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外務省 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

unesco Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

2021 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development



世界島嶼国海洋会議
ISLAND STATES OCEAN SUMMIT

SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ACTION FOR RESILIENT ISLANDS

PROGRAM

TOKYO, JAPAN

3-4 JUNE 2026

後援 (Supported by)
内閣府総合海洋政策推進事務局：National Ocean Policy Secretariat, Cabinet Office
文部科学省：Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
国土交通省：Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
環境省：Ministry of the Environment
水産庁：Fisheries Agency

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PROGRAM

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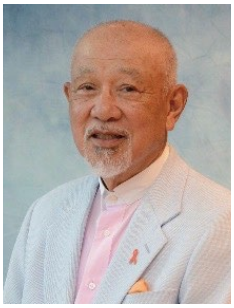
Welcome Message



It is my great honor to welcome you all to Tokyo for this landmark gathering. Since 1962, The Nippon Foundation has been striving to pass on healthy sustainable oceans to future generations. We have been pursuing this endeavor through various initiatives, but the most longstanding has been the nurturing of ocean experts around the globe. Our long-term commitment has cultivated a global network of over 2,000 experts from 158 nations, dedicated to securing the health of our ocean for the next 1,000 years.

The Nippon Foundation is also actively driving the advancement of ocean science and discovery through several initiatives officially recognized as UN Ocean Decade Actions. We are spearheading the effort to map the entire ocean floor by 2030 through the NF-GEBCO Seabed 2030, accelerating the discovery of marine life with the NF-Nekton Ocean Census Project, and leading the Dark Oxygen Research Initiative (DORI) to uncover the vital ecological functions of deep-sea ecosystems.

Our goal for this conference is to move from dialogue to implementation. The summit will encourage island states to develop their national frameworks (Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management or SOPM) that balance ocean conservation with sustainable use. By grounding these plans in objective science, we aim to turn the ambitions of SDG 14 into measurable, lasting action.

As a long-standing partner to island communities, we are honored to provide this platform together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and IOC/UNESCO. Those on the front lines of climate change are the true leaders of ocean stewardship, and we stand together in ensuring that the voices of island states guide the global agenda toward a resilient blue planet.

Yohei Sasakawa
Honorary Chair, The Nippon Foundation

Welcome Message



I am delighted to co-host the "Island States Ocean Summit(ISOS)," organized by the Nippon Foundation in partnership with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO), and to welcome leaders and ministers to Tokyo from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other maritime states, as well as experts in the marine sector and representatives from international organizations and the private sector.

At this Summit, we will discuss common challenges faced by the world's island states as we work toward building a sustainable ocean. Maritime states, especially island states including Japan, rely heavily on the marine environment in many aspects such as daily lives, food security, development and culture, and we are directly affected by impacts of climate change, such as sea-level rise and extreme weather events. While positioning"sustainable use and development of the ocean" and "comprehensive maritime security "as two pillars of its maritime policy, Japan has long been strongly committed to international cooperation in the maritime sector.

Furthermore, ensuring a maritime order based on the rule of law is essential for peace and prosperity of the international community. In the context of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, or FOIP, as a pillar of Japan's diplomacy, maritime rule of law is one of major issues. From this perspective, Japan has proposed a session on sea-level rise and international law for this Summit.

I hope that through granted, open-minded discussions, we will advance the sharing of knowledge and experience around these common challenges, strengthen partnerships, and explore international cooperation for acceleration of Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (SOPM), leading to concrete actions that effectively address pressing challenges. Taking a success of this Summit as an opportunity, I would like to lead international efforts toward building a sustainable ocean.

Toshimitsu Motegi
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan



Island nations, from atolls to larger island economies, rely on coastal and marine ecosystems for livelihoods, food security, development, and protection from increasing ocean risks. However, accelerating pressures underscore the urgent need to transform how we plan, use, and manage marine spaces to balance protection, production, and long-term prosperity. In this context, building resilient and sustainable ocean economies represents a strategic opportunity, with sustainable ocean planning and management (SOPM) serving as a critical tool to drive integrated and evidence-based decision-making.

To contribute to this transition, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO plays a central role in advancing ocean science and international cooperation required for effective and sustainable ocean governance. By strengthening global ocean observing systems, closing critical knowledge gaps, and supporting capacity development, particularly in Small Island Developing States, the IOC enables science-based decision-making, marine spatial planning, and integrated ocean management approaches.

It is with this shared vision that we welcome you to the Island States Ocean Summit — a unique platform to advance interregional cooperation on SOPM and define priority actions to drive implementation. The Summit outcomes will directly contribute to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and the broader global ocean agenda. We are honored to partner with the Nippon Foundation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in advancing this important endeavour, and we look forward to your leadership and engagement.

Vidar Helgesen,
Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO

Schedule

June 2 (Tue)

HŌ 19:00-21:00 Welcome Reception

June 3 (Wed)

Tsuru Foyer 8:30-9:20 Registration and Welcome Coffee

*9:20 Doors to Tsuru West closed for Opening Ceremony

Tsuru West 10:00-10:30 Opening Ceremony

Tsuru East 10:30-10:45 High-level Group Photo

10:45-11:00 High-level Remarks

Tsuru West 11:00-12:30 High Level Statements & Commitments from Delegations

Tsuru East 12:30-14:00 Lunch

Tsuru West 14:00-14:30 Continuation:High-Level Statements & Commitments from Delegations

14:30-15:40 Plenary Session – Climate Resilience in SOPM

Tsuru Foyer Coffee Break

Tsuru West 15:55-17:05 Plenary Session – Knowledge and Skills for Action in SOPM

17:05-18:15 Plenary Session – Financing and Investment for SOPM

18:15-18:30 Wrap-Up and Closing of Day 1

Tsuru East 19:00-21:00 Dinner

10:00-10:30 **Opening Ceremony Program**

Opening Remarks by the Host

- Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Honorary Chair, The Nippon Foundation

Welcome Address

- His Majesty the Emperor
- Prime Minister of Japan
- His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Norway
- President of the Republic of Palau / Chair of the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS)

Sho 12:30-14:00 Working Lunch (invitation only) Special Event: Sea Level Rise & International Law

PALAZZO 19:00-21:00 A Leaders and Heads of Delegation Dinner (invitation only)

June 4 (Thu)

Tsuru West 8:00-9:10 Continuation:High-Level Statements & Commitmentsfrom Delegations *Tentative

9:10-9:15 Pathways to Action - Setting the Scene

9:15-9:45 Why SOPM matters in island states?

Tsuru Foyer Coffee Break

Tsuru West /Sho /Mai 10:15-12:00 Parallel Sessions: Sectoral Deep Dives

Tsuru East 12:00-13:15 Lunch

Tsuru West /Sho /Mai 13:15-15:15 Parallel Sessions - Intra- and Inter-Regional Dialogues

Tsuru Foyer Coffee Break

Tsuru West 15:45-16:45 Plenary Session - Key Outcomes from Parallel Sessions

16:45-17:30 Wrap-up of Summit Outcomes & Closing

Information during the Summit

PLEASE NOTE – Opening Ceremony and High-level Remarks –

Arrive Early: Due to security baggage checks via metal detectors, please allow yourself ample time for arrival.
No Re-entry (9:20 - 11:00 AM): Due to the attendance of His Majesty The Emperor.
No Photos or Videos: Strictly prohibited.

