

The INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE IOInforma 0120

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New President of IOI Governing Board and Composition of IOI Governing Board in 2020

Dr Mahin Faghfour is the new President of the IOI Governing Board, chosen by the Board members in unanimity during their meeting in December 2019. She succeeds Nikolaus Gelpke, who is now the IOI's Patron, following his previous role as President. The IOI family acknowledges with gratitude his support of the IOI throughout his tenure. The position of Vice President vacated by Dr Faghfour is now occupied by Dr Chua Thia-Eng. The IOI continues to benefit immensely from the combined expertise and guidance of its members:

Awni Behnam, Honorary President
Nikolaus Gelpke, Patron of IOI
Mahin Faghfour, President
Chua Thia-Eng, Vice-President
Simone Borg, Representative of the Government of Malta to the IOI Governing Board
Peter W Leder, Treasurer
Adnan Awad, Chair of IOI Directors
Louis F Cassar, Member
Anita Coady, Member
Lawrence Hildebrand, Member





Shi Suixiang, Member
 Wendy Watson-Wright, Member
 Ex-Officio: Antonella Vassallo, Managing Director

On behalf of the IOI, we take the opportunity to thank the IOI Board members for their guidance and input to the IOI's programmes over the years.

**Award of the IOI's Elisabeth Mann Borgese Medal
 to Karmenu Vella - European Commissioner for
 Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries**

Malta, 2nd December 2019

The Elisabeth Mann Borgese Medal was conferred on Commissioner Vella in appreciation of his enduring commitment to bringing the seas and oceans to the forefront of the European and global agendas throughout his tenure as European Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (2014-2019). The medal recognizes leadership in promoting the importance of sustainable maritime occupations and economies that preserve natural resources on land and sea and, especially, for creating and maintaining global partnerships aimed at good governance of our planet's ocean. The IOI recognises and appreciates the support to the IOI as custodian of the legacy of Elisabeth Mann Borgese and Arvid Pardo.

The award ceremony was held at Europe House, in Valletta, Malta. Present at the ceremony were Awni Behnam, Honorary President of the IOI; Antonella Vassallo, Managing Director of IOI HQ; Ocean Ambassador Alan Deidun, Director of the IOI Malta Training Centre as well as the distinguished speakers present during the seminar. The celebration was also attended by the participants and faculty of the 15th IOI Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic and Caspian Seas.



Left, L - R:
 A Vassallo,
 K Vella
 A Behnam
 A Deidun
 Photo Credit:
 IOI HQ

15th IOI Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic & Caspian Seas Malta, 4th November – 6th December 2019



Above: The IOI Malta Training Programme Class of 2019, IOI Faculty, and Special Seminar Speakers. Photo Credit: IOI HQ

The 15th edition of the annual five-week Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic and Caspian Seas held in Malta was inaugurated through a ceremony presided over by Awni Behnam, Antonella Vassallo and Alan Deidun. The keynote speech was delivered by Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. A video message by UN Special Envoy for the Ocean Ambassador Peter Thomson and a briefing by University Pro-Rector Godfrey Baldacchino followed. Other distinguished guests at the ceremony included the German Ambassador to Malta His Excellency Walter Haßmann, representatives from the Egyptian Embassy and Francesca Gatt from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion (MFTP). The German government actively supports the IOI Malta Training Course through DAAD (the German Academic Exchange Service).

During the opening ceremony a special video message created with the help of past IOI alumni was also launched, giving a small glimpse to the participants of the opportunities that they too may have once they complete an IOI Training Programme (full video available on page 7).

This year's 21 participants hailed from 12 countries surrounding the regional seas: Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Germany, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Spain, Croatia, France, Malta and PR China. As in previous years, the participants came from diverse academic and professional backgrounds, ranging from coastal and marine management to engineering, hydrology and aquaculture management.

As in previous years, the 2019 Malta Training Programme gave the participants the unique opportunity to obtain formal accreditation by the University of Malta for the academic content of the Course by completing and submitting the full Study Unit assessments. Successful achievement of the accredited Study Units was equivalent to 15 ECTS from the University of Malta, host institute of the IOI Malta Training Centre.



As well as the usual format of class-based lectures, the participants also engaged in policy-simulation sessions, role-playing games, scenario planning and mock meetings which allowed them to use their knowledge and skills in a more practical and multidisciplinary manner. Similarly to previous training programmes, the learning experience was not limited to the classroom, with two fieldtrips showcasing areas of significant marine and coastal importance around Malta and Gozo such as the Grand Harbour, the National Aquarium, Xrobb l-Ghagin Nature Park, Wied il-Mielah limestone natural arch, Dwejra coastal protected area and the Marsalforn Salt Pans.

The course culminated with the Regional Ocean Policy Frameworks Simulation exercise for the Mediterranean, Black, Caspian and Baltic Seas, by now an established hallmark of the course where participants have the opportunity to engage in the process of policy drafting under the guidance of regional experts that encouraged them to use the knowledge gained during the programme in a practical application of policy making and governance. During the closing ceremony that followed shortly after, H.E. Ms Nada Draz, Ambassador for Egypt, handed out the course completion certificates to the participants, marking thus the end of the 2019 Training Programme.

The 15th edition of the training programme was once again ably directed by Dr Awni Behnam. Prof Alan Deidun was Course Manager, expertly aided by the course administration team comprised of Celine Farrugia and Tania Aquilina.

**IOI Special Seminar on
Challenges of area-based management tools (ABMTs)
in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ):
“Discussions on Areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) under UNCLOS”
Valletta, Malta, 2nd December 2019**

On Monday 2nd December, the annual IOI Special Seminar was held at Europe House, Valletta, with the support and collaboration of the European Commission Representation in Malta. The seminar was held within the IOI's 15th Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic and Caspian Seas.

