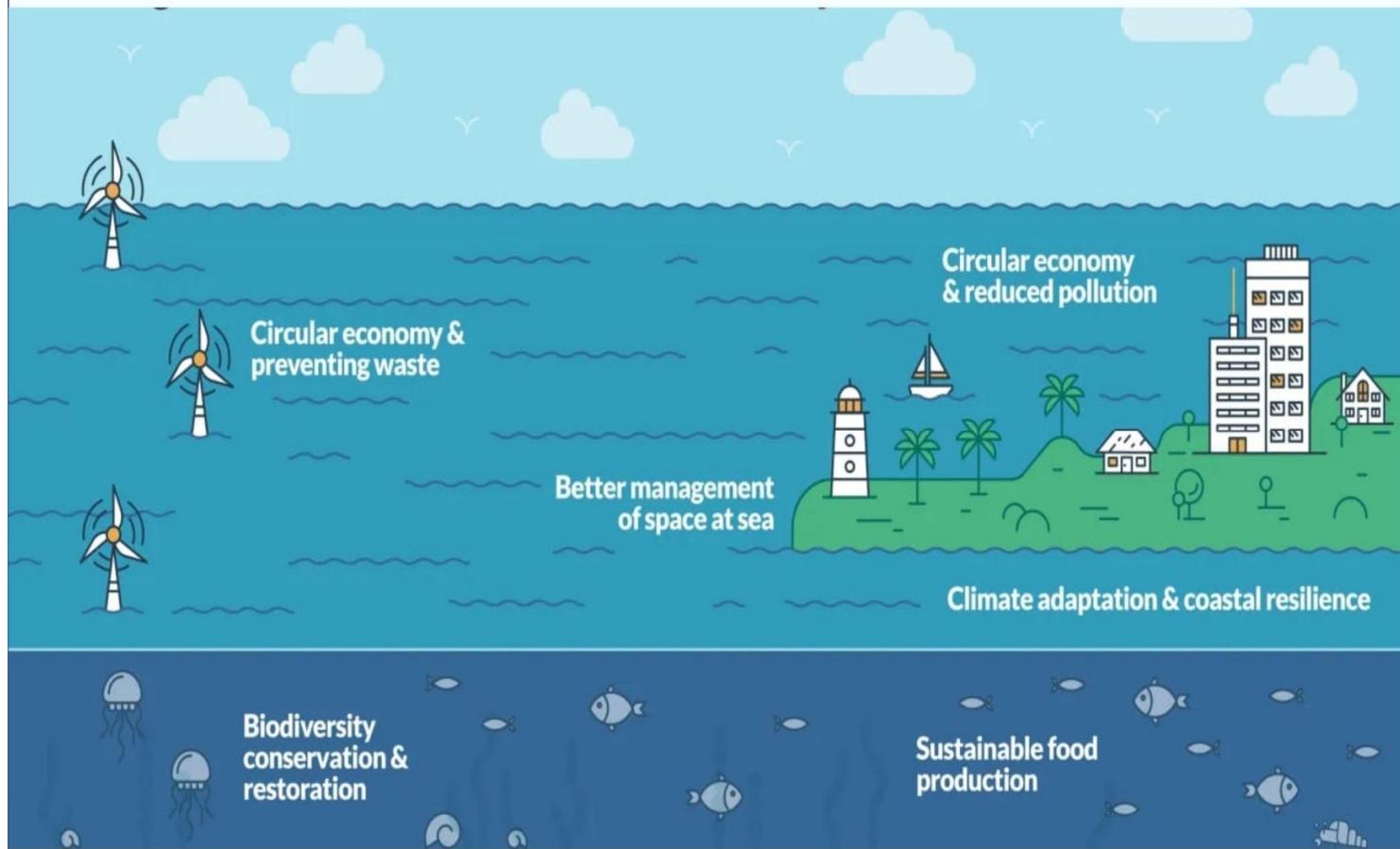


INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PROMOTING BLUE ECONOMY AND OVERCOMING ITS IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

26-27 MARCH, 2026
MAURITIUS



Organised by:



**CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE
NON-ALIGNED AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
(NAM S&T CENTRE), NEW DELHI, INDIA**



**MINISTRY OF TERTIARY EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH,
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

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Introduction

The oceans provide a major source of income for many coastal nations, particularly in the developing world. Economic benefits derived from the oceans depend on the wise management of resources, based on scientific understanding and appropriate application of technologies. The intersection of science, technology and economy is most evident in nations' coastal zones.

