



## News Release

# SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND INSTITUTE (SWFI) AND WOC ADVANCE INVESTMENT IN OCEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## SWFI's Annual Institutional Investor Forum (Santa Monica, California, 20-22 February) To Focus on Ocean, Coast and Island Long Term Investment Opportunities

9 January 2018

The World Ocean Council is kicking off 2018 by partnering with the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI) to focus attention on ocean, coasts and islands at the annual SWFI Institutional Investor Forum (Santa Monica, California, 20-22 February).

The SWFI membership and their annual Investor Forum brings together senior representatives of sovereign wealth funds, pensions, superannuation funds, central bank reserves, endowments. SWFI covers an investor segment with an aggregate Assets Under Management of greater than US\$ 30 trillion.

Michael Maduel, SWFI co-founder said "Increasingly, sovereign funds and pensions are allocating capital toward the Blue Economy, but challenges, such as finding suitable opportunities, arise. In order to mitigate these challenges, organizations like the World Ocean Council bring together key stakeholders to discuss ocean thematic investments. SWFI is proud to partner with the WOC to bring the institutional investment community together with the ocean business community to engage on the opportunities for long term investment in a sustainable ocean economy."

The Institutional Investor Forum's special "Ocean Day" program on 22 February will consist of dialogue panels dedicated to: 1) Aquaculture, 2) Renewable Energy, and 3) Port/Coastal Infrastructure Resiliency and Adaption. Each panel will consist of CEOs from leadership companies on each of these sectors/issues, as well as investor representatives, with cross-cutting attention to islands.

A special additional 4<sup>th</sup> session will focus on Small Island/Caribbean investment opportunities - including the "Caribbean Climate Smart Zone", which was recently launched at the Climate Summit in Paris on 12 Dec 2017 - with high level representatives from investment, industry, government and inter-governmental bodies.

Jacques Demers, co-founder and Managing Partner of AGAWA Fund Management Inc. and Chair of the WOC Ocean Investment Platform Advisory Group, added, "This partnering initiative-between SWFI and WOC is very timely enabling key representatives and decision-

makers of institutional long-term investors, such as pension and sovereign funds and insurers to meet directly with ocean industry executives and public policy makers and identify and assess the potential to make investments in appropriate risk adjusted return opportunities (including energy, food, infrastructure, new technologies, resources, decreased carbon emission transportation, etc.) now that ocean related markets are starting to originate same on a steadily increasing scale to attract institutional capital.”

The SWFI *Institutional Investment Forum* focus on the ocean, coasts and islands in partnership with the World Ocean Council is an unprecedented opportunity to engage the world’s sovereign wealth and pension funds on the investment needs and opportunities of the ocean, coasts and islands.

Information on **the overall SWFI *Institutional Investment Forum*, including registration** can be found at: <https://www.iinvestorforum.com/>

Information on **registering for the “Ocean Day” only at the SWFI *Institutional Investment Forum*** will be circulated by the WOC in late February.

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## Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

10-11 January, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**2nd Fujairah International Conference for Coastal Areas and Marine Environment: “Planning for Ecotourism Success that Sustains Coastal Areas and Cities”** - Opening Plenary Speaker

19 January, BRUSSELS

**EC Marine Knowledge Experts Group: Initial Meeting** - Expert Group Member

6-7 February, BREMERHAVEN

**ARICE Project Kick-off and 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting** - Horizon 2020 Project Partner

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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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