
To: IOC Member States

cc.: Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

Subject: Invitation to the World Oceans Day Celebration, 8th June 2015, UNESCO HQ, France

Since 2008, the United Nations celebrate World Oceans Day on the 8th of June with a view to raise public awareness on the importance of the ocean in our lives and promote all possible actions to protect it. This year, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is organizing a special edition of the World Oceans Day in UNESCO Headquarters. The event focuses on the ocean interaction with the climate system, in the perspective of the forthcoming Paris Climate conference (UNFCCC COP-21) in December 2015. The decisions taken at the 2015 Paris Climate Conference will undoubtedly impact the marine environment and the many millions of people who depend on it. World Oceans Day at UNESCO has received the official COP-21 label from the host country (France).

By means of this letter, I would like to remind IOC and UNESCO Member States of the forthcoming of the World Oceans Day and cordially invite them to join us in Paris to participate in its celebration.

On June 8, several events will take place, which will enable participants to explore the scientific, and socio-economic aspects of climate-induced change in the ocean. Four parallel workshops and a UNESCO Campus session with graduate-level students will be held during the morning. Three plenary round-tables followed by a High-Level Segment in the presence of Heads of States (or their representatives) are being convened in the afternoon.

To date it is known that HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco; H.E. Mr Tommy Remengesau, President of Palau; H.E. Mr Freundel Stuart, Prime Minister of Barbados; H.E. Mr Danny Faure, Vice-President of Republic of Seychelles; H.E. Mr Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France and COP-21 President; and Commissioner Karmenu Vella, DG Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission will honor the event with their presence.

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TOGO
Key recommendations of each workshop and the Campus UNESCO will be synthetized and presented by Dr Lisa Emelia Svensson, Ambassador for the Oceans, Seas and Freshwater of Sweden. These recommendations will be based on the cooperative work of scientists, the civil society and the public at large and will represent a solid scientific and intellectual contribution to issues at stake in the climate change negotiations.

This event would not have been possible without the support of the Permanent Delegations of Monaco, Sweden, France, the Government of Flanders (Belgium) and the Suez Environment.

The World Oceans Day in UNESCO on June 8 is a public event. Everyone is invited to participate in the scientific workshops, explore the cultural and artistic wonders of our vast Ocean through four exhibitions, and take part in formulating key recommendations for the protection of the Ocean. Online streaming will be made of certain segments of the day.

Registration is mandatory and is open until June 4, 2015. The registration form as well as the brochure can be found at: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/world-oceans-day-2015/wod-celebration-2015.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and look forward to your active participation in this event.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary