

بسمه تعالیٰ



unesco
Centre
Under the auspices
of UNESCO



Regional Education
and Research Center
on Oceanography for
West Asia (RCOWA)
مرکز منطقه‌ای آموزش و تحقیق
اقیانوس‌شناسی غرب آسیا



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

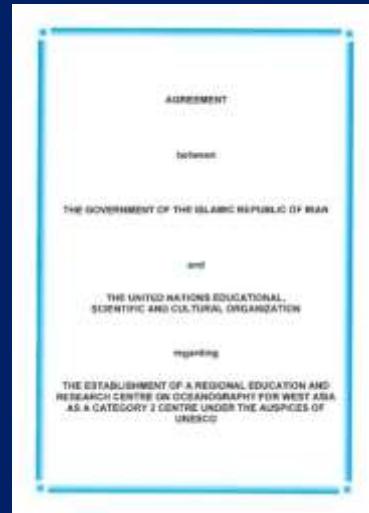
Hosted by



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



2020

✓ 2 International Conferences on Oceanography

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)





IOC Regional Committee for
the Central Indian Ocean
(IOCINDIO)



**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**

Third Workshop on

Effects of Climate Change on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment

20-22 February 2023 - Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Organizers

IRANIAN REGIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (RCSTT)
WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE (WRDCC)
THE IRANIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE (INIOAS)
REGIONAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE ON OCEANOGRAPHY FOR WEST ASIA (RCOW)
the auspices of UNESCO

<https://ecoe2023.conf.irost.ir/cb>

In collaboration with IOCINDIO.

Organizers:

- IORA Regional Centre for Science & Technology Transfer (RCSTT)-
- The Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (INIOAS)
- Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia (RCOW) the auspices of UNESCO

In Cooperation with:

- Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST)
- The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)
- IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)
- International Training Centre on Operational Oceanography (ITCOcean)- Hyderabad



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)

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

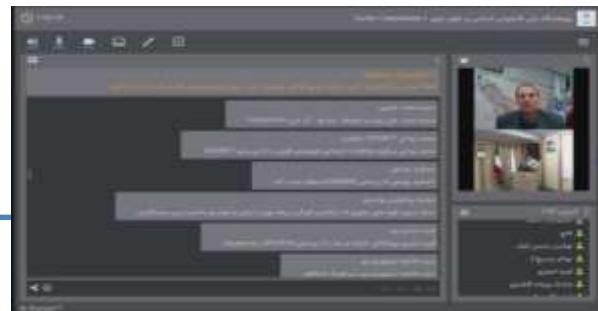


In Tehran: 106 Participants
In Mazandaran: 406 Participants
In Guilan: 106 Participants
In Golestan: 162 Participants
In Hormozgan: 85 Participants



Awarded 22nd Iranian National Award for Science Promotion

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



RCOWA Activities

Ocean Literacy Activities



RCOWA Celebrates **World Oceans Day** every year on 8th June



With the support of
UNESCO
Tehran Office

RCOWA Activities

Ocean Literacy Activities



Organized by: Regional Consultative Group on Sustainable Development, UNESCO, in collaboration with IRIAS, INOAS, and the Persian Gulf Oceanography Center (Boushehr), INOAS.

