

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) hosted the first Asia Pacific Day for the Ocean on November 20, 2018. At the 75th Session, member States requested continuation of the work on the ocean, and decided the theme of its seventy-sixth session (18-22 May 2020) as: “*Promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development.*”

In preparation for the theme of the 76th Commission session, and the global UN “*Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*” (Lisbon, 2-6 June 2020), a Second Edition of the Asia Pacific Day for the Ocean will be organized on 8 November 2019 in Bangkok (Thailand).¹

Objective

To build a shared understanding on opportunities to protect the ocean and all forms of life below water through sustainable fisheries, sustainable shipping and elimination of marine pollution, including through enhanced regional collaboration.

Program

This event will highlight the urgency in the region to take action on the protection of the ocean. The Second Asia Pacific Day for the Ocean will offer three parallel thematic sessions, which will provide participants with a specialized forum to present and exchange ideas on regional opportunities for the ocean. These sessions will address marine pollution, transport and fisheries, and highlight initiatives that promote economic, social and environmental cooperation with a focus on countries with special needs.

The Catch - Sustainable Fisheries will address the issue of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region, and its impact on the ecosystem; reflecting on the relationship between sustainable fishing and its connection with other SDGs.

Sustainability Compass will highlight the importance of responsible maritime transport as a driver of economic growth for the AP region, discussing how maritime transport could be more

¹ <https://www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-day-ocean>

efficient with the incorporation of new technologies, thus contributing to the sustainability of the ocean.

A sustainable blue economy will question current consumption and utilization of plastics in everyday life, the problem that this phenomenon represents, and how it ultimately contributes to marine debris; discussing a circular economy with “blue” value chains and more corporate social responsibility to protect our ocean.

The Day for the Ocean 2019 will offer an opportunity to review technological developments and new scientific innovations that can contribute to a more sustainable coexistence with the ocean and its ecosystems. This event will provide a space for communities of action to voice their concerns and recommendations, and will foster partnerships, environmental participation, community engagement and regional cooperation.

Speakers/Moderators

- (To be confirmed)

Target Audiences/Participants

- Policy-makers, Governments, NGOs, Private-sector entities, Universities and Research institutes.

