

بسمه تعالی



# Regional Capacity Development

## Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia (RCOWA) Under the auspices of UNESCO

*IOCINDIO event on “Strengthening Ocean Science and Regional Cooperation in the Central Indian Ocean,”-December 2025*

# RCOWA Establishment

Established in IR.of Iran

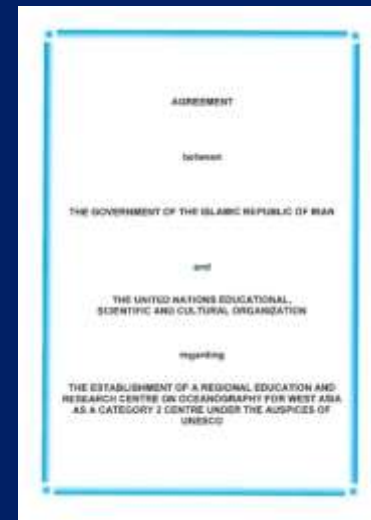
Hosted by



Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric  
Science (INIOAS)

## First UNESCO Category II Center in Oceanography

- Proposed in 2010
- Approved by UNESCO in 2015
- Start its activities in 2016
- Evaluation by UNESCO in 2021
- The renewal was approved on 215th UNESCO Executive council in 2022
- The Agreement for renewal signed in 2025



# Functions of RCOWA

## Capacity Development

- Mutual assistance for capacity development in ocean sciences, technology, Research and Development (R&D) with reinforced ownership and leadership of Members States of the region
- Co-design, develop and implement projects, conferences, symposia, educational/training courses, scientific mobility/exchange visits and consultations.

## Ocean literacy

- Ocean literacy, public education and awareness in general and towards primary and secondary schools, in particular are an integral part of capacity development.

## Regional and international cooperation

- Regional and international cooperation: Engage national, regional and international academic and research institutions and communities in particular, UNESCO Category 2 Centres and Chairs and, other relevant stakeholders

Support Global development agendas, UNESCO Programme and Budget (C/5) including global strategies and action plans as well as sectoral programme priorities

- Mobilize national, regional and international knowledge networks aimed at contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular goals #4, #13, #14 and #17, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and other relevant regional development and cooperative frameworks, notably the **IOCINDIO**; with the view to promote knowledge and evidence-based mechanisms and policies that supports sustainable development of coastal and marine environment.

# Governing Board





## Iranian National Institute for Oceanography & Atmospheric Science (INIOAS)

- The main national marine and oceanography research institute in Iran
  - Main Campus located in Tehran
  - Established in 1992 according to an agreement between the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology and UNESCO
- 
- 142 Staff (including scientific and technical)
  - 35 Faculty members (assistant, associate, and full professors)
  - 28 PhD graduated students + 7 PhD & MSc Students





# Research Stations of INIOAS



# Departments of INIOAS



## Ocean Science Dept.

- Marine Bioscience Research Group
- Marine Geology & Physics Research Group
- Ocean Policy Research Group

## Ocean Engineering & Technology Dept.

- Coastal Oceanography Research Group
- Ocean Technology Research Group
- Ocean Data Management & Remote Sensing Research Group

## Atmospheric Sciences Dept.

- Air-Sea Phenomena Research Group
- Climatology Research Group
- Atmospheric Prediction Research Group

# Dependent Centers



Iranian National Center for Ocean Data (INCOD)



Iranian National Center for Ocean Hazards (INCOH)



National Center for Antarctic Research (NCAR)



UNESCO Category 2 Regional & Education Research Center on Oceanography for West Asia

# Research Vessel Persian Gulf Explorer





# RCOWA Activities

- ❑ Holding International conferences on oceanography
- ❑ Holding Regional and international workshops and training courses
- ❑ Partnering with organizations to improve capacity building in the West Asian region
- ❑ Participation with organizations and universities of the world in holding international meetings in line with the goals of the regional center
- ❑ Holding meetings of the Governing Board
- ❑ Ocean Literacy Activities

## RCOWA Activities

### Capacity Building in the West Asia Region



2017

### ✓ 2 International Conferences on Oceanography



2020

In collaboration with  
IOCINDIO

## RCOWA Activities



### Capacity Building in the West Asia Region

- ✓ 39 Workshops/Training Courses in different fields of Ocean Science and Technology

3500 participants

(marine experts, researchers, and university students)