- ◯ 8:30 AM: Door Opens
- ◯ 9:20 AM: Registration Closes
- ◯ 9:30 AM: Please be seated

Buffet Lunch/ Dinner

The meals will be served at **Tsuru, East.**
A buffet will be available for all participants.
(Halal and Vegan options are available.)

- ● June 3: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
- ● June 3: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- ● June 4: 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

Networking Room

- ● A dedicated space for participants to connect and exchange ideas.
- ● Equipped with round tables and partial partitions for informal meetings.
- ● **Venue**: Fuyo Room
- ● **Opening hours:**
  - ◯ June 3: 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM
  - ◯ June 4: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM

All delegates are warmly encouraged to make full use of this space throughout the Conference.

Wi-Fi Access

Complimentary Wi-Fi is available throughout the venue.

Network (SSID): TheNewOtani-Banquet
Password: newotani-tokyo

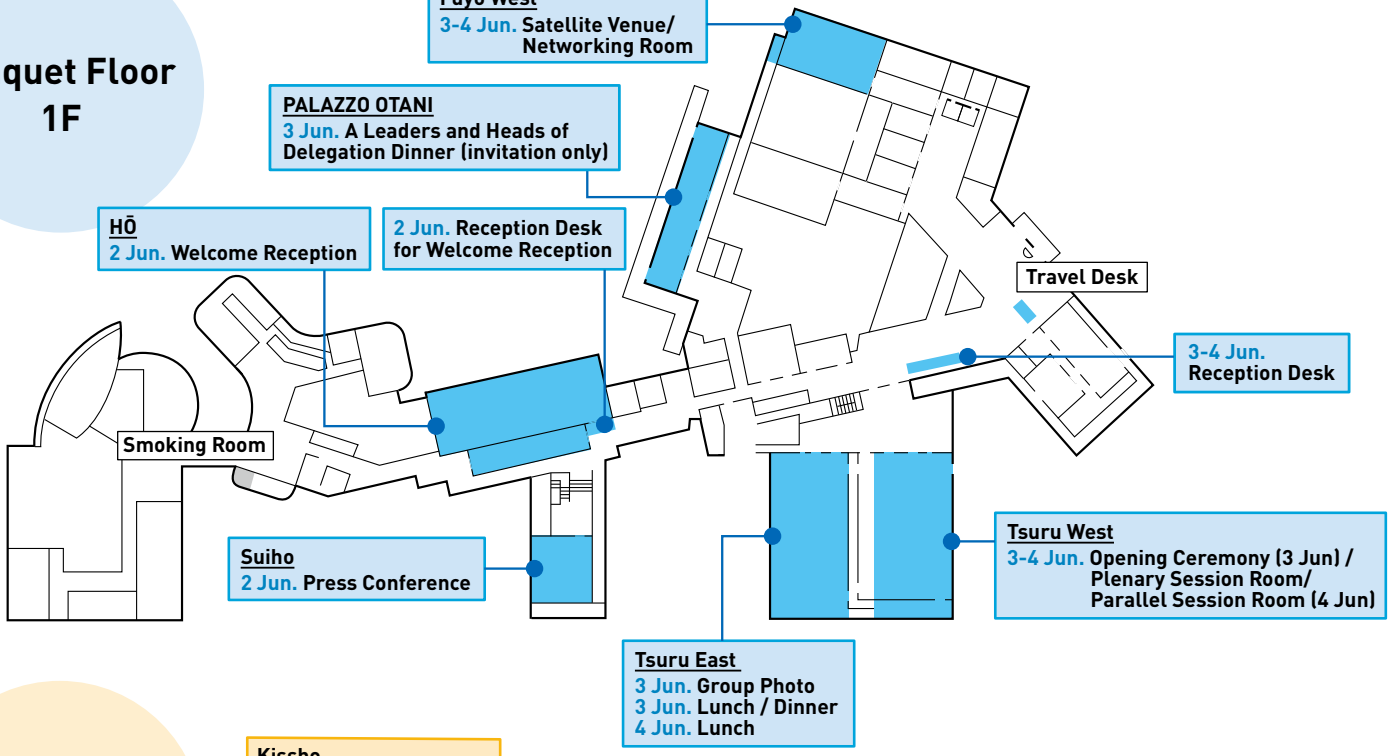
Commemorative Gift

Please kindly collect a Gift from The Nippon Foundation.

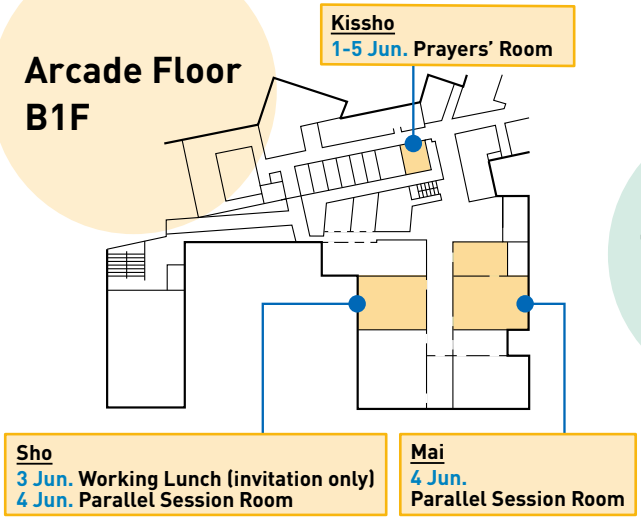
Venue : General Reception (in front of the Tsuru)
Time : June 3: 12:30 PM - 9:00 PM
June 4: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM

Conference Venue Floor Map

Banquet Floor 1F



Arcade Floor B1F



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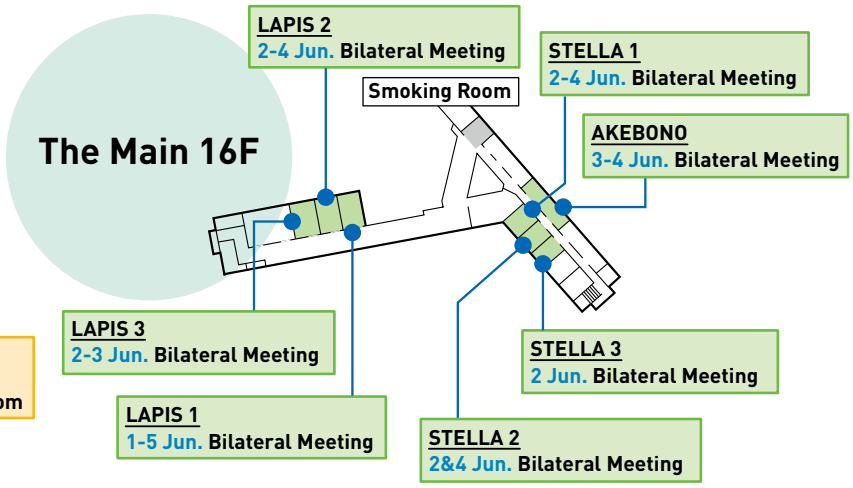