Recognition of the significance of economic benefits from the oceans for national economies led to the development of the term "**Blue Economy**" during the *UN Conference on Sustainable Development* held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2012. The World Bank defines a sustainable Blue Economy as "*the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems.*"^[1]

It has been widely recognized that risks to blue economies may arise when extraction of one ocean-derived good reduces the availability of another good or ocean-provided service. Advancing scientific knowledge through research, innovation and systematic ocean observations is essential to simultaneously maximize the blue economic benefits derived from multiple ocean goods and services in a sustainable manner.

^[1]World Bank and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2017 - The Potential of the Blue Economy: Increasing Long-term Benefits of the Sustainable Use of Marine Resources for Small Island Developing States and Coastal Least Developed Countries (World Bank, Washington DC, USA).

Ignoring science can lead to the overexploitation of resources and degradation of the natural environment, thereby negatively impacting human society and significantly reducing the available benefits. In many developing countries, however, the capacity to conduct ocean research and observations is still inadequate. Governments need to strengthen national frameworks to enhance capacity and promote education and research, particularly in ocean-related disciplines. Given the excellent oceanographic and technological capacities already achieved by several NAM Member Countries, there exists a significant potential for South-South Cooperation to strengthen national efforts in developing sustainable Blue Economy frameworks.

Because of their immense economic potential, ocean resources have increasingly been recognized as vital national assets, particularly in developing countries. This recognition has led to the development of national strategies and action plans aimed at harnessing ocean resources to support and strengthen national economies - an approach integrated in the concept of **Blue Economy**.

Blue Economy holds particular significance for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), where exclusive economic zones (EEZs) far exceed land areas and land-based resources are limited. However, large coastal nations (e.g., Canada and Australia) have also developed Blue Economy strategies, though these generally constitute a smaller part of their overall economic development frameworks compared to those of small islands.

Ensuring the sustainable utilization of ocean resources is fundamental to maintaining resilient and inclusive Blue Economies. The ability to derive economic benefits from the ocean while safeguarding its ecological integrity lies at the core of **Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14)** of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: "*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development*" (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal14>).

In view of the significant economic potential of Blue Economy in the developing countries, especially in the Small Island Developing States such as Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Seychelles etc., the *Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre)*, *New Delhi* – in partnership with the *Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research (MoTESR)*, *Republic of Mauritius*, is pleased to announce the organisation of a joint **International Workshop** on "**Promoting Blue Economy and Overcoming its Implementation Challenges**" during **26-27 March, 2026 in Mauritius**. The Workshop will be hosted by the MoTESR, Republic of Mauritius.

The Workshop seeks to bring together researchers, academicians, ocean scientists, technologists, policymakers, industry experts, environmental consultants and others concerned from various NAM Member and Other Developing Countries to exchange knowledge, share best practices and research findings relevant to the development and sustainable management of ocean resources.

Objectives

This Workshop aims to provide critical insights into the pivotal role of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in building a strong foundation for Sustainable Blue Economies, with case studies and examples illustrating how STI-driven approaches have fostered blue economic growth, improved livelihoods and environmental sustainability. In addition, the Workshop will address various technological gaps and environmental challenges, emphasizing how optimal planning and sustainable utilization of ocean resources can strengthen economic

resilience, particularly in Small Island Developing States.

