



Post Event Report for the IOCINDIO Side Event on Strengthening Ocean Science and Regional Cooperation in the Central Indian Ocean at IIOSC-2025

Date: Wednesday, 3 December 2025

Time: 14:00–16:00 hrs (IST)

Venue: INCOIS, Hyderabad, India

Format: Hybrid

1. Executive Summary

The IOCINDIO Side Event convened Member States and technical partners to advance coordinated action in ocean science, capacity development, and policy alignment across the Central Indian Ocean. The meeting reaffirmed IOCINDIO's strengthened mandate and strong interest among Member States in coordinated expeditions and data integration. The Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) expressed willingness for close cooperation, and IOCINDIO side event recommended formalizing this through an MoU. Capacity-building priorities were emphasized, with multiple regional centres and technical platforms including INCOIS, IOTWMS, RCOWA, and national oceanographic institutes offering support for training and knowledge exchange. Delegates agreed to ensure IOCINDIO representation in the IOC Working Group on BBNJ and to map regional observing activities. IOCINDIO Officers highlighted the need to establish an IOCINDIO Secretariat and to convene Officers within one month to progress priorities ahead of IOCINDIO-2 (Indonesia, 2026).

2. Introduction

The IOCINDIO side event was convened to review progress across scientific programmes, data systems, capacity development, ocean literacy, governance, and regional collaboration. The session underscored IOCINDIO's expanded mandate as a formal Sub-Commission, its role in advancing ocean science and policy support, and its emerging leadership in shaping collaborative frameworks for the Central Indian Ocean.

“As a side event, the session did not carry formal decision-making authority of the Sub-Commission but provided a platform for Member States and partners to recommend priorities and cooperative actions.”

3. Main Outcomes of the Session

Ocean Science, IIOE-2 and Data Systems

The IOCINDIO side event,

- **Recognized** regional ocean science as the backbone of understanding monsoon variability, ecological dynamics, and biogeochemical functioning.
- **Noted** importance of UNESCO Category 2 Centres (RCOWA and ITCOOcean), IODE, ROPME, and Decade Collaborative Centres in strengthening partnerships.
- **Highlighted** the evolution of the IIOE-2 strategy from 2015-2020 to extensions through 2025 and now 2030.
- **Proposed** a multi-country observational campaign leveraging Member State vessels and systems. Several Member States expressed readiness to contribute vessel support and platforms (for example, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait), and participants emphasised the need to coordinate methodology, timing and data sharing arrangements.
- **Recommended** collaboration with ROPME, stronger regional focus, and formation of a small executive committee to guide priorities.
- **Welcomed** proposals including an IOCINDIO-RAMA-ROPME collaboration framework and institutional leadership model.
- **Took note of** regional data systems available to Member States, with INCOIS offering extensive platforms and services.
- **Welcomed** proposals for collaborative cruises, harmonized data management, and capacity development.

Capacity Development & Ocean Literacy

The IOCINDIO side event,

- **Recognized** capacity development as a central pillar of IOCINDIO's mandate.
- **Aimed** to reduce disparities in expertise, foster collaboration, and align priorities with the UN Ocean Decade.
- **Noted** interest in tsunami modelling, inundation mapping, and SOP development, with INCOIS, RCOWA and IOTWMS offering support.
- **Highlighted** ocean literacy as a strategic pillar, aligned with UN Ocean Decade.
- **Recommended** priorities: operationalizing the Working Groups, fostering cross-country exchanges, and integrating hazard preparedness.
- **Positioned** ocean literacy as a strategic pillar of IOCINDIO, aligned with UN Ocean Decade.
- **Established** a Working Group on Ocean Literacy to coordinate efforts, share best practices, and develop toolkits.

- **Highlighted** Member State initiatives:
 - UNESCO-supported workshops, teacher training, trilingual mobile app, and tsunami awareness programmes.
 - Tsunami Ready recognition for provinces, villages, and critical infrastructure, plus multi-agency training.
 - Blue School initiatives and professional training for Port Authority staff in oceanographic monitoring.
- **Outlined** four priorities: operationalize the Working Group, develop a regional curriculum, promote cross-country exchanges, and integrate hazard preparedness into community resilience literacy.

Ocean Governance

The IOCINDIO side event,

- **Recognized** the importance of the BBNJ treaty, underscoring the need for stronger ocean knowledge, authoritative data, and regional coordination.
- **Highlighted** IOCINDIO's institutional evolution, noting formal recognition as a Sub-Commission.
- **Reaffirmed** its expanded mandate: ocean science coordination, observation networks, capacity development, knowledge transfer, policy support for SDG-14 and the blue economy, disaster risk reduction, and promotion of data standards.
- **Recommended** to pursue structured cooperation with ROPME and develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Panel Discussion

The IOCINDIO side event,

- **Emphasized** collaboration on joint research cruises, expansion of forecasting services, and enhanced data sharing.
- **Identified** four thematic priorities: tsunami risk reduction, marginal seas, deep-sea research, and monsoon studies.
- **Emphasized** the need for greater participation of all IOCINDIO Member States in joint activities.
- **Agreed** that Member States should be invited to indicate interest and offer vessel support for planned cruises.

