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International Ocean Institute
 with the support and collaboration of the
European Commission Representation in Malta



*IOI Seminar Series on Issues of
 Contemporary Importance to Ocean Governance*
**Breaking the Stalemate: The Role of Ocean Literacy
 in Catalysing Progress on SDG 14 and Beyond**

07 December 2023 09.30 - 11.00hrs CET

In-person Venue: **Europe House – 254, St Paul Street, Valletta**

[Webcast Registration Link](#)

*During the IOI Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance
 for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic and Caspian Seas, Malta*

*"In the end we will conserve only what we love.
 We will love only what we understand.
 And we will understand only what we are taught."
 Baba Dioum, IUCN Triennial, New Delhi, 1968*

09.00	Registration and Welcome Coffee
09.30 – 09.40	Moderator: Antonella Vassallo, Managing Director, IOI Welcome and Introduction to the Seminar <i>Awni Behnam</i> , Honorary President, IOI; Course Director, Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance <i>Lorenzo Vella</i> , Head of Representation; European Commission Representation in Malta
09.40 – 09.50	The IOI Ocean Academy: Improving global Ocean Literacy through online, easily accessible, free-to-all Ocean knowledge modules anchored in local contexts <i>Antonella Vassallo</i> , Managing Director, International Ocean Institute
09.50 – 10.00	The Ocean Decade: How Literacy Contributes to Sustainability <i>Vladimir Ryabinin</i> , Executive Secretary, IOC of UNESCO, Assistant Director General, UNESCO
10.00 – 10.10	Building a Sustainable Ocean Economy: How Ocean Trade Data and Ocean-Related Regulatory Outcomes Contribute to Filling Gaps in Ocean Literacy <i>David Vivas Eugui</i> , Chief of Section, Trade, Environment, Climate Change & Sustainable Development Branch, UNCTAD
10.10 – 10.20	Recent developments in international law, diplomacy and the Ocean <i>Nilufer Oral</i> , Director, Centre for International Law National University of Singapore; Member of the International Law Commission
10.20 – 10.30	Taking Ocean Literacy to the Next Level Through the Use of Cutting-Edge Technology <i>Alan Deidun</i> , Ocean Ambassador for Malta, Course Manager, Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance
<i>Questions and Discussion: moderated panel discussion.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Message by the Class of 2023 of the Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic and Caspian Seas</i> 	
<i>Closure of Session, Awni Behnam</i>	
Graduation Ceremony and Award of Certificates of Class of 2023 Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic and Caspian Seas, Malta	

Concept

This year's Special Seminar focuses on the pivotal role of Ocean Literacy in fostering the advancement of the SDGs, especially SDG 14, and the underlying themes of Ocean protection and conservation, and aims to serve as a platform for insightful discourse and collaborative exploration of key overlapping concepts.

In the face of current challenges of Ocean degradation, increasingly unpredictable Ocean-climate modulation, and potential biodiversity collapse, distinguished experts shall examine how knowledge-based institutions such as the IOI can contribute to achieving effective solutions that meet the global SDGs and ambitions, while also considering the role that Ocean literate communities can play in accelerating this transition.

With a primary emphasis on the critical need for heightened public awareness and understanding of Ocean issues, the seminar aims to emphasise the significant impact of Ocean Literacy on fostering responsible and effective Ocean Governance practices amongst all stakeholders.

Inspired by the quotation in caption, the Seminar shall underscore the transformative power of Ocean Literacy in creating a global community that not only comprehends but cherishes the Ocean and appreciates its critical role as supporter of life on this planet. By nurturing a deeper understanding and respect for our Ocean, humankind can collectively chart a course towards a sustainable future where human activities are in harmony with the intricate web of the Ocean's ecosystems, ensuring their vitality for generations to come.

This Seminar seeks to catalyse a mindset change among stakeholders, policymakers, educators, and the public to prioritise Ocean literacy as a means to comprehend and manage human-Ocean interactions and impacts to promote a sustainable and prosperous future, one in which our Ocean remains a vital source of life.