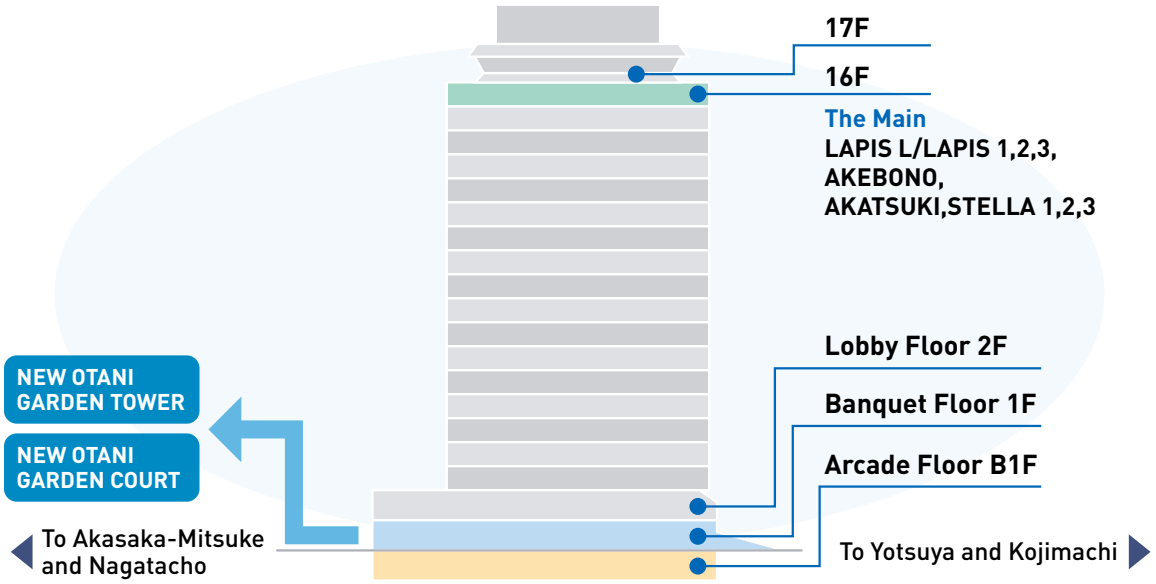

Island States Ocean Summit (3-4 June)
Participating Country Delegations (Alphabetical Order)

Antigua and Barbuda
- Hon. Anthony Shamari Smith Jr. — Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries, and the Blue Economy

Australia
- Ms. Helen Stylianou — Chargé d'affaires, Australian Embassy in Japan

Bahrain (Kingdom of Bahrain)
- H.E. Dr. Mohamed bin Mubarak Bin Daina — Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs

Cabo Verde (Republic of Cabo Verde)
- H.E. Ms. Tania Serafim Yvonne Romualdo— Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Comoros (Union of Comoros)
- H.E. Dr. Maoulana Charif — Ambassador of the Union of the Comoros to China, Embassy of the Union of Comoros in Beijing

Cook Islands
- Hon. Mark Stephen Brown — Prime Minister

Cuba (Republic of Cuba)
- H.E. Mr. Eduardo Martínez Díaz — Vice Prime Minister

Cyprus (Republic of Cyprus)
- H.E. Mr. Yannis Michaelides — Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cyprus to Japan

Dominican Republic
- Mr. Jimmy Constantino García Saviñón — President of National Authority for Maritime Affairs (ANAMAR)

Fiji (Republic of Fiji)
- H.E. Mr. Kemueli Naiqama — Ambassador-Designate, Embassy of the Republic of Fiji in Japan

Grenada
- H.E. Mr. Jerry Enoe — Special Envoy, Oceans and Blue Economy Advisor

Iceland
- Mr. Jón Erlingur Jónasson — Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Indonesia (Republic of Indonesia)
- H.E. Mr. Sakti Wahyu Trenggono — Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries

Jamaica
- Hon. Matthew Samuda — Minister of Water, Environment and Climate Change

Kiribati (Republic of Kiribati)
- Hon. Martin Moreti — Minister for Justice

Madagascar (Republic of Madagascar)
- H.E. Mr. Jean Maharavo — Minister of Fisheries and Blue Economy

Maldives (Republic of Maldives)
- H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mimrah — Minister of State for Climate Change, Environment and Energy

Malta (Republic of Malta)
- Prof. Simone Borg — Ambassador for Climate Action

Marshall Islands (Republic of the Marshall Islands)
- H.E. Dr. Hilda C. Heine — President

Mauritius (Republic of Mauritius)
- Mr. Sneedy Neysen Udaiyan — Minister Counsellor and Chargé d' Affaires a.i., Embassy of the Republic of Mauritius in Japan

Micronesia (Federated States of Micronesia)
- Hon. Elina P. Akinaga — Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development

Nauru (Republic of Nauru)

- Hon. Delvin O'Neale Thoma, MP — Minister for Environmental Management and Agriculture / Minister for Climate Change and National Resilience

Norway (Kingdom of Norway)

- H.E. Marianne Sivertsen Næss — Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Policy

Palau (Republic of Palau)

- H.E. Mr. Surangel S. Whipps, Jr. — President

Papua New Guinea (Independent State of Papua New Guinea)

- Ms. Magdalene Shirley Moi-he — Minister, Embassy of Papua New Guinea in Japan

Philippines (Republic of the Philippines)

- Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna — Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Saint Lucia

- Hon. Lisa Cassandra Joahil Jawahir — Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Sustainable Development

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- Hon. Conroy Huggins — Minister of Fisheries, Marine and Land Conservation and Climate Resilience

Samoa (Independent State of Samoa)

- Ms. Helen Tanuvasa Chou-Lee — Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of the Independent State of Samoa in Japan

Seychelles (Republic of Seychelles)

- H.E. Mr. Wallace Jude Keith Cosgrow — Principal Minister/ Minister for Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy

Sri Lanka (Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka)

- Hon. Ramalingam Chandrasekar, MP — Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Timor-Leste (Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste)

- Mr. Celio Fatima Sebastiao Varudo Moniz da Silva — Counsellor, Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in Japan

Tuvalu

- Hon. Feleti. Penitala. Teo, OBE MP — Prime Minister

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- Mr. Timothy Hemmings — Special Envoy for Small Island Developing States

International Organization Delegates (Alphabetical Order)

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

- Dr. Carla Natalie Barnett — Secretary-General

International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

- Mr. Mathias Dirk Jonas — Secretary-General

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO)

