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اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

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(Available in English, French, Spanish)

IOC/VH/HE/FS
18 March 2024

To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC (IOC Member States)

C.c. : Permanent Delegates / Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Chair and Vice Chairs of IOC and Major Subsidiary Bodies
(Scientific, Technical and Regional)

Subject: Ocean Literacy World Conference, Venice, 7–8 June 2024

On 7 and 8 June 2024, the IOC/UNESCO, under the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Municipality of Venice, will host the Ocean Literacy World Conference. The conference will be held in Venice, at the Arsenale. It is generously supported by the PRADA Group in the context of the SEA BEYOND Programme, co-managed by the PRADA Group and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO. This two-day event will bring together experts in ocean literacy and ocean education from across the public, private, academic, and civil society sectors. It will also include a programme open to the public to showcase and experiment ocean literacy activities.

The Conference marks a significant milestone as we come together to foster the preparatory process for the third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) co-hosted by France and Costa Rica in June 2025.

The Conference holds a particular significance as it will support the building blocks of the Venice Declaration with insights from Member States representatives. The conference is accompanied by the presentation of the Spanish and French versions of [A new blue curriculum: a toolkit for policy-makers](#), with the aim of encouraging the global dissemination and adoption of a Blue Curriculum across diverse regions as described in IOC Circular Letter, [2951](#) of July 2023.

Moreover, the Conference is one of the first initiatives of the Ocean Decade Coordination Office (DCO) for Connecting People and Ocean which was recently established at the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, to promote a more equitable, just, and harmonious relationship between humans and the ocean (Challenge 10 of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021–2030).

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Over the two days, the Conference will:

- (i) Discuss topics related to ocean literacy and strategic priority areas for Member States.
- (ii) Support the formulation and establishment of the *Venice Declaration*, a co-designed action plan that will support coordinated action in the pre-UNOC3 in Costa Rica and UNOC3 in France.
- (iii) Discuss best practices in ocean literacy in relation to Challenge 10 of the UN Ocean Decade.

I invite National Coordinating Bodies to disseminate the information about this event to their national experts in the domains of ocean literacy, policy and education, and to support the identification of suitable attendees. Financial assistance for this conference will not be granted by IOC/UNESCO.

Relevant information on the conference is available and will be updated on UNESCO Ocean Literacy Portal at <https://oceanliteracy.unesco.org>.

Registration to attend in person will be open until 8 April 2024. Kindly note that there are limited spots available. The registration link is available in English at <https://forms.office.com/e/y0FKhxwznF>.

If you have any questions about this event, please do not hesitate to ask for clarification or additional information by sending an email to oceanliteracy@unesco.org.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary

Reference: [IOC Circular Letter, 2951](#) (12 July 2023): Call to include Ocean Literacy in school curricula by 2025 as a part of the Education for Sustainable Development