



News Release

WOC CEO ADDRESSES 1ST HIGH LEVEL PACIFIC BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE

World Ocean Council Puts Forward Business and Investment Opportunities for Sustainable Development in the Pacific Region, and for Small Island States Globally

30 August 2017

The Prime Ministers of Fiji and Tuvalu, the Foreign Minister of the Solomon Islands, the former President of the Seychelles and the Pacific Ocean Commissioner opened the inaugural High Level Pacific Blue Economy Conference (Suva, Fiji, 23-24 August).

These leaders emphasized the importance of the ocean economy to the well-being of small island states and the need for sustainable economic development, driven by innovation and sustained by investment.

The summit-level opening was followed by a global experience panel, in which the World Ocean Council (WOC) CEO, Paul Holthus, addressed the need and opportunity for cross sectoral business leadership and collaboration to advance sustainable development in the Pacific, as well as in other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) worldwide.

In this session and the next day's panel on "Financing the Blue Economy", Holthus outlined the business development and investment opportunities of sustainable development in the Pacific region and for small island states overall, including:

- Creating Regional Ocean Business Leadership Groups.
- Improving Ocean Knowledge through data collection (including on ocean acidification) from commercial ships and platforms, as part of the WOC Smart Ocean - Smart Industries program.
- Addressing Climate Change and Reducing Disaster Risk through ocean industry leadership on port and coastal infrastructure adaptation and resilience.
- Decarbonizing Energy by advancing ocean renewable energy, i.e. offshore wind, wave, tidal energy.
- Reducing Marine Pollution by: 1) Developing Port City Reception Facilities for maritime debris and land based pollution, including plastics; 2) Addressing biofouling/invasive species through policies and practices.
- Implementing the WOC "Ocean Investment Platform" in small island regions to bring together investors, ocean industry operators and providers of solution products and services.

The WOC continues to develop these business initiatives and to engage international partners for collaboration in addressing these challenges and opportunities for SIDS. These SIDS sustainable development business opportunities will be in focus at the 5th WOC Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS), Halifax, 29 Nov-1 Dec, 2017.

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.

Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

12-13 September, LOS ANGELES

Green Shipping Summit, 2017 (Opening Plenary Speaker)

13 September, VIENNA

AQUACROSS Science Policy Business Think Tank (SPBTT) (Participant)

19 September, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

Ocean and Coastal Research Management Lecture Series, Center for the Blue Economy
(Speaker)

21-22 September, ORLANDO

EnergyWaterFood Nexus International Summit (Plenary Speaker)

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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