- Mr. Vidar Helgesen — Executive Secretary

Pacific Island Forum/Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (PIF/OPOC)

- Dr. Filimon Manoni — Pacific Ocean Commissioner

United Nations

- H.E. Peter Thomson — UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

Island States Ocean Summit (3-4 June)
Session Speakers

Day 1 – High-level Summit Segment

Opening Ceremony

- Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Honorary Chair, The Nippon Foundation
- His Majesty the Emperor
- Her Excellency Ms. Sanae Takaichi, Prime Minister of Japan
- His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Norway
- His Excellency, President Surangel S. Whipps Jr., Republic of Palau

High-level Remarks: Setting the Scene

- H.E. Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean
- Mr. Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO)

Plenary Session– Climate Resilience in SOPM

- Hon. Feleti. Penitala. Teo, OBE MP, Prime Minister of Tuvalu
- H.E. Ilana Seid, Permanent Representative of Palau & Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations
- Mr. Georg Børsting, Policy Director for Climate Change / Ocean Envoy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary-General, Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Dr. Susan C. Gardner, Director, Ecosystems Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Mr. Semisi Seruitanoa, Pacific Program Manager, Oceans 5
- H.E. Safiya Sawney, Special Envoy and Ambassador for Climate, Government of Grenada; Special Advisor, Hon. Kerryne James, Minister of Environment, Climate Resilience and Renewable Energy; Strategic Advisor, OECS 30x30 Transformation Programme, SPACES and McKinsey and Company; Strategic Advisor, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), EMPAC Board Chair, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)
- Ms. Angelique Pouponneau, Lead Ocean Negotiator, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

Plenary Session – Knowledge and Skills for Action in SOPM

- Hon. Mark Brown, Prime Minister of Cook Islands
- Dr. Filimon Manoni, Pacific Ocean Commissioner, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- Ms. Claire Jolly, Lead OECD Ocean Economy Programme, Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Mr. Donovan Campbell, Professor of Environmental Geography, University of the West Indies (UWI) & Co-Chair, UN Decade Advisory Board
- Mr. Vladimir Jares, Director, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)
- Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief of SIDS Unit, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- Ms. Sheridan Waitai, Executive Director, Ngāti Kuri Trust

Plenary Session – Financing and Investment for SOPM

- H.E. Dr. Hilda C. Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Mr. Alfredo Giron, Head of the World Economic Forum's Ocean Action Agenda and Friends of Ocean Action
- Mr. Charles Goddard, Editorial Director, The Economist Group
- Ms. Julia M. Fraser, Regional Practice Director, Planet, East Asia & Pacific, World Bank Group
- Mr. Naoki Matsumura, Regional Policy Advisor for Disaster Risk Reduction, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), JICA

Wrap-Up and Closing of Day 1

- Mr. Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), on behalf of Summit Co-chairs

Day 2 – Technical Summit Segment

Pathways to Action - Setting the Scene

- Dr. Yutaka Michida, Chairperson, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC)

From Vision to Practice: Why SOPM Matters in Island States

- Mr. Wallace Jude Keith Cosgrow, Principal Minister - Minister for Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy, Seychelles
- Mr. Tom Pickerell, Global Director of the Ocean Program, World Resources Institute, Ocean Panel Secretariat
- Mr Julian Barbière, Head, Marine Policy & Regional Coordination Section, Ocean Decade Coordinator a.i. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO

Sectoral Parallel Session 1 - Nature & Food Systems (Location: Tsuru West Room)

- Mr. Ahmed Khan, Chief of Blue Economy and Fisheries, African Development Bank
- Ms. Susanna De Beauville-Scott, Programme Director, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
- Dr. Tricia Lovell, UNNF Alumni from Antigua and Barbuda (Deputy Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division, Antigua and Barbuda Government)
- Mr. Vinesh Emrith, UNNF Alumni from Mauritius (Assistant Director Fisheries, Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Mauritius Government)
- Mr. Noan Pakop, Director General, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
- Ms. Carol Phua, Secretary General, International Coral Reef Initiative
- Mr. Kelvin Alie, Deputy Chief Conservation Officer, Conservation International
- Ms. Alex Herman, UNNF Alumni from Cook Islands (International Partnerships Manager, The Pacific Community)

Sectoral Parallel Session 2 - Low Carbon Ocean Economy (Location: Mai)

- Mr. Jullien Million, Senior Fisheries Specialist, World Bank Group
- Mr. Tim Hemmings, UK Special Envoy for Small Island Developing States, Head of Caribbean and SIDS Department, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
- Mr. Erick Castro, Principal Executive Climate Action and Positive Biodiversity Management, Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF)
- Mr. Raffaele Mancini, Director, UN Ocean Decade Collaborative Centre (DCC) in Barcelona for a Sustainable Ocean Economy
- Ms. Elizabeth Hollaway, Research Associate, Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) / UNSW Centre for Sustainable Development Reform
- Mr. Zagy Berian, Member of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change / Founder, Society of Renewable Energy (SRE)
- Mr. Toru Hikima, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL)
- Ms. Kaushi Liyanage, Associate Climate Investment Officer, Financial Institutions Group, Asia and Pacific, IFC

Sectoral Parallel Session 3 - Island Communities & Prosperity (Location: Sho)

- Ms. Harriet Harden-Davies, Director, Ocean Voices Programme
- Dr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Senior Advisor to the President and Director on Ocean and Climate Policy, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- Ms. Kate Brown, Executive Director, Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA)
- Ms. Anama Solofa, UNNF Alumni from Samoa (Ocean Advisor, Alliance of Small Island States)
- Mr. Ronán Long, Director, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute
- Mr. Yoshitaka Ota, Director, Ocean Nexus
- Ms. Kirana Agustina, UNNF Alumni from Indonesia (Founder and Director, Perempuan Laut Indonesia (Women of the Ocean Indonesia))

- Ms. Alice Helu Funaki, UNNF Alumni from Tonga (NDC Coordinator, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC), Government of Tonga
- Mr. Damien Sass, Sustainable Development Officer, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Regional Parallel Session 1 - Tropical Americas and the Caribbean Dialogue (Location: Mai)

- Ms. Cynthia Barzuna Deputy Director, Ocean Program and Director, Ocean Action 2030 Coalition, World
- Dr. Branson Belle, Executive Director, Centre of Excellence for Oceanography & the Blue Economy (COBE), UWI Five Islands Campus
- Ms. Marver Woodley, UNNF Alumni from Antigua and Barbuda (Senior Operations and Policy Manager, Department of the Blue Economy, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Government of Antigua and Barbuda)
- Mr. Kahlil Hassanali, UNNF Alumni from Trinidad and Tobago (Senior Research Officer, Institute of Marine Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago)
- Ms. Amrihka Singh, Program Manager, Sustainable Development, CARICOM – Caribbean Community
- Mr. David Farrell, Principal, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH)
- Ms. Miosotis Rivas Peña, Director, UN ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

