



The International Business Alliance  
for Corporate Ocean Responsibility

## News Release

# MARITIME CLUSTERS AND OCEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: WOC ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**World Ocean Council White Paper Analyzes Maritime Clusters and Recommends Actions to Advance Ocean Sustainable Development/SDGs, Especially in Developing Countries and Small Island States**

7 March 2018

**The World Ocean Council (WOC) and Economic Transformations Group (ETG) are pleased to announce the release of a white paper on “OCEAN / MARITIME CLUSTERS: Leadership and Collaboration for Ocean Sustainable Development and Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals”. [\[click here to access the paper\]](#)**

The paper highlights the need and opportunity to develop Ocean/Maritime Clusters as a key part of achieving ocean sustainable development, implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advancing the “Blue Economy” and “Blue Growth”. By combining purpose in innovation, competitiveness, productivity, profit and environmental benefits, Ocean/Maritime Clusters can lead ocean sustainable development and realize economic benefits.

Research and analysis of eleven Ocean/Maritime Clusters by ETG indicates that the way forward is to focus on business growth and investment opportunities for responsible, sustainable ocean use which considers the intersection of ocean economic benefits, environmental health and societal value in policies and best practices.

Eric Hansen, ETG President stated that, “Ocean/Maritime Cluster best practices enhance the exchange of knowledge and provide a platform for expansion of clusters to advance ocean business community leadership and collaboration and in achieving ocean sustainable development.” He added that, “The case studies highlight Ocean/Maritime Cluster best practices which demonstrate success factors rooted in collaborative action, key partnerships with government support, and value-adding through innovation.”

Key recommendations for organizations working to advance the role of the business leadership and collaboration in ocean sustainable development:

- Enhance and expand the role of ocean/maritime clusters in implementing sustainable development
- Accelerate the networking of ocean/maritime clusters for collaborative learning and action in support of sustainable development

- Support the development of ocean/maritime clusters for developing countries and small island developing states

For more information about Economic Transformations, see [transformationsgroup.com](http://transformationsgroup.com)

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## SAVE THE DATE

**Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) 2018: 14-16 November, Hong Kong**

**“Ocean Sustainable Development – Connecting Asia and the World”**

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

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## Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

14-16 March, SINGAPORE

**Asia Pacific Maritime, Work Boat Conference** - Invited Plenary Speaker

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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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