In collaboration with IOC/INDO

In collaboration with IOC/INDO



IOC Regional Committee for  
the Central Indian Ocean  
(IOCINDIO)



**giz**

German Technical Cooperation  
for the Indian Ocean Rim  
Cooperation (GIZ)



United Nations University  
for the Oceans (UNU-IO)

# **The First Webinar on Effects of Climate Change on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment (Online)**

**May 10, 2021 at 11:00-16:00 Tehran time (GMT +4:30)**  
**<https://www.iora-rcstt.org/node/129>**

**In collaboration with  
IOCINDIO**

**89 Participants from IORA and West Asia  
Member States**





# RCOWA Activities



## Ocean Literacy Activities

**Training courses for school teachers:** Development the concept of sea-based development and economy, marine science, ocean literacy, and marine and coastal environmental protection (National)

In Tehran: 106 Participants  
In Mazandaran: 406 Participants  
In Guilan: 106 Participants  
In Golestan: 162 Participants  
In Hormozgan: 85 Participants



Awarded 22<sup>nd</sup> Iranian National Award for Science Promotion

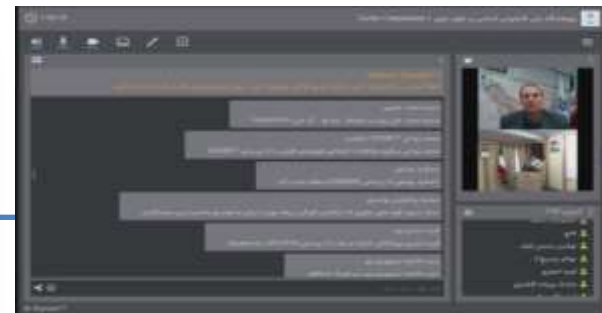
Workshop for School Teachers on "Knowledge of Oceanography", Hormozgan province, 8 June 2022



Workshop for School Teachers on "Knowledge of Oceanography", Bushehr, 8 June 2022



Workshop for School Teachers on "Knowledge of Oceanography", Tehran, 2021



# RCOWA Activities

## Ocean Literacy Activities



RCOWA Celebrates **World Oceans Day** every year on 8<sup>th</sup> June



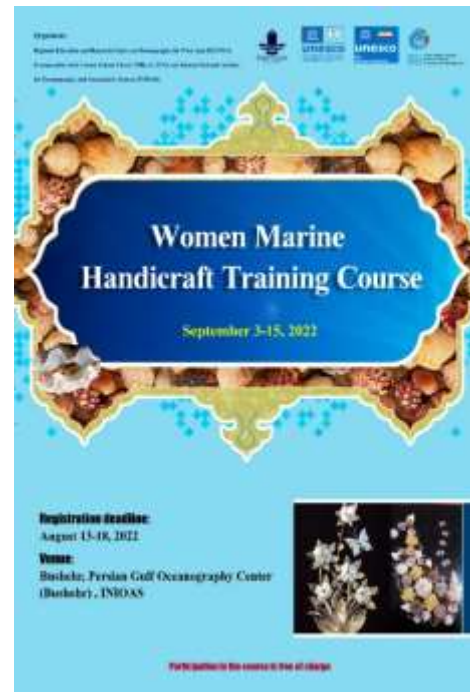
With the  
support of  
**UNESCO**  
**Tehran**  
**Office**





# RCOWA Activities

## Ocean Literacy Activities



craft  
15th



# RCOWA Activities

## Ocean Literacy Activities



With the support of  
**UNESCO Tehran Office**

**Project On**  
**Promoting the Concept of**  
**Social Responsibility toward**  
**Marine Environment through**  
**Children Education**

# RCOWA Activities

Ocean Literacy  
Activities

## Training Course on Social Responsibility toward Marine Environment For Primary School Students - 2023



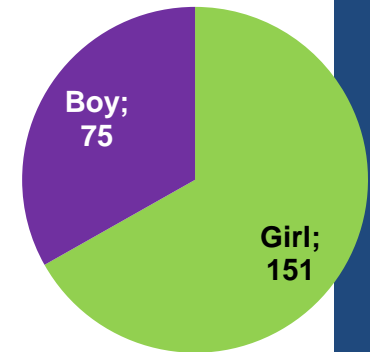
In 4  
Coastal  
Cities of  
Iran



# RCOWA Activities

Ocean Literacy  
Activities

## Training Course on Social Responsibility toward Marine Environment For Primary School Students - 2023





# RCOWA Activities

## Free Educational Mobile App



OCEAN JOURNEY

**On Marine Environment and  
Ocean Sciences**  
Android and IOS

**Project on  
Promoting the Marine Environmental  
Knowledge and Ocean Sciences  
through Digital Tools-Designing An  
Educational Application**