Regional Parallel Session 2 - Pacific and Oceania Dialogue (Location: Tsuru West Room)

- Ms. Linda Faulkner, Chief Scientist Māori Environmental Research, Earth Sciences NZ / Decade Advisory Board
- Mr. Taholo Kami, Founder of Kami Pasifiki
- Mr. Jerome Aucan, Head of the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science, The Pacific Community (SPC)
- Mr. Everett Sioa, UNNF Alumni from Samoa (Legal Officer, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP))
- Ms. Coral Pasisi, Director of Climate Change and Sustainability, The Pacific Community (SPC)
- Ms. Mary Kim, Senior Environment Specialist, Asian Development Bank
- Ms. Lysa Wini, Pacific Director, Nia Tero Foundation & UNNF Alumni from Solomon Islands

Regional Parallel Session 3 - Africa, Indian Ocean and South China Sea Dialogue (Location: Sho)

- Ms. Aminath Shauna, Former Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology
- Ms. Angelique Pouponneau, Lead Ocean Negotiator, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
- Ms. Hawwa Nizar, UNNF Alumni from Maldives (Fisheries Statistician, Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources, Maldives)
- Mr. Hadi Yoga Dewanto, UNNF Alumni from Indonesia (Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Indonesia and Ocean Accounts Fellow, Centre for Sustainable Development Reform, UNSW)
- Ms. Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy, Regional Coastal and Ocean Governance Manager, IUCN & UNNF Alumni from Madagascar
- Ms. Gina Bonne, Chargée de Mission, Indian Ocean Commission
- Mr. Kjartan Fjeldsted, Coordinator of the GCF ResIslands Project, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Plenary Session—Key Outcomes from Parallel Sessions

- Mr. Julian Barbière, Head, Marine Policy & Regional Coordination Section, Ocean Decade Coordinator a.i. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO

Wrap-up of Summit Outcomes & Closing

- His Excellency, President Surangel S. Whipps Jr., Republic of Palau
- Mr. Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary of IOC
- Ambassador Ryo Nakamura, Director-General for Global Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- Yohei Sasakawa, Honorary Chair of The Nippon Foundation

Island States Ocean Summit (3-4 June)
Participating Organizations

- African Development Bank Group
- AOSIS
- Asian Development Bank
- Auckland University of Technology
- Te Puna Vai Mārama
- Australian Government
- Barcelona Capital Nautica Foundation
- Big Ocean States Initiative (BOSI)
- CAF, Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Canon Institute for Global Studies
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology
- Cefas
- Center for Environmental Science in Saitama
- Centre for Sustainable Development Reform, UNSW Sydney
- Conservation International
- Earth Sciences New Zealand
- ECOP Africa
- Fundació Barcelona Capital Nàutica
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Global Island Partnership
- Government of Grenada
- Government of Palau
- IFC, World Bank Group
- Indian Ocean Commission
- Indigenous Peoples and Coastal Community
- Institute of Marine Affairs/ Ocean Voices
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
- International Association of Maritime Universities
- International Coral Reef Initiative
- International Hydrographic Organization
- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- IOCARIBE
- Island Innovation
- IUCN
- JAMSTEC
- Japan Coast Guard
- JICA
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.
- Natural History Museum
- Ngati Kuri Trust Board
- Nia Tero
- Nippon Foundation Ocean Nexus/University of Rhode Island
- Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030
- Nippon Maritime Center
- Ocean Voices
- OECD
- Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC)
- Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Commission (OECS)
- Pacific Islands Center
- Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

- Republic of Palau / Koror State Government
- Social Empowerment Education Program
- Society of Renewable Energy
- The Bezos Earth Fund
- The Economist Group
- The Japan Science Society
- The Most Beautiful Bays in the World
- The Pacific Community
- The Pacific Community (SPC)
- The Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- The Tokyo Foundation
- The University of the South Pacific
- The University of the West Indies
- The University of Tokyo
- Tokai University
- UN ECLAC
- UN-DESA
- UN-DOALOS
- UNFCCC
- United Nations
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- University of Hawaii
- University of Oxford, Talma Consulting
- University of Wollongong
- UNNF Fellow
- UN-OHRLLS
- UNOPS
- WCPFC
- WECAFC
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- World Bank Group
- World Economic Forum
- World Maritime University
- World Resources Institute (WRI)
- WPI-AIMEC, JAMSTEC

ISLAND STATES OCEAN SUMMIT

Venue: New Otani Hotel Tokyo, 4-1 Kioicho, Chiyoda City, Tokyo 102-8578, Japan

Dates: 3-4 June 2026

SUMMIT OBJECTIVES

Summit Objectives

To accelerate action in Island States for evidence-based, climate-resilient Sustainable Ocean Planning as a tool for:

- enhanced preparedness for increasing climate change-related risks resulting from a changing ocean; and
- development of sustainable ocean-based economies that balance ecological, social, and environmental issues.

Summit Outcomes

The following outcomes would be captured in a Co-Chairs Summary (to be launched on 4 June) and a longer Summit outcomes document (to be launched several weeks after the Summit):

i. An overview of the 'state of play' of national and institutional activities in Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (SOPM) and any new initiatives that are proposed to be carried out.
ii. Key actions, priorities, and recommendations relating to discussions at the Summit.
iii. Announcement of the Sustainable Ocean Planning & Management Support Platform, a demand-driven facility to accelerate SOPM development in Island States.

The partnerships, commitments, and knowledge generated through the Summit will feed into relevant global policy frameworks and processes, including COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, COP31 of the UNFCCC, the BBNJ process, and the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference.

Overview of Summit's Sectoral Streams and Cross-cutting Themes for discussion

<table>
<tr><th>Sectoral Streams</th><th colspan="3">Cross-cutting Themes</th></tr>
<tr><td>Nature & Food Systems
(small scale fisheries, aquaculture, MPAs, coral reefs etc.)</td><td rowspan="3">Climate resilience</td><td rowspan="3">Knowledge, skills, innovation and technology</td><td rowspan="3">Financing and investment</td></tr>
<tr><td>Low Carbon Ocean Economy
(ports, renewable energy, shipping, land and sea infrastructure etc.)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Communities & Prosperity
(pollution management, tourism, nature-based solutions etc.)</td></tr>
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DRAFT PROGRAMME (Version 1 June 2026)

Pre-Summit Welcome Reception Location: HŌ Room (The Main Bldg., 1st fl. Banquet Floor)		
2 June – Evening		
Timing	**Session Name**	**Description**
19.00 - 21.00	Welcome Reception	A welcome reception for all participants will be held on the evening of 2 June 2026.

