

International Conference

Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean: Observatories and Knowledge Networks

**Presentation of the OECD report
*Rethinking Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean Economy***

14 February 2019

IPMA Auditorium, Lisbon/Algés, Portugal

Presentation and Agenda

Over the last decades, we have seen an increased interest in the ocean by different countries, as a strategic development sector. The coming into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) has significantly contributed to the technological development and growth of ocean knowledge and its resources, strongly contributing to an increased **ocean economy**. The OECD publication *The Ocean Economy in 2030* shows the potential of the ocean economy in the coming years, a process that, to be sustainable, requires **knowledge** and **innovation**.

The ocean supports marine life and global processes and is the main human life support system of the Planet. Climate change, biodiversity loss, rising sea levels, coastal flooding, plastic marine debris and other anthropogenic pollution show that the problem is worldwide.

Data and knowledge about the ocean, their processes and its relation with human civilizations and human well-being is today and in the years to come of paramount importance. Innovative technologies and ways to cooperate are crucial to gathering more data and knowledge about the global issues that we face today.

Several ocean observation technologies and preliminary systems already exist, such as ocean buoys, stations in the sea floor and satellites, but the rise of digitalisation, new communication technologies and autonomous vehicles provide new opportunities for ocean data collection and management. In this context, initiatives from relevant stakeholders have come to light in the last decades, e.g. Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), EuroGOOS, European Marine

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Observation and Data Network (EMODnet), U.S. Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI), Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO), Ocean Networks Canada (ONC), Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System (SIOS), among others, although no specific regional or global order has so far been established. **But when global societal challenges that transcend national approaches are of paramount importance, particularly with regard to the ocean, are these processes sufficient or do we need new international networks to explore the potential of innovation in ocean observation and knowledge production?**

Other examples around the world have emerged and this signals the need that we face today to improve cooperation towards better and more integrated **marine data collection** and **marine knowledge networks**. A more strategic and integrated approach is necessary, making it clear that the global challenges for the ocean must be discussed in tandem with the corresponding innovation and knowledge production processes.

At the G7 Science Ministers' meeting in Tsukuba (Japan) in May 2016, Ministers supported further action to develop a far stronger knowledge base to assess ongoing ocean changes and their economic impact. One of the five action areas agreed by the G7 Science Ministers is to support the development of a global initiative for an enhanced, sustained sea and ocean observing system. Following that meeting, the recommendations from the G7 technical experts included to “Strengthen collaborative approaches to encourage the development of regional observing capabilities and knowledge networks”.

Observatories and Knowledge Networks therefore have a key role to play in the coming years, suggesting several issues for discussions: *How can these systems and data communicate with each other? What are the main issues to address? What is the interplay between these initiatives and scientific diplomacy? Are new international governance structures emerging as part of a new knowledge-based global order? How can these observatories and knowledge networks foster ocean-based innovation, changing the way we see blue growth? What role can they play to promote public awareness of marine ecosystem services and their societal value?* The discussion of these issues is timely, promising new avenues for our understanding of the ocean.

With the discussion on **the role of observatories and knowledge networks in promoting innovation for a sustainable ocean** in the background, this international conference will be an opportunity to **highlight the key results from the OECD Ocean Economy project** on “Fostering Innovation in the Ocean Economy: Promoting sustainable seas and oceans with innovation”. The event will bring together decision-makers from the public and private sectors, and representatives ministries, industry and international organisations. The key findings from the forthcoming OECD publication, *Rethinking Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean Economy*, will be presented during the event.

***International Conference on Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean:
Observatories and Knowledge Networks
Thursday, 14 February 2019***

Note: Speakers are currently being invited/confirmed.

9.30 – 10.30 WELCOME AND OPENING SESSION

This first one-hour session will highlight high-level political views on the importance of innovation for the ocean economy

- Ana Paula Vitorino, Minister of Sea, Portugal
- Dominique Guellec, Head, Science and Technology Policy Division, OECD
- Paulo Ferrão, President of the Foundation for Science and Technology

10.30 – 11.00 COFFEE BREAK

11.00 – 12.30 PART I. Rethinking Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean Economy

Presentation of the new OECD report Rethinking Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean Economy

OECD Secretariat, OECD STI Ocean Economy Group, OECD Science, Technology and Innovation Directorate

12.30 – 14.00 LUNCH

14.1 – 15.30 PART II. Observatories and Knowledge Networks

Moderator: Barrie Stevens, Senior Advisor, Ocean Economy Group, Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Directorate, OECD

- Tore Furevik, Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research, Norway
- Sóley Morthens, The Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, Iceland
- Miguel Miranda, Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere, Portugal
- Daniele Iudicone, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn and G7 Future of the Seas and Oceans Working Group, Italy
- António Sarmiento, Atlantic International Research Centre (AIR Centre), Portugal
- Josefina Loustau, Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN)
- Jan-Gunnar Winther, National Centre for the Ocean and the Arctic, Norway

15.30 – 16.00 COFFEE BREAK

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16.1 – 18.00 **PART III. New Policies to improve knowledge of the Ocean – Round table**

Moderator: Claire Jolly, Head, Ocean Economy Group, Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Directorate, OECD

- Jean-David Malo, DG R&I / João Aguiar Machado, DG Mare
- Ruben Eiras – General Director of the Directorate General for Maritime Policy, Portugal
- Christina Abildgaard, Research Council of Norway
- Carl Gouldman – US Integrated Ocean Observing System Office, NOAA, United States
- Jeong-In Chang, Korea Marine Institute (KMI)
- Gert Verreet, Department of Economy, Science and Innovation, Flemish Government, Belgium
- Cornilius Chikwama, Marine Scotland Science, Scottish Government, UK
- Vidar Helgesen, UN High-level Panel on Building a Sustainable Ocean Economy
- Erik Giercksky, UN Global Compact Sustainable Ocean Business Action Platform

18.1 – 18.15 **CLOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

- Manuel Heitor, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Portugal