common heritage. Become involved in a global ocean campaign and start the ripples that will create **Waves of Change***!*

The Organizer

Founded in 1972 by Professor Elisabeth Mann Borgese, the **International Ocean Institute (IOI)** is a non-governmental organization devoted to the sustainable development of the world's ocean. As a major contributor to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and as a consultative body to the UN itself, IOI upholds the principle that the ocean is humankind's common heritage and a "source of life" for future generations.

To this end, IOI embraces Pacem in Maribus (Peace in the Oceans) to enhance and promote the peaceful use of the ocean's waters and resources. The organization's strength lies in its training and capacity-building programs for coastal communities and governments as well as sustainable management and ocean conservation education programs.

Pacem in Maribus

For 31 years, IOI's flagship conference, *Pacem in Maribus*, has been held annually across the globe. Originating in Malta as a platform to promote the peaceful and sustainable use of ocean space, the conference also provides a forum against ocean threats and challenges. Through research, debate, deliberations and outreach, the conferences have become internationally respected for advancing ocean sustainability as well as effective ocean governance.

This year, the 32nd *Pacem in Maribus* will once again tackle such ocean issues as depleted ocean resources and coastal degradation. However, it will also break new ground by empowering women and youth to take part in dialogue and leadership so that they may safeguard the ocean and its valuable resources. As such, PIM 32 is coming home to Malta and will be renamed as the **Waves of Change**, reflecting a new tide in its history.

Conference Overview

The **Waves of Change** conference will be organized around three tracks with relevance to women, youth and ocean sustainability, and will feature in-depth breakout sessions as well as hands-on workshops.

The State of the Ocean: Current Challenges and Future Prospects:
Implications for Women and Youth

- Climate change
- Coastal vulnerability
- Ocean ecosystem restoration

Involvement of Women and Youth within the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):
Options and Challenges Related to Ocean Protection

- Poverty eradication and food security
- Education and capacity building
- Young entrepreneurs of the oceans

New Solidarities for Sustainable Ocean Governance:
Engagement of Women and Youth

- Youth and women leadership in maritime affairs
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Innovative approaches to sustainable ocean governance

The results of these deliberations will be incorporated into the conference proceedings and will help to shape the conference declarations. In line with IOI tradition, public lectures will be featured as a tribute to the vision and leadership of Arvid Pardo, the "Father of the Law of the Sea".

Objectives of the Conference

- **Women and Youth Leadership** - To promote women and youth leadership in maritime affairs
- **Achieving UN Development Goals** - To promote the interests of women and youth in meeting the objectives of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the UN MDGs
- **New Approaches and Strategies** - To explore new and innovative approaches for the management of ocean space and sustainable ocean governance

- **Build Constituencies and Partnerships** - To engage all sectors in ocean policy and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to develop actionable outcomes and effective solutions for ocean threats and challenges
- **Public Education and Awareness** - To build public awareness of the ocean's value and importance to our lives and future, especially among women and youth

Why You Should Attend

- Participate in the **world's largest women, youth and ocean campaign**
- Engage and **establish partnerships with key and influential stakeholders**, including representatives from governments, NGOs, the private sector and educational institutions to **address the challenges of ocean governance and climate change**
- Discuss and **develop innovative approaches to the sustainable**, **equitable and peaceful use of ocean resources**

Event Details

♦ Location
Corinthia Palace Hotel, Attard, Malta
Website: http://www.corinthiahotels.com

♦ Dates
November 5 – 8, 2007

♦ Highlights
- Special Keynote Address by a Head of State
- Networking Receptions
- Awards Banquet
- Underwater Film Festival

♦ Participants
Attendees include Heads of States, government representatives, NGO leaders, scholars/educators, corporate representatives from all sectors, women and youth leaders of distinction in maritime affairs, environmental experts and development practitioners.

♦ Prospective Partners and Organization Representation at the Conference (partial list and subject to change)
- Girls Scouts
- GROOTS – Huairou Commission
- iEarn (collaborative online learning project engaging over 1,000,000 students worldwide)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) – Youth Development and Outreach Program
- International Baccalaureate Program
- Junior Achievement International
- Millennium Campaign
- Ocean Project
- One World Youth Project
- Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
- Peace Boat
- Scuba Scouts
- Sierra Club
- SustainUs

- TakingitGlobal.org (known as the "MySpace for civic engagement"*)
- The Nature Conservancy – Global Marine Initiative
- Thomas J. Watson Foundation – Thomas J. Watson Fellowship Program
- United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development Youth Caucus
- United Nations Division on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALAS)
- United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)
- World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations
- Youth Environment Europe (YEE)

♦ Sponsors

- Air Malta
- Antinea Foundation
- Corinthia Hotels International
- Flemish Government
- IMAREST
- International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) – UNESCO
- International Polar Year (2007-2008) - organized through the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Lighthouse Foundation
- NAUSICCA
- Quiksilver Foundation
- United Nations University/EHS
- World Ocean Network

♦ Contact

For more information about the conference, please contact Rachel Alexander at rachel@thewavesofchange.org or +1 (914) 309-2567.

♦ Website

http://www.thewavesofchange.org

* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TakingITGlobal