Day 1 – High-level Summit Segment Location: Tsuru West/ 鶴西の間 (The Main Bldg., 1st fl. Banquet Floor)		
Day 1 Objectives: High-level interventions and engagement for SOPM and short, substantive plenary discussions to raise awareness of delegations on the 'what', 'why' and 'how' of SOPM for Island States		
Timing	**Session Name**	**Description**
3 June – Morning		
8.30 – 9.30	Registration and Welcome Coffee	Participants' arrival and registration.
10.00 – 10.30	Opening Ceremony	Welcome participants and formal opening to the Summit: ● Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Honorary Chair, Nippon Foundation ● His Majesty the Emperor of Japan ● Her Excellency Ms. Sanae Takaichi, Prime Minister of Japan ● His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Norway ● His Excellency, President Surangel S. Whipps Jr., Republic of Palau
10.30 - 10.45	High-level Group Photo	
10.45 – 11.00	High-level Remarks: Setting the Scene	Introduction to Summit discussions by the Summit Co-Chairs and Programme Committee, highlighting the importance of SOPM for resilient island futures. ● H.E. Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean ● Mr. Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC)
11.00 - 12.30	High-Level Statements & Interventions from Delegations	Pre-registered announcements and commitments by delegations. Delegations will be asked to confirm if they would like to make an intervention once they have confirmed their attendance. Guidance will be provided on the length and expected focus of the interventions. Discussions with MOFA once a final list is established will ensure correct speaking order to respect protocol.
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch (Special Event by invitation only, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan: 'Sea Level Rise & International Law' (12.45–13.30))	
3 June – Afternoon		
14.00 - 14.30	Continuation: High-Level Statements & Interventions from Delegations	Pre-registered announcements and commitments by delegations. Delegations will be asked to confirm if they would like to make an intervention once they have confirmed their attendance. Guidance will be provided on the length and expected focus of the interventions. Discussions with MOFA once a final list is established will ensure correct speaking order to respect protocol.

14.30 – 15.40	Plenary Session – Climate Resilience in SOPM	A testimonial from a country delegation followed by a keynote address and a short interactive dialogue on how and why to address climate resilience in SOPM. Explores examples of tools, approaches, and examples of effective climate-resilient SOPM. Questions from the floor will be encouraged to create a dynamic environment and sharing of experiences. ● Country Delegation Testimonial: Hon. Feleti. Penitala. Teo, OBE MP, Prime Minister of Tuvalu ● Keynote: H.E. Ilana Seid, Permanent Representative of Palau & Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations ● Moderator: Mr. Georg Børsting, Policy Director for Climate Change / Ocean Envoy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway ● Panelists: ○ TBC ○ Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary-General, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) ○ Dr. Susan C. Gardner, Director, Ecosystems Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) ○ Mr. Semisi Seruitanoa, Pacific Program Manager, Oceans 5 ● H.E. Safiya Sawney, Special Envoy and Ambassador for Climate, and Special Advisor Government of Grenada; Strategic Advisor, OECS 30x30 and the CBF.
15.40 - 15.55	Coffee Break	
15.55– 17.05	Plenary Session – Knowledge and Skills for Action in SOPM	A testimonial from a country delegation followed by a keynote address and a short interactive dialogue on the critical role of knowledge, skills, and innovation/ technology for effective SOPM, highlighting approaches, tools, and good practice. Questions from the floor will be encouraged to create a dynamic environment and sharing of experiences. ● Country Delegation Testimonial: Hon. Mark Brown, Prime Minister of Cook Islands ● Keynote: Dr. Filimon Manoni, Pacific Ocean Commissioner, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat ● Moderator: Ms. Claire Jolly, Lead OECD Ocean Economy Programme, Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ● Panelists: ○ Mr. Donovan Campbell, Professor of Environmental Geography, University of the West Indies (UWI) & Co-Chair, UN Decade Advisory Board ○ Mr. Vladimir Jares, Director, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) ○ Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief of SIDS Unit, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) ○ Ms. Sheridan Waitai, Executive Director, Ngāti Kuri Trust
17.05 – 18.15	Plenary Session – Financing and Investment for SOPM	A testimonial from a country delegation, followed by a keynote address and a short interactive dialogue on financing and investment models and tools to develop and implement SOPM, approaches, and good practice. Includes sectoral perspectives and tangible examples. Questions from the floor will be encouraged to create a dynamic environment and sharing of experience. ● Country Delegation Testimonial: H.E. Dr. Hilda C. Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands ● Moderator: Mr. Alfredo Giron, Head of the World Economic Forum's Ocean Action Agenda and Friends of Ocean Action ● Panelists: ○ Mr. Charles Goddard, Editorial Director, The Economist Group ○ Ms. Julia M. Fraser, Regional Practice Director, Planet, East Asia & Pacific, World Bank Group ○ Mr. Naoki Matsumura, Regional Policy Advisor for Disaster Risk Reduction, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), JICA ● Ms. Angelique Pouponneau, Lead Ocean Negotiator, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

18.15 – 18.25	Wrap-Up and Closing of Day 1	Formal closing of day 1: ● Mr. Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), on behalf of Summit Co-chairs
19.00 - 21.00	Dinner	Dinner for all Summit participants will take place. Location: Tsuru East Room, Banquet Floor.

Day 2 – Technical Summit Segment **Location: Tsuru West/ 鶴西の間 (The Main Bldg., 1st fl. Banquet Floor) / Sho/(The Main Arcade Floor/ ザ・メインアーケード階) / Mai/ 舞の間 (The Main Arcade Floor/ ザ・メインアーケード階)**		
Day 2 Objectives: Expert technical sessions to allow deeper discussion of substantive elements of SOPM through a regional and sectoral context, including examples, sharing of best practice and access to tools and methods.		
Timing	**Session Name**	**Description**
4 June – Morning		
8.00 - 9.10	Continuation: High-Level Statements & Interventions from Delegations	Pre-registered announcements and commitments by delegations. Delegations will be asked to confirm if they would like to make an intervention once they have confirmed their attendance. Guidance will be provided on the length and expected focus of the interventions. Discussions with MOFA once a final list is established will ensure correct speaking order to respect protocol.
9.10 – 9.15	Pathways to Action - Setting the Scene	Formal opening of interactive sessions of day 2 and introduction of objectives. ● Keynote: Dr. Yutaka Michida, Chairperson, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC)
9.15 – 9.45	From Vision to Practice: Why SOPM Matters in Island States	● Keynote: Mr. Wallace Jude Keith Cosgrow, Principal Minister - Minister for Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy, Seychelles ● Keynote: Dr. Tom Pickerell, Global Director of the Ocean Program, World Resources Institute, Head of Secretariat for the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel) ● Keynote: Mr. Julian Barbière, Head, Marine Policy & Regional coordination, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC)
9.45 – 10.15	Coffee break (and move to parallel sessions)	
10.15 – 12.00	Parallel Sessions – Sectoral Deep Dives	Sectoral discussions on: 1) Nature & Food Systems; 2) Low Carbon Ocean Economy and 3) Island Communities & Prosperity. Mixture of panels and roundtable / interactions amongst participants. Identification of joint actions/commitments in the framework of the SOPM Support Platform. Location: Tsuru West (The Main Bldg., 1st fl. Banquet Floor); Mai and Sho rooms (The Main Arcade Floor). **Sectoral Parallel Session 1 - Nature & Food Systems** Location: Tsuru West Room ● Moderator 1: Mr. Ahmed Khan, Chief of Blue Economy and Fisheries, African Development Bank ● Moderator 2: Ms. Susanna De Beauville-Scott, Programme Director, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) ● Rapporteur 1: Dr. Tricia Lovell, UNNF Alumni from Antigua and Barbuda (Deputy Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division, Antigua and Barbuda Government) ● Rapporteur 2: Mr. Vinesh Emrith, UNNF Alumni from Mauritius (Assistant Director Fisheries, Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Mauritius Government) ● Discussants: ○ Mr. Noan Pakop, Director General, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency ○ Ms. Carol Phua, Secretary General, International Coral Reef Initiative ○ Mr. Kelvin Alie, Deputy Chief Conservation Officer, Conservation International ○ Ms. Alex Herman, UNNF Alumni from Cook Islands (International Partnerships Manager, The Pacific Community)