- **Noted** France's announcement of significant funding for deep-sea research, with opportunities for collaboration in the Indian Ocean region.
- **Proposed** to coordinate with ROPME and pursue a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize cooperation.
- **Supported** the proposal to establish a Task Force to identify top priorities, coordinate joint cruises, and strengthen capacity building.
- **Endorsed** the suggestion to convene an IOCINDIO side event at the upcoming IGOOS meeting (March 2026, Korea) to advance planning and visibility.
- **Acknowledged** the role of the Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP) network and ESCN in capacity development.
- **Stressed** the importance of IOCINDIO representation in the IOC Working Group on BBNJ.

Way Forward

The IOCINDIO side event, proposed to:

- **Establish** the IOCINDIO Secretariat and convene Officers within one month to progress agreed priorities.
- **Finalize** the Tsunami Ready Inundation Mapping Training program with IOTWMS and INCOIS, ensuring capacity-building and preparedness across member states.
- **Formalize** Indian Ocean Circum-Ocean Expedition through consultations with all member states.
- **Initiate** the discussion with all member states and partners on designing and launching an operational multi-sensor ocean satellite constellations for early warning, ocean forecasting and blue economy initiatives, with a framework for revenue and data sharing.
- **Formalize** cooperation with ROPME through the development and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- **Operationalize** thematic Working Groups, as agreed by Member States, with balanced focus on coastal resilience, tsunami preparedness, ocean literacy, capacity development, and regional ocean science priorities.
- **Launch** planning for joint regional cruises, inviting Member States to indicate interest and vessel availability.
- **Strengthen** capacity development initiatives, including tsunami modelling, inundation mapping, and training workshops, with INCOIS and IOTWMS support.

- **Explore** opportunities for mobilizing resources to support IOCINDIO priorities, including through coordinated engagement with IOC, regional partners, and Member States.
- **Engage** Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP) and ESCN networks as partners in IOCINDIO activities and Working Groups.
- **Ensure** IOCINDIO representation in the IOC Working Group on BBNJ and align regional priorities with global ocean governance processes.
- **Prepare** for IOCINDIO-2 (Indonesia, 2026) by advancing collaborative initiatives.
- **Coordinate** with partners to align activities with the UN Ocean Decade, BBNJ, and other global frameworks.

ANNEX:

I. Agenda

IOCINDIO Side Event on Strengthening Ocean Science and Regional Cooperation in the Central Indian Ocean at IIOSC-2025

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Time: 14:00–16:00 hrs (IST)

Venue: INCOIS, Hyderabad, India

Format: Hybrid ([online](#) and in person)

S.No.	December 3, 2025, Wednesday	TIME (IST)	MINS
1	Opening Remarks	1400-1410	
1.1	Welcome and Framing by IOCINDIO Chair: Overview of IOCINDIO's Evolution and Strategic role		4
1.2	Brief remarks from Vice-Chairs of IOCINDIO		6
2	Scientific Achievements, Data Infrastructure and Future Forecasting Needs	1410–1430	
2.1	Regional Ocean Science		5
2.2	IIOE-2 Implementation		10
2.3	Forecasting/Data Systems		5
3	Regional Training Efforts and Ocean Literacy	1430–1450	
3.1	Regional Capacity Development		10
3.2	Ocean Literacy and Blue Curriculum initiatives		10
4	Policy Frameworks, Partnerships, and Alignment with the Ocean Decade	1450–1510	
4.1	Governance and Regional Cooperation		10
4.2	IOCINDIO's Role in Global Processes		10
5	Multi Stakeholder Panel Dialogue: Collaboration, Challenges, and Opportunities	1510–1540	30
6	Wrap-up & Way Forward: Summary of key takeaways, Proposed joint initiatives, Highlighting next steps toward IOCINDIO-2 (Indonesia, 2026) and Linkages with IOC Assembly processes.	1540–1600	20

II. Participant list

S.No.	Name	Country	Affiliation
1	Dr. Saif AlGhais	UAE	Chair of IOCINDIO
2	Dr. Balakrishnan Nair	India	Vice Chair of IOCINDIO
3	Dr. Maryam Ghaemi	Iran	Vice Chair of IOCINDIO
4	Mr. Julian Barbiere	IOC	IOC Secretariat
5	Dr. Aneesh Lotliker	India	INCOIS
6	Dr. Udaya Bhaskar	India	INCOIS
7	Dr. Ali Mehdinia	Iran	INIOAS
8	Dr. Turki Al-Said	Kuwait	KISR
9	Dr. Nelly Florida Riama	Indonesia	BMKG
10	Dr. Suci Dewi Anugrah	Indonesia	BMKG
11	Commodore Sheikh Mahmudul Hassan	Bangladesh	MoFA
12	Dr. Nadir Al-Abri	Oman	
13	Dr. Mariealexandrine SICRE	France	CNRS
14	Dr. Fehmi Dilmahamod	Mauritius	ESCN
15	Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala	IOTWMS	UNESCO-IOC
16	Dr. Eric Chassignet	USA	Florida state Univeristy
17	Dr. Nagaraja Kumar	IOGOOS	IOGOOS & INCOIS
18	Dr. Justin Ahanhanzo	Benin	GOOS AFRICA
19	Dr. Nick D'Adamo	Australia	University of Western Australia
20	Dr. Khurshed Alam	Bangladesh	Former Chair of IOCINDIO Former Tech Secretary IOCINDIO
21	Dr. Nimit Kumar	India	
22	Dr. Wahid Mohamed Moufaddal	Kuwait	ROPME
23	Dr. Marwan Al Dimashki	Kuwait	ROPME
24	Dr. Kiran Kumar	India	INCOIS
25	Mr. Sunil Khurana	India	UNESCO-IOC