**In 3 Languages:  
Persian- English- Arabic**

**With the support of UNESCO  
Tehran Office**





# Community-Based Capacity Building Workshops for Sustainable Development on Hormuz Island 2025

With the support of

- INIOAS
- UNESCO Tehran Office
- Hormozgan Governate



**Hormuz Island**, located in the **Persian Gulf**. The island is home to diverse marine life, unique geological features, and coral reefs, which contribute to the region's biodiversity. As the Persian Gulf faces environmental threats like pollution and overfishing, protecting Hormuz Island is crucial for conserving the area's ecosystems and supporting sustainable development.

The significant increase in tourist arrivals to Hormuz Island in recent years, has potentially driven improvements in the local economy and enhanced the living standards of residents. However, it has also become one of the main causes of environmental and social challenges in the absence of appropriate strategic and educational frameworks. Unplanned tourism growth, without a foundation based on sustainability principles, has led to the gradual degradation of the island's sensitive natural resources, increased pressure on local ecosystem capacities, transformation of the traditional lifestyle of residents, and damage to the region's intangible cultural heritage.



# Opening



## Workshop Objectives:

- Identifying key environmental, social, economic, and governance challenges.
- Strengthening local community participation and integrating indigenous knowledge into planning.
- Creating a platform for constructive dialogue among stakeholders.
- Preparing the groundwork for the “Specialized Solutions Workshop (Workshop II)”.

## • Presented Thems:

- Sustainable Tourism
- Geotourism
- Creative Economy
- Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Marine Ecology
- UNESCO SIDS Action Plan









# RCOWA & INIOAS Participation in Tsunami Preparedness (IOWave Exercises)

- Participation in Indian Ocean-wide tsunami exercises (**IOWave16**, **IOWave18**, **IOWave23**, **IOWave25**) in Sistan o Baluchestan, and Hormozgan Provinces on the Persian Gulf coasts
- Collaboration with INIOAS, IOC-UNESCO, and national disaster management authorities