10.15 – 12.00	Parallel Sessions – Sectoral Deep Dives	**Sectoral Parallel Session 2 - Low Carbon Ocean Economy** Location: Mai (The Main Arcade Floor) ● Moderator 1: Mr. Jullien Million, Senior Fisheries Specialist, World Bank Group ● Moderator 2: Mr. Tim Hemmings, UK Special Envoy for Small Island Developing States, Head of Caribbean and SIDS Department, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office ● Rapporteur 1: Mr. Erick Castro, Principal Executive Climate Action and Positive Biodiversity Management, Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) ● Rapporteur 2: Mr. Raffaele Mancini, Director, UN Ocean Decade Collaborative Centre (DCC) in Barcelona for a Sustainable Ocean Economy ● Discussants: ○ Ms. Elizabeth Hollaway, Research Associate, Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) / UNSW Centre for Sustainable Development Reform ○ Mr. Zagy Berian, Member of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change / Founder, Society of Renewable Energy (SRE) ○ Mr. Toru Hikima, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL) ○ Ms. Kaushi Liyanage, Associate Climate Investment Officer, Financial Institutions Group, Asia and Pacific, IFC **Sectoral Parallel Session 3 - Island Communities & Prosperity** Location: Sho (The Main Arcade Floor) ● Moderator 1: Ms. Harriet Harden-Davies, Director, Ocean Voices Programme ● Moderator 2: Dr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Senior Advisor to the President and Director on Ocean and Climate Policy, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution ● Rapporteur 1: Ms. Kate Brown, Executive Director, Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA) ● Rapporteur 2: Ms. Anama Solofa, UNNF Alumni from Samoa (Ocean Advisor, Alliance of Small Island States) ● Discussants: ○ Mr. Ronán Long, Director, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute ○ Mr. Yoshitaka Ota, Director, Ocean Nexus ○ Ms. Kirana Agustina, UNNF Alumni from Indonesia (Founder and Director, Perempuan Laut Indonesia (Women of the Ocean Indonesia)) ○ Ms. Alice Helu Funaki, UNNF Alumni from Tonga (NDC Coordinator, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC), Government of Tonga ○ Mr. Damien Sass, Sustainable Development Officer, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

12.00 – 13.15	**Lunch**	
4 June – Afternoon		
13.15 – 15.15	Parallel Sessions - Intra- and Inter-Regional Dialogues	Regional dialogues on the state of play of SOPM in the region, examples of success and regional cooperation within and across regions. Identification of joint actions/ commitments in the framework of the SOPM Support Platform. Mixture of panels and roundtables / interactions amongst participants. Location: Tsuru West (The Main Bldg., 1st fl. Banquet Floor); Mai and Sho rooms (The Main Arcade Floor). **Regional Parallel Session 1 - Tropical Americas and the Caribbean Dialogue** Location: Mai (The Main Arcade Floor) ● Moderator 1: Ms. Cynthia Barzuna Deputy Director, Ocean Program and Director, Ocean Action 2030 Coalition, World Resources Institute ● Moderator 2: Dr. Branson Belle, Executive Director, Centre of Excellence for Oceanography & the Blue Economy (COBE), UWI Five Islands Campus ● Rapporteur 1: Ms. Marver Woodley, UNNF Alumni from Antigua and Barbuda (Senior Operations and Policy Manager, Department of the Blue Economy, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Government of Antigua and Barbuda) ● Rapporteur 2: Mr. Kahlil Hassanali, UNNF Alumni from Trinidad and Tobago (Senior Research Officer, Institute of Marine Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago) ● Discussants: ○ Ms. Amrihka Singh, Program Manager, Sustainable Development, CARICOM – Caribbean Community ○ Mr. David Farrell, Principal, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) ○ Ms. Miosotis Rivas Peña, Director, UN ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean ○ H.E. Safiya Sawney, Special Envoy and Ambassador for Climate, Government of Grenada; Special Advisor, Hon. Kerryne James, Minister of Environment, Climate Resilience and Renewable Energy; Strategic Advisor, OECS 30x30 Transformation Programme, SPACES and McKinsey and Company; Strategic Advisor, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), EMPAC Board Chair, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) **Regional Parallel Session 2 - Pacific and Oceania Dialogue** Location: Tsuru West Room ● Moderator 1: Ms. Linda Faulkner, Pou Whakarae Te Hiringa Taiao, Chief Scientist Māori Environmental Research, New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmosphere (NIWA); Natural Sciences Commissioner, New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO; Member, UN Decade Advisory Board ● Moderator 2: Mr. Taholo Kami, Founder of Kami Pacifiki ● Rapporteur 1: Mr. Jerome Aucan, Head of the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science, The Pacific Community (SPC) ● Rapporteur 2: Mr. Everett Sioa, UNNF Alumni from Samoa (Legal Officer, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)) ● Discussants: ○ Ms. Coral Pasisi, Director of Climate Change and Sustainability, The Pacific Community (SPC) ○ Ms. Mary Kim, Senior Environment Specialist, Asian Development Bank ○ Ms. Lysa Wini, Pacific Director, Nia Tero Foundation & UNNF Alumni from Solomon Islands

