



World Ocean Day 2011 – 8th June

“Our Ocean - Greening Our Future”

Message from Dr Awni Behnam, President, International Ocean Institute

On the occasion of World Ocean Day, 8th June 2011.

On the 8th June the global ocean community will celebrate World Ocean Day with theme *“Our Ocean-Greening - Our Future”*. The United Nations could not have chosen a more appropriate theme given the current and formidable challenges that our blue planet is facing with climate change at the top of the list.

It is not by coincidence that the first five chapters of the World Ocean Review (<http://worldoceanreview.com/en>) launched a few months ago by the IOI and its partners addressed in a unique and scientific depth of analysis the nexus of ocean and climate change. These first chapters addressed various aspects of that interdependent relationship ranging from the oceans as global climate drivers to climate change impact on marine ecosystems.

For a long time the international community, at its peril, had failed to take into account the embryonic link between oceans and climate change and ignored the fundamental role of the ocean in the protection of the Planet. It is time to understand that wanton abuse of the ocean and its services is incompatible and runs contrary to measures aimed at slowing climate change. Our Ocean is the immune system and buffer in the planets’ sustainability and must thus be governed accordingly.

We at the IOI community wish to recommit ourselves to the sustainable governance of the ocean and live up to the legacy of the founder Elisabeth Mann Borgese whose passion for the ocean was matched only by her faith in the ingenuity of humankind to overcome adversity.

We call on all people of good will to resolve on this June 8th to redouble their efforts in conveying a worthy message that the time for change is long overdue and that all humanity has to learn to live with ocean and from the ocean in a sustainable relationship.

We at the IOI will continue, with our modest resources, to advocate and strive for a moral and ethically based ocean governance and offer capacity building, training and education as tools for a better and a Blue Future.

Awni Behnam
President IOI

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ENVIRONMENT WEEK & Celebration of World Ocean Day 2011

Saturday, 4th June - Wednesday, 8th June

IOI HQ, in Malta

MGARR Local Council, Malta, is organising a week full of topical activities to celebrate World Environment day on the 5th June and World Ocean Day on the 8th June. All events, except those held at Mgarr Primary School are free and open to the general public; all talks will be in the Maltese language, except for the Film *'A Sea Change: Imagine a World without Fish'* which is narrated in English.

The International Ocean Institute, through its Headquarters in Malta, is happy to support this week of activities and to sponsor the event by providing prizes and the film; the event is being coordinated in Mgarr by the current EMB Bursary award winner Ms Alicia Said. For more information about events please contact the organisers or download the full calendar of events for the week from the IOI Website <http://www.ioinst.org/>.

Saturday, 4th June 2011

Event: Inauguration of Environment Week, Formal opening, followed by refreshments
Venue: Mgarr Local Council, Mgarr **Time:** 08.00pm – 09.00pm

Sunday, 5th June 2011

Event: Exhibition of local and international works by Environmental NGOs; open to the public
Venue: Mgarr Local Council, Mgarr **Time:** 08.00am – 12.00pm

Monday 6th June 2011

Event: Activities organised by Wasteserv, Malta
Venue: Primary School, Mgarr, Malta

Event: The Flora and Fauna in Mgarr Locality; Talk
Speakers: Arnold Sciberras and Jeffrey Sciberras, (Nature Trust)
Venue: Mgarr Local Council, Mgarr **Time:** 07.30pm - 08.30pm

Tuesday, 7th June 2011 in celebration of World Ocean Day

Event: *'Kids on Coast Activity'* (for children aged 7-10yrs)
Speakers: Annalise Falzon, Nature Trust
Venue: Ghajn Tuffieha **Time:** 09.00am – 10.30am

Event: *'A Sea Change: Imagine a World without Fish'* introduction by IOI
Venue: Mgarr Local Council, Mgarr **Time:** 09.00am – 10.30am (Film - 85 min)

Wednesday, 8th June 2011

Event: Activities organised by Wasteserv, Malta
Venue: Primary School, Mgarr, Malta

Event: Talk on the Sustainable Use of Water at Home **Venue:** Mgarr Local Council, Mgarr
Speaker: Marco Cremona (Malta Water Association) **Time:** 07.30pm - 08.30pm

Event: Close of Environment Week and World Ocean Day Activities
Venue: Mgarr Local Council, Mgarr, Malta **Time:** 08.30pm - 09.30pm
Special Guest: HE G Pullicino; Minister, Resources and Rural Affairs, Malta