



News Release

## **CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE, WOC AND OCEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### **WOC CEO Provides Ocean Industry and Sustainability Input to High Level "Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation"**

16 May 2017

**Chinese President Xi Jinping opened the "Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation" (Beijing, 14-15 May) by describing the principles, progress and plans for what is being described as the world's largest global infrastructure and trade development initiative.**

**The Chinese President was followed by heads of state from Russia, Turkey, Pakistan, Greece, and many other countries, as well the heads of the U.N., World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization, and other major international organizations.**

The input from WOC CEO Paul Holthus, at the event's afternoon session on "Policy Coordination and Synergy of Development Strategies", highlighted the need and opportunity for ocean industry leadership on sustainable development in relation to the "Maritime Silk Road" component of the Belt and Road Initiative and ocean ecosystems.

The WOC was invited to become a member of the SiLKS Network and to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> SiLKS Summit (Beijing, 16 May), recognizing WOC's role as a unique global, multi-sector business leadership alliance on ocean sustainable development.

At the SiLKS Summit, WOC CEO Holthus proposed working with the SiLKS Network to develop a leadership group to bring together the ocean business community and other ocean partners in China and elsewhere. Such a working group would identify the priorities for understanding and addressing the risks and opportunities of the Belt and Road Initiative for ocean sustainable development.

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

**Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) 2017: 29 Nov-01 Dec, Halifax, Canada**

**SOS 2017 Theme: *"The Ocean Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14): Business Leadership and Business Opportunities"***

Mark your calendars for this unique gathering of the global ocean business community.

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## Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

18-19 May, POOLE

**European Maritime Days** (Invited Speaker and Workshop Participant)

30-31 May, BRUSSELS

**Belmont Forum Oceans Scoping Workshop** (Invited Participant)

30-31 May, OSLO

**Nor-Shipping** (Invited Speaker)

5-9 June, NEW YORK

**U.N. Ocean Conference** (Invited Speaker, Side Event Organizer and Co-Organizer)

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### About the World Ocean Council (WOC)

*The WOC is the only international, cross-sectoral alliance for private sector leadership and collaboration in sustainability, stewardship and science. Companies from a range of industries worldwide are distinguishing themselves as leaders in “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”, including: shipping, oil and gas, tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, renewable energy, ocean technology, investment. WOC Members are listed [here](#), a part of the WOC Network of 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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