13.15 – 15.15	Parallel Sessions - Intra- and Inter-Regional Dialogues	**Regional Parallel Session 3 - Africa, Indian Ocean and South China Sea Dialogue** Location: Sho (The Main Arcade Floor) ● Moderator 1: Ms. Aminath Shauna, Former Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology ● Moderator 2: Ms. Angelique Pouponneau, Lead Ocean Negotiator, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) ● Rapporteur 1: Ms. Hawwa Nizar, UNNF Alumni from Maldives (Fisheries Statistician, Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources, Maldives) ● Rapporteur 2: Mr. Hadi Yoga Dewanto, UNNF Alumni from Indonesia (Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Indonesia and Ocean Accounts Fellow, Centre for Sustainable Development Reform, UNSW) ● Discussants ○ Ms. Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy, Regional Coastal and Ocean Governance Manager, IUCN & UNNF Alumni from Madagascar ○ Ms. Gina Bonne, Chargée de Mission, Indian Ocean Commission ○ Mr. Kjartan Fjeldsted, Coordinator of the GCF ResIslands Project, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
15.15 – 15.45	**Coffee Break**	
15.45 – 16.45	Plenary Session—Key Outcomes from Parallel Sessions	Rapporteurs from parallel sessions present key outcomes of the discussions. Moderator: Julian Barbière, IOC-UNESCO
16.45 – 17.30	Wrap-up of Summit Outcomes & Closing	Release of Co-Chairs Summary synthesising Summit outcomes by Summit Co-Chairs or their representatives ● His Excellency, President Surangel S. Whipps Jr., Republic of Palau ● Mr Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary of IOC ● Ambassador Ryo Nakamura, Director-General for Global Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan ● Yohei Sasakawa, Honorary Chair of The Nippon Foundation

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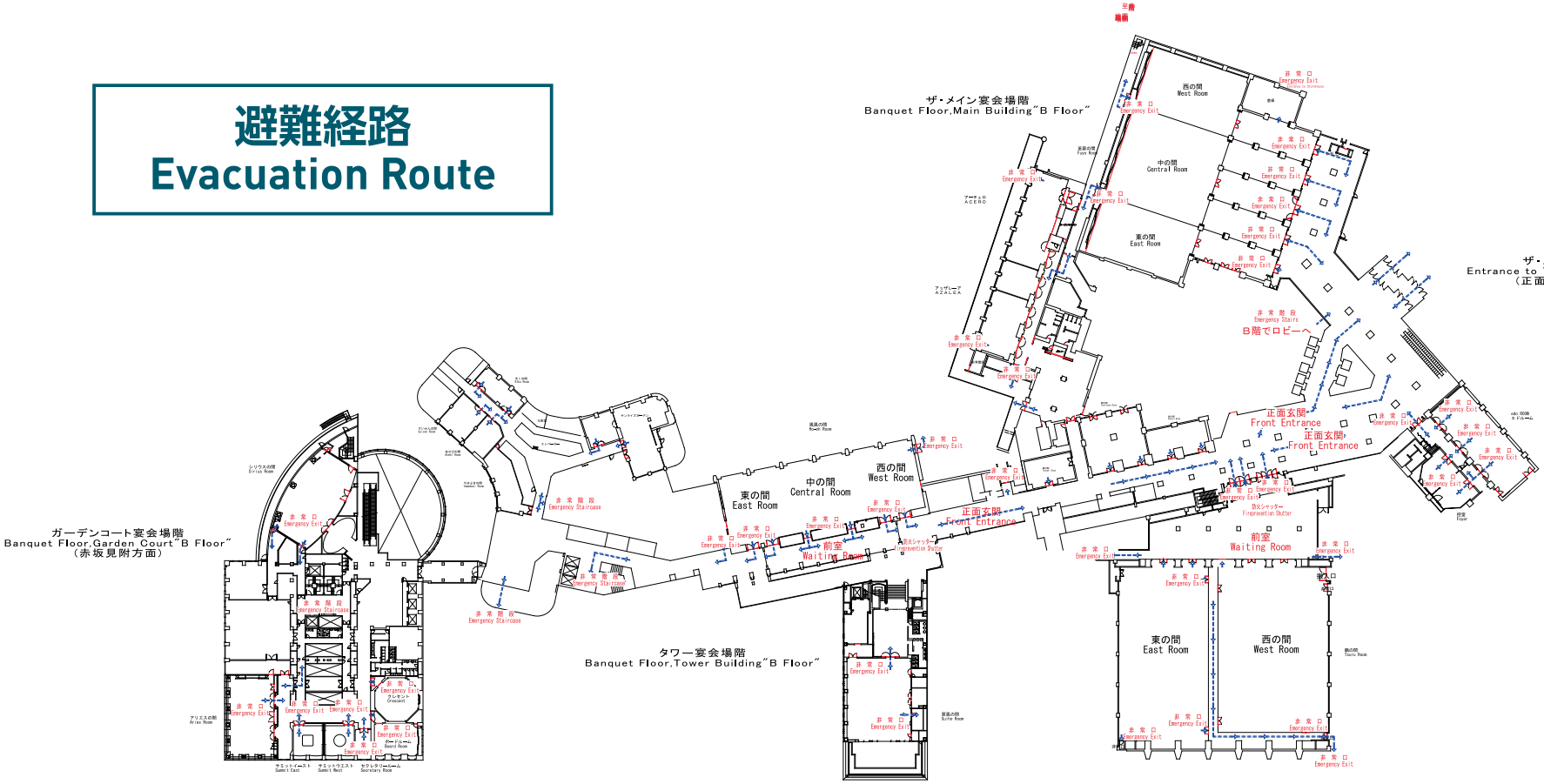
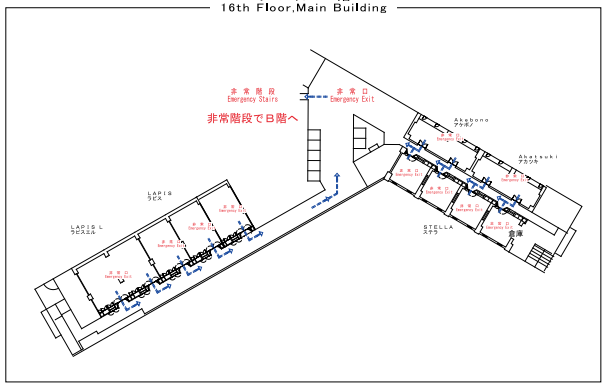
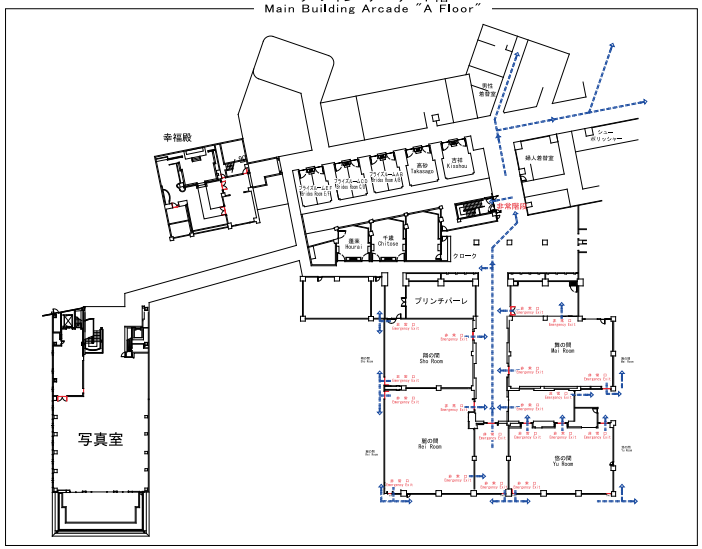
Evacuation Route







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