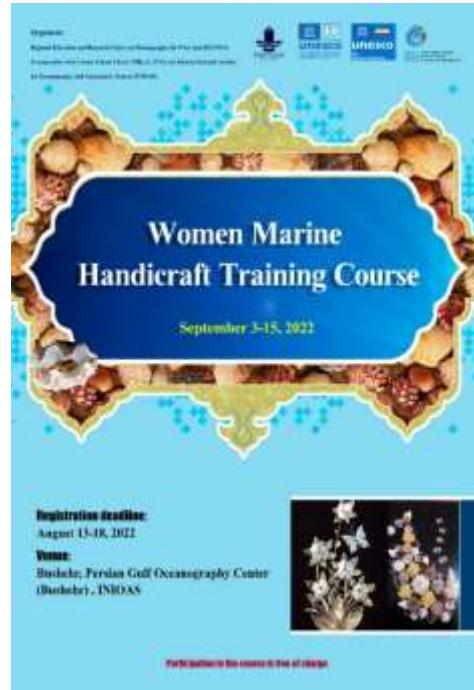
Women Marine Handicraft Training Course

September 3-15, 2022

Registration deadline: August 15-16, 2022

Venue: Boushehr, Persian Gulf Oceanography Center (Boushehr), INOAS

The Persian Gulf Oceanography Center (Boushehr), INOAS



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

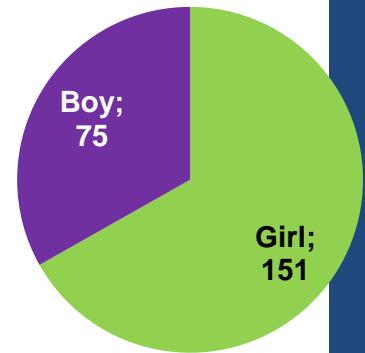


In 4
Coastal
Cities of
Iran

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

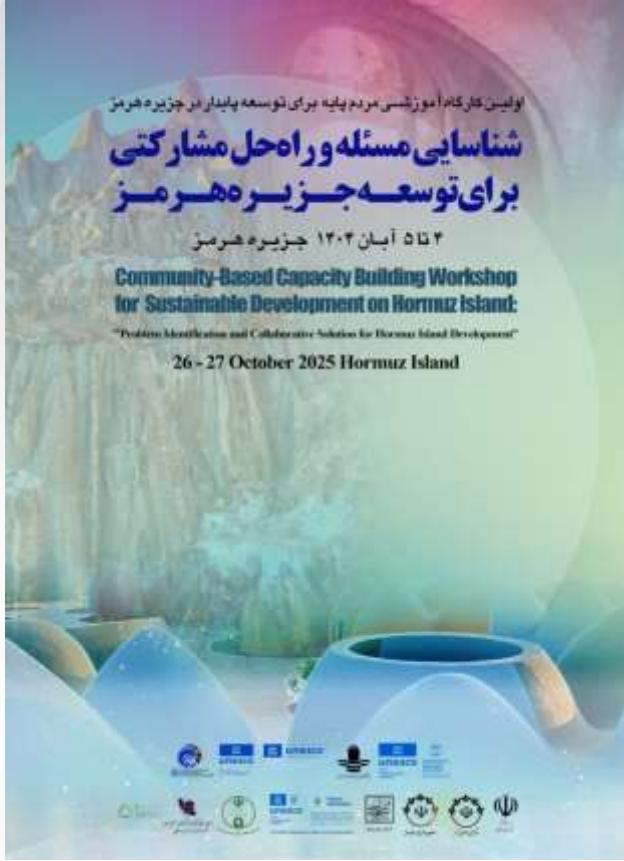
On Marine Environment and
Ocean Sciences
Android and IOS

In 3 Languages:
Persian- English- Arabic

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

With the support of UNESCO
Tehran Office





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.

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

With the support of

- INIOAS
- UNESCO Tehran Office
- Hormozgan Governorate



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 Themes:

- 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



IOWave 23

IOWave 25

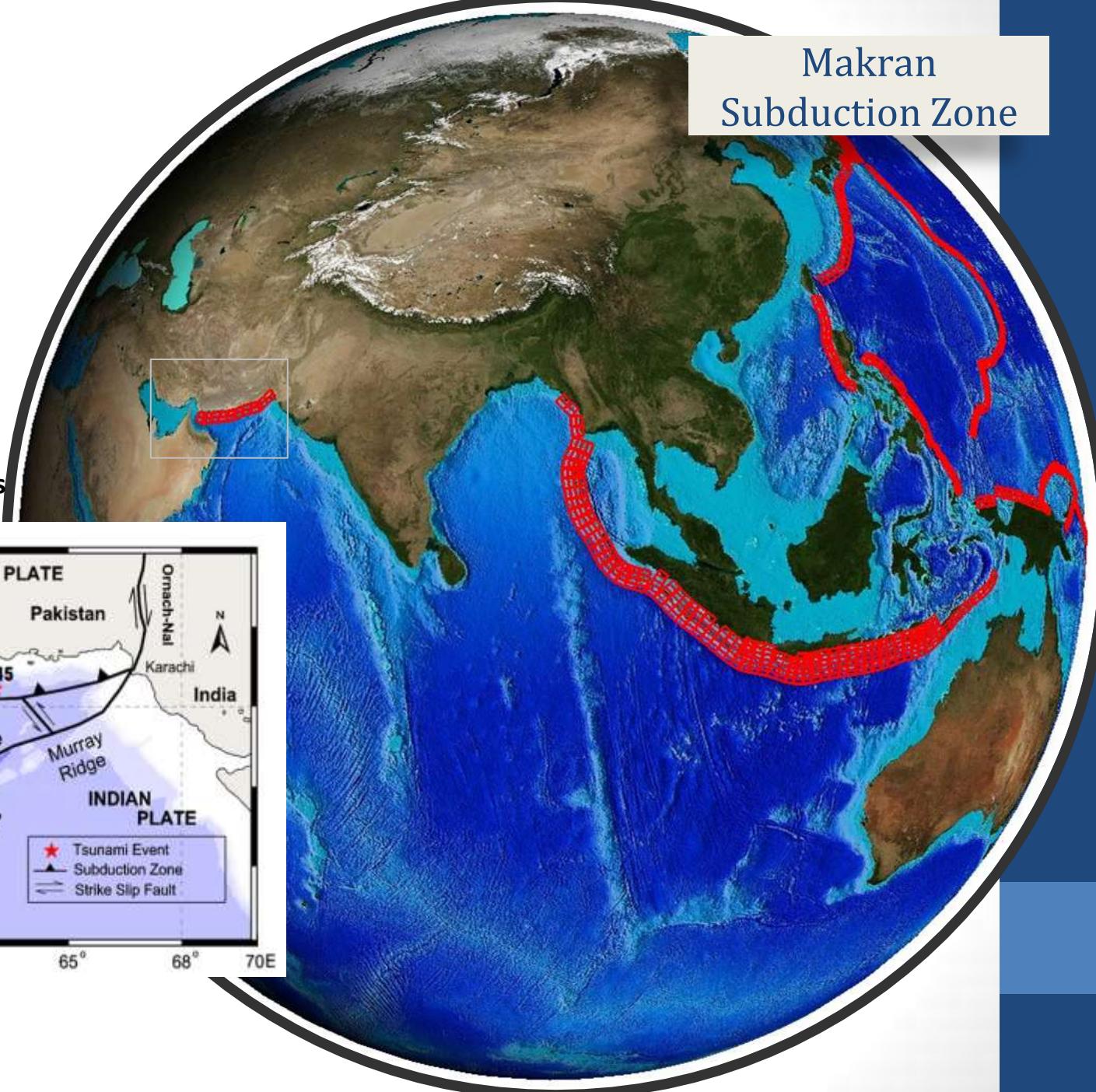
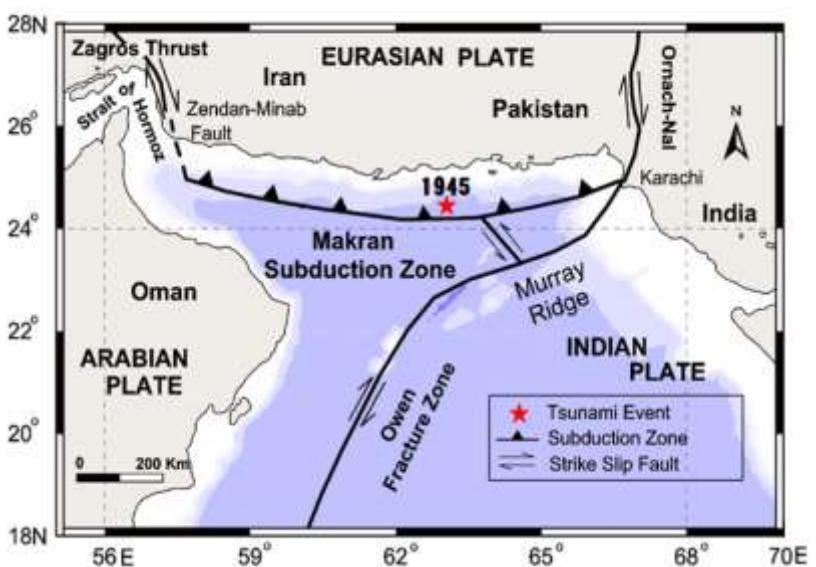




Indian Ocean Wave-IOWave Exercise

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



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





ماهور سونامی 2023 اقیانوس هند (IOWave 23)



برگزاری جلسه ارزیابی مانور





A decorative illustration of an underwater environment. In the top left, a large blue stingray swims towards the left. In the middle left, there are three blue fish swimming upwards. At the bottom left, there is a cluster of red and blue coral. The bottom of the image features stylized waves in shades of blue, green, red, and purple.

**Thank you For
your Attention**