

CONCEPT NOTE

[VER. 11.10.2021]

Event: 4th Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean

Location: Virtual

Date/Time: Wednesday, 27 October 2021
12:00 noon – 14:30 p.m. (Bangkok time, ICT, verify your zone [here](#))

Host(s): United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

BACKGROUND

On 21 May 2020, ESCAP member States adopted a resolution on “Strengthening cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,” underscoring the importance of the Ocean for the region, and requesting the secretariat “to continue to strengthen current partnerships and to develop new partnerships, where appropriate, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources, including through participatory, multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms.”¹

In line with this mandate, the secretariat will host its Fourth Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean to continue to support member States, and key stakeholders, through systematic and inclusive dialogue on priority areas and challenges in our region.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development for the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 2021². ESCAP, through its membership in UN-Oceans, supported the preparation process of the implementation plan as mandated in the governance structure of the Ocean Decade, and in par. 4b of the above-mentioned resolution.

OBJECTIVE

¹ ESCAP/RES/76/1 of 21 May 2020.

² A/RES/72/73

Last year, the *Third Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean*³ provided an opportunity to collect inputs from a variety of stakeholders in the region for the development of a Regional Decade Program. All inputs received during the event, and through a virtual consultation in anticipation for the event, were duly considered and incorporated in a region-wide program developed in coordination with partner UN agencies.

This year, one of the objectives of the Day for the Ocean is to launch the Regional Decade Program for the consideration and engagement of different constituents that may align activities with this program, or benefit from its outputs. The event will feature a presentation of the program: “Accelerating the delivery of SDG14 in Asia and the Pacific... *the science we need for the ocean we want in Asia and the Pacific.*”. The ultimate goal is to accelerate individual and collective actions in the region, in order to reach Sustainable Development Goal 14 by 2030.

Throughout the Decade, the Day for the Ocean will serve as a regional review mechanism, paying particular attention to a selection of SDG14 targets each year. The scope of these selected targets will be integrated into interactive dialogues for special consideration. This year, the first cluster of SDGs will include targets: 14.1 [Marine pollution], 14.2 [Marine and coastal ecosystems], 14.a [Scientific knowledge, transfer of marine technology].

During the event, ESCAP will announce the beginning of the Ocean Youth Champions campaign. As part of the Decade Program, a call for nominations will be organized every year, starting in the 4th edition of the Day for the Ocean.

Furthermore, the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean will provide a regional perspective to inform the Second UN Ocean Conference, tentatively rescheduled for 2022,⁴ where ESCAP will participate in the main sessions and will also be hosting side events. Outcomes will also support the upcoming review of SDG14 in 2022.

PROGRAM

The Fourth Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean will take place on 27 October 2021 in a virtual modality. With the support of partner organizations, the program will offer a plenary discussion, where the Regional Decade Program will be launched, followed by a selection of thematic interactive dialogues, which will focus on:

- a) International cooperation on the digital technologies to monitor ocean plastic pollution (Focus SDG targets 14.1, 14.a)
- b) Inclusive Maritime Connectivity for Building Back Better

³ Meeting report: <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/20201215%20Meeting%20Report.pdf>

⁴ The 2020 United Nations Ocean Conference, which was scheduled to take place from 2 to 6 June in Lisbon, Portugal, has been postponed per decision 74/548 adopted by the General Assembly on Monday, 13 April 2020.

- c) Accounting for ocean and economy linkages: data integration to protect marine and coastal ecosystems
- d) Ocean-climate nexus: blue carbon

A keynote speech from a high-level speaker will provide an overview of regional challenges and opportunities for the protection and sustainable development of the ocean. This will be followed by the parallel interactive dialogues. Finally, a plenary session will offer a space to collect feedback from each interactive dialogue, and to share thematic developments.

SPEAKERS/MODERATORS

- Partners of the Regional Decade Program (Ocean Decade)
- Host(s) and partner organizations co-hosting individual sessions
- Experts participating in the discussions, CSOs, scientific community and academia, organizations that submitted voluntary commitments

TARGET AUDIENCE/PARTICIPANTS

- Civil Society Organizations (including the youth and ocean protection NGOs)
- Private sector companies
- Students and staff of educational and academic entities
- Scientific community
- Intergovernmental bodies and regional organizations
- Local and national governments

FORMAT

- The event will be hosted virtually. The designated platform, access code and dial-in details will be sent to registered participants 48 hours before the event.
- The plenary sessions will be streamed live via YouTube.
- Participants will be able to choose the interactive dialogue session they want to join. These sessions will be recorded, and links will be shared publicly after the event.



WEBSITE

<https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/fourth-asia-pacific-day-ocean-4>

REGISTRATION

Click [here](#) or scan code to register.

