



News Release

WOC ACCREDITED AS PARTNER TO GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS (GEO)

World Ocean Council Joins Leading Global Alliance for Coordinating Earth Observation Data Collection and Use

13 July 2016

The World Ocean Council has been approved as a Participating Partner to the Group On Earth Observations (GEO) – which includes 102 Member governments, the European Commission, and 103 Participating Organizations (international bodies with a commitment to advance Earth observations).

In addition to the WOC, this month GEO also accepted other new partner organizations, including: World Health Organization (WHO), Association of Geospatial Industries (AGI), Global Flood Partnership (GFP), African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education-English (ARCSSTEE), Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), and Integrated Carbon Observation System (ICOS).

GEO Secretariat Director, Dr. Barbara Ryan, stated, “GEO is committed in its support to the use of Earth observations to improve decision making for protection and management of our oceans. GEO is embarking on its second decade (through 2025), and we welcome the participation of WOC as a key partner for both addressing ocean challenges and engaging the private sector as we move forward.”

The WOC “Smart Ocean-Smart Industries” program is working to increase and improve the use of ocean industry vessels, platforms and facilities to collect ocean and climate data.

The [WOC Sustainable Ocean Summit \(SOS\) 2016 \(Rotterdam, 30 Nov-2 Dec\)](#) include a major focus on “Smart Ocean-Smart Industries: Industry Data Collection to Improve Ocean and Climate Knowledge”.

GEO is a partnership of governments and organizations that envisions “a future wherein decisions and actions for the benefit of humankind are informed by coordinated, comprehensive and sustained Earth observations”.

The GEO community is creating a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) that will link Earth observation resources world-wide across multiple Societal Benefit Areas, including - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Sustainability, Disaster Resilience, Energy and Mineral Resources Management, Food Security, Infrastructure & Transportation Management - and make those resources available for informed decision-making.

SOS 2016 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) 2016: 30 Nov-2 Dec, Rotterdam
“Ocean 2030: Sustainable Development Goals and the Ocean Business Community”

Ensure you have a place at this unique gathering of global ocean business leaders.
Go to www.sustainableoceansummit.org to Register for the SOS 2016, Submit an Abstract, and become an SOS 2016 Sponsor, Endorser or Media Partner.

Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

11-20 July

NEW YORK: **High Level Political Forum (HLPF) Sustainable Development Goals - Participant**

19 July

NEW YORK: **SDG Business Forum - Plenary Speaker**

11-22 July

KINGSTON: **International Seabed Authority Annual Conference: Accredited ISA Observer**

26-27 July

QINGDAO: **East Asia Marine Cooperation Platform: Keynote Speaker**

About the World Ocean Council (WOC)

The WOC is the only international, cross-sectoral alliance for private sector leadership and collaboration in “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”. Companies and associations worldwide are distinguishing themselves as leaders in ocean sustainability, stewardship and science by joining the WOC. Members to date include 80+ leadership organizations from a wide range of ocean industries: oil and gas, shipping, cruise tourism, seafood, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, marine mining, renewable energy, ocean technology, maritime law, marine environmental services and other areas. For the current list of WOC Members, [click here](#). The WOC News Release is received by 35,000+ ocean industry stakeholders around the world. The WOC is a registered not-for-profit organization in the US and the UK/Europe.

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