



# The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

Reports from the Third Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

January 23-28, 2006, UNESCO, Paris

## ENGAGING DECISION MAKERS AND THE PUBLIC

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*During the Third Global Conference, several dialogue sessions and a panel addressed the issue of engaging the public and decision makers in oceans issues. The goals of the session on Engaging Decision Makers and the Public were to:*

- *Demonstrate the value of mobilizing decision makers and the public in the ocean governance planning and decision making process;*
- *Identify effective means to communicate the value of marine resources and the benefits of their use and conservation to decisionmakers and the public; and*
- *Discuss tangible options for cooperation in ocean information and education.*

*The expected outcomes of the session were as follows:*

- *Draw the attention of conference participants on the need for enhanced ocean information and education and engage them to support/take part in such activities and programs*
- *Develop a specific program of work on education and information related to advancement of the global oceans agenda for decisionmakers and the public, and convey these recommendations to the World Ocean Network workshop following the Global Conference.*

*The panel was chaired by Mr. Philippe Valette, Managing Director, NAUSICAA- National Sea Centre, France, and Chair, the World Ocean Network. Overview presentations were given by Mr. Philippe Valette, and Ms. Marie-Laure de Lange, Communications Consultant, SeaWeb. Panelists included Dr. Dann Sklarew, Director, GEF IW: LEARN; Dr. Ram Boojh, Centre of Environment Education, India; Dr. Guillermo Garcia Montero, President, National Aquarium, Cuba, and National Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Committee; and Dr. Peter Neill, Director, The World Ocean Observatory, United States.*

*A special presentation titled The Public and the Oceans: A Long-Term Strategy for Mobilizing Public Support for the Global Oceans Agenda was also given on January 24 by Mr. Philippe Valette. In addition, a related dialogue session on Mobilizing Stakeholders and the Public Towards Fisheries Sustainability, organized Dr. Leonard Sonnenschein, World Aquarium, USA was held on January 23 and a second dialogue session on Engaging decisionmakers and the public was held on January 27 following the panel presentations.*

*Immediately following the Third Global Conference, the World Ocean Network (WON) hosted the Third International Meeting: Acting*

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*together for the Future of the Blue Planet*, from January 29 - February 1, 2006 at NAUSICAA, Centre National de la Mer, Boulogne sur Mer, France. The event was organized under the aegis of the IOC/UNESCO and included the participation of Jean-Michel Cousteau, chair of the World Ocean Network Committee of Honour.

The World Ocean Network and its partners invited Global Conference participants to participate in the Third International Meeting. All organizations reaching out to the general public were encouraged to participate in the meeting to help further develop a global campaign to raise public awareness and an action plan for the sustainable use of the ocean.

Participants at the meeting and experts from the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands had the opportunity to state their priorities regarding sustainable use of the ocean. The participants also shared results of the joint activities conducted since the 2nd International Meeting in 2002, and planned further cooperation for the next three years.

***A full report of the World Ocean Network Third International meeting can be found on the World Ocean Network website at: <http://www.worldoceannetwork.org>.***