Awni Behnam, Antonella Vassallo and Alan Deidun delivered the opening remarks and set the stage for the speakers that followed: David Johnson (Director, Seascope Consultants Ltd and Former Executive Secretary to the OSPAR Commission) addressed the modalities of protecting the High Seas and designating areas as MPAs, expanding on the lessons learnt from



Above, L - R: A Premti, L R Cortes, A Behnam, D Johnson.
Photo Credit: IOI HQ



establishing the Charlie Gibbs MPA; Anila Premti (Associate Legal Officer, Policy and Legislation Section, TLB, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations) delivered a presentation on the challenges of ABMTs in areas beyond national jurisdiction while also offering special perspectives on navigation, maritime routes, trade and development; Liliana Rodrigues Cortes (IOI Representative in New York) expanded on the discussions currently underway at the UN on ABMTs in ABNJ while further highlighting what state actors, civil society, NGOs and other groupings wish to achieve in the discussions. Karmenu Vella (European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries 2014-2019) analysed the issue at hand from the prism of the aspirations, perspectives and experiences of the Commission and the EU during the negotiations.

The seminar drew to a close with the presentation of a statement from Sofia Sadogurska, representative of the class of 2019 of the IOI Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic & Caspian Seas:

“we URGE for determined action at an international scale to save our oceans. There is a lack of sound, effective global biodiversity governance in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, which comprise over half of the world ocean.

We, as the new generation of ocean ambassadors, are unable to address this issue due to the existing governance deficit. Therefore, the development of a new international agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is now a priority for all of us.

Finally, we remember that we stand on the shoulders of giants such as Arvid Pardo and Elisabeth Mann Borgese, who were at the very beginning of the conception of “the common heritage of humankind” for High Seas. As participants of the IOI Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance, we can now say we have also taken on board their legacy on a personal level.

Nonetheless, it is all our collective responsibility to act as ambassadors and promoters of sustainable ocean for the sake of generations to come. We will do our best, but we cannot do much without legal framework in place.

We think, it is time to live not just with the Ocean and from the Ocean. It is now the time to act FOR the Ocean.”



Above: S. Sadogurska representative of the class of 2019

IOI Class of 2019, Malta

Call for Applications for the Danielle de St Jorre Scholarship 2020
Application deadline 10th February
and
Report from the 2019 Danielle de St Jorre Scholarship awardee

Since 2000 the IOI has awarded an annual scholarship to one woman from a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) involved in marine related activities to improve her knowledge of the subject by helping fund participation in the IOI's Training Programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management (Canada, 20th May to 17th July 2020). This scholarship was established to honour the memory of the late Danielle de St Jorre, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Environment and Tourism of the Republic of the Seychelles and a member of the IOI Governing Board, in consideration of all she did in her short life for the benefit of her country, the small island developing states and the world at large.

The application deadline is 10th February 2020. Further information on the scholarship, including application guidelines, eligibility and evaluation criteria, can be found below, as well as details of the IOI training programme in Halifax:

<http://internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca/training.html>

Ms Joyce Samuelu-Ah Leong from Samoa was awarded the Danielle de St Jorre Scholarship to fund her attendance at the Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management Course held in 2019, organised by the IOI Operational Centre in Canada. She reported back on her experience:



Above: 2019 Danielle de St. Jorre Scholarship awardee.
Photo Credit: J Leong

“Having completed this course, I am very fortunate and privileged to be part of a network of ‘Ocean Mafia’ as the late Elisabeth Mann Borgese, founder of IOI has referred to for the participants and alumni of the IOI Ocean Governance Training. The training has renewed my passion that I have with 16 years of working experience in marine conservation and fisheries management. The critical lessons learnt from the training re-emphasise the working together of all those with Ocean interests such as the ocean users and ocean caretakers to ensure that the largest Earth resource continues to provide the means of lives for our people as it has since the beginning of time.(...) For me, this training, has shed light on key international ocean governance principles that regions and countries have to streamline into their regional and national policies to be effective in the management and protection of the Ocean and its resources.

many lessons learnt from this training, I am proud to say that I am an Ocean Mafia and will utilise all my newfound skills in my role as a fisheries management adviser within my region, the Pacific region. Thank you again, IOI!”

Annex

As part of our ongoing outreach and collaboration with people who have completed an IOI course, we have created a short clip celebrating the IOI Alumni and their achievements.

Watch the clip by clicking on the [here](#).



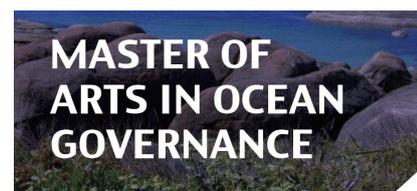
2018 was another busy year for the International Ocean Institute with many strategy decisions coming to full fruition over this year and laying the foundations for future activities. By clicking [here](#), you will be able to read about the full range of activities carried out globally by the International Ocean Institute in 2018.



Sidney Holt (1926 - 2019)

The IOI family is deeply saddened by the news of the death of a great supporter of the institute since its formative stages, Sidney Holt. He was the first Executive Director of the IOI and collaborated closely with Elisabeth Mann Borgese, contributing also greatly to the establishment of the IOI Canada Training Programme.

The ocean community owes a debt of gratitude to Sidney Holt for his remarkable conservation initiatives, commitment to the Oceans and contribution in the service of humanity.



L-Università
ta' Malta



The University of Malta in collaboration with the IOI will be offering the Master degree programme on Ocean Governance, launching in October 2020.

Applications are now open!

Find out more by clicking [here](#).