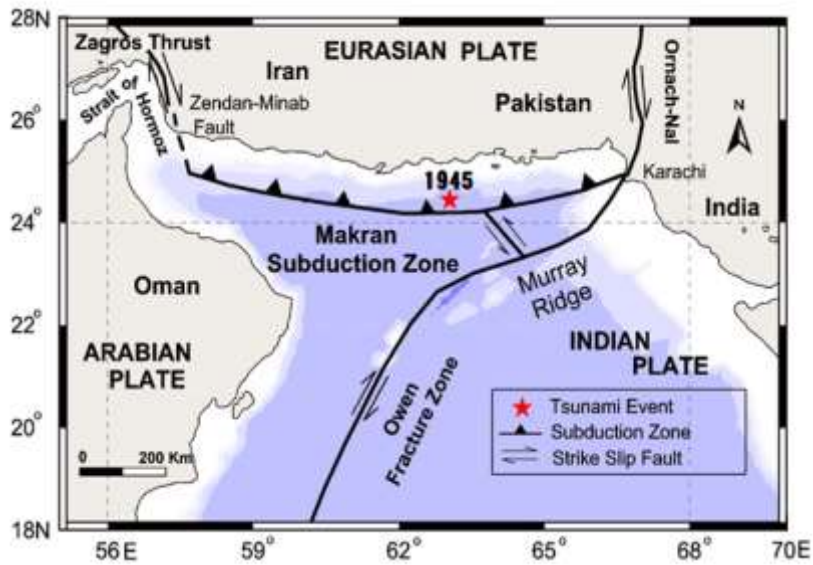
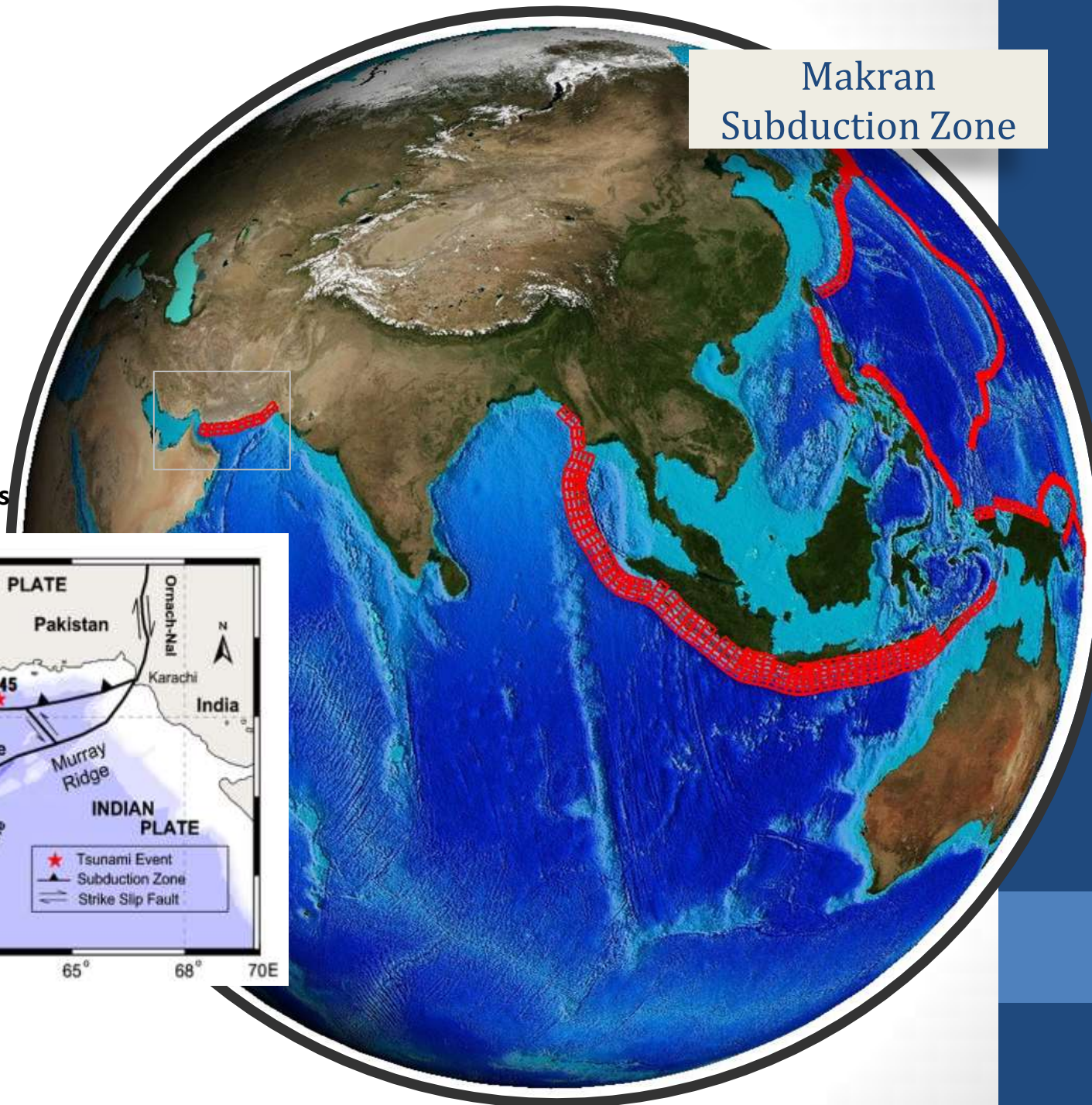




## Indian Ocean Wave-IOWave Exercise

These drills provided valuable lessons that will guide future preparedness initiatives and support the safety of coastal populations

### Makran Subduction Zone



# Community Awareness & Education Programs on Tsunami

- Tsunami awareness sessions for local communities in Hormozgan and Sistan-o-Baluchestan ( Makran coastal areas)
- Training for school students in Chabahar (50 students during IOWave25)
- Public education on tsunami causes, warning signs, evacuation routes
- Distribution of educational materials and community engagement activities



*Training Students on what is Tsunami, Chabahar, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, IR. of Iran. 2025*



*Training local people on Tsunami and its effects, Bahl county, Hormozgan Province, IR. of Iran, 2025*









## مانور سونامی 2018 اقیانوس هند (IOWave 18)

برگزاری جلسه ارزیابی مانور



**Thank you For  
your Attention**