The Workshop aims to achieve the following objectives:

- a) To understand the concept of Blue Economy and discuss its associated opportunities and implementation challenges.
- b) To highlight the pivotal role of Ocean Science and Technology in advancing Blue Economy, with particular emphasis on the needs and opportunities for SIDS.
- c) To explore the potential of emerging technologies and innovations including Remote Sensing, Artificial Intelligence (AI) etc. for ocean resources management.
- d) To assess the status and sustainability of critical coastal ecosystems and to identify science-based strategies for their restoration, protection and economic integration within the Blue Economy framework.
- e) To address emerging issues related to climate change.
- f) To discuss ocean governance, policy and institutional mechanisms for blue economy, and international cooperation including regional frameworks for sustainable ocean governance.
- g) To understand challenges faced by developing countries and develop a set of actionable recommendations and a practical and implementable roadmap for advancing sustainable Blue Economy initiatives across the Global South.
- h) To share national strategies and policies and to exchange experiences and best practices.
- i) To foster partnership among developing countries for joint research.
- j) To discuss “Blue Finance” and investments for SIDS.

Topics to be Covered

- 1. Context and Understanding of the Blue Economy Concept**
 - Blue Economy and its alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially SDG-14
 - Ecological, economic and social dimensions of ocean based development
 - Assessing the current status of blue economy initiatives in national and regional contexts
 - Blue Economy architecture for Small Islands
- 2. Governance, Policy and Institutional Frameworks for Blue Economy**
 - National and regional blue economy strategies and their implementation
 - Legal and regulatory frameworks for sustainable ocean resource use
 - Mobilising funds for blue economy projects
 - Promoting entrepreneurship and employment in ocean based industries
 - International cooperation and regional frameworks for sustainable ocean governance

3. Sectoral Opportunities and Challenges

- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- Coastal freshwater resources
- Marine biotechnology and bio-economy
- Renewable ocean energy
- Coastal & marine tourism and coastal livelihoods
- Oil, gas and marine minerals

4. Emerging Ocean Technologies and Innovations

- Remote sensing
- AI and marine spatial planning
- Digitalisation and marine resources management
- Ocean observations, modelling and forecasting
- Training and capacity building, manpower development in blue economy

5. Sustainability of Ocean Environment and Ecosystem

- Marine pollution, plastic wastes, coastal degradation
- Climate change and coastal ecosystems, sea level rise and disaster resilience
- Harmful algae, ocean acidification and blue economy
- Coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses

6. Financing and Investment in Blue Economy

- Innovative financing tools
- Role of regional funding
- Private sector engagement

7. Capacity Building – Role of Higher Education and Research

- Regional cooperation in Higher Education and Research
- Role of universities and TVET institutions in blue economy
- Development of blue economy education and training programmes

Important Dates

Activity	Dates
Submission of Application Starts	January 23, 2026
Last Date for Submission of Applications along with Abstract of Paper to be Presented	February 23, 2026
Last Date for Submission of Full Manuscript of Paper	March 6, 2026
Dates of the International Workshop	March 26-27, 2026

Tentative Programme Structure

26 March 2026		27 March 2026	
Time	Session Details	Time	Session Details
08:30-09:00 hrs	Registration and Technical Set-up	08:30-09:00 hrs	Registration and Technical Set-up
09:00-10:00 hrs	Opening Session	09:00-09:30 hrs	Keynote Lecture III
10:00-10:15 hrs	Tea/Coffee Break	09:30-10:30 hrs	Technical Session V
10:15-10:45 hrs	Keynote Lecture I	10:30-10:45 hrs	Tea/Coffee Break
10:45-11:45 hrs	Technical Session I	10:45-11:45 hrs	Technical Session VI
11:45-12:45 hrs	Technical Session II	11:45-12:45 hrs	Panel Discussion
12:45-13:45 hrs	Lunch Break	12:45-13:45 hrs	Lunch Break
13:45-14:15 hrs	Keynote Lecture II	13:45-14:45 hrs	Recommendations for Policymaking [Resolution Session]
14:15-15:15 hrs	Technical Session III	14:45-15:00 hrs	Tea/Coffee Break
15:15-15:30 hrs	Tea/Coffee Break	15:00-15:45 hrs	Concluding Session, Distribution of Certificates and Vote of Thanks
15:30-16:30 hrs	Technical Session IV		
End of the Day			

Keynote Lectures from invited speakers: **30 min each**

Paper Presentations by participants under various technical sessions: **15 min each**

Tentative details of various technical sessions and panel discussion are given below:

- Technical Session I** - **Marine Research and Innovation: A Blue Economy Perspective**
- Technical Session II** - **Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Enhancing Food Security in the Global South**
- Technical Session III** - **Ocean-based Renewable Energy, Technologies and Innovation**
- Technical Session IV** - **Blue Finance and Investment for Small Island Developing States**

Technical Session V - **Sustainability of Ocean Environment and Ecosystem: Blue Economy and Coastal Pollution**

Technical Session VI - **Sustainable Ocean Tourism and Coastal Livelihoods**

Panel Discussion - **Blue Economy Roadmap for Developing Nations: Opportunities, Challenges and Regional Cooperation**

- (a) Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Enhancing Food Security in the Global South
- (b) Ocean-based Renewable Energy and Emerging Technologies
- (c) Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Opportunities in Ocean based Industries
- (d) Sustainable Ocean Tourism and Coastal Livelihoods

Participants

Researchers, academicians, subject experts, government officials, policymakers and representatives of international organizations, NGOs and industry are invited to participate in the Workshop. The diverse participation will foster effective exchange of knowledge, ideas and expertise as well as provide opportunities for global networking and collaboration.

Note: English will be the official language for the Workshop with no translation services.

Resource Persons

Experts working in the relevant fields from Mauritius, India and other countries will be invited to deliver Keynote Lectures at the Workshop. All other participants will be required to present a scientific paper and/or country status report during various technical sessions of the Workshop.

Certificate of Attendance

Upon completion of the Workshop, participants will be awarded with a Certificate of Attendance jointly issued by the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research, Republic of Mauritius and the NAM S&T Centre, New Delhi.

About the Organisers

NAM S&T Centre, New Delhi

The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) is an Inter-Governmental Organisation with a Membership of 47 countries spread over Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. The Centre was set-up in 1989 in New Delhi, India based on the decisions taken during various NAM Summits and is mandated to undertake a variety of programmes, including organization of international workshops, training programmes/workshops and implementation of multilateral collaborative S&T projects. It also offers short-term fellowship programmes to scientists and researchers from developing countries in association with the Centres of Excellence in various countries. The Centre also brings out technical books, monographs and other scientific publications in different S&T subjects of interest to developing countries. The Centre's activities provide an opportunity for scientist-to-scientist contact and interactions; familiarizing participants on the latest developments and techniques in the subject areas; identification of the requirements of training and expert assistance; locating



technologies for transfer between the Members and other developing countries and dissemination of S&T information etc. In addition, the Centre encourages Academic-R&D-Industry interactions in the developing countries through its “*NAM S&T-Industry Network*”. The Centre is giving special focus on helping the NAM S&T Centre Member Countries in their capacity building to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals – 2030.

More details about the Centre are available at www.namstct.org.

Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research, Republic of Mauritius

The Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research, Republic of Mauritius is responsible for the development and promotion of the tertiary education, science and scientific research systems in Mauritius. It defines and formulates policies and ensures that sound regulatory and monitoring mechanisms are in place for greater effectiveness and efficiency of the sectors under its portfolio. The key functions of the Ministry are, *inter alia*: to ensure equitable access to tertiary education, the provision of high-quality tertiary education and promotion of science, research and innovation to support the socio-economic progress of the country.



The Ministry also serves as the esteemed Focal Point of the NAM S&T Centre in Mauritius.

Submission of Applications

Scientists and experts desirous of participating in the Workshop, **except those from Mauritius**, should submit their applications **electronically** to the Director General, NAM S&T Centre, New Delhi at email: namstcentre@gmail.com as early as possible but latest by **February 23, 2026**.

Applicants from Mauritius should submit their requests directly to Director – Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research, Govt. of Mauritius at email: Director.Tertiary@govmu.org with a subject line as “NAM S&T Workshop 26-27 March 2026”.

Following documents must be submitted as e-mail attachments:

- a) Filled in Application Form (Blank form **enclosed**).
- b) An Opinion/Write-up (a short paragraph; in MS Word format) on how the applicant qualifies to participate in the Workshop.
- c) A Short Biography (to be written in third person; 250-300 words max) highlighting the current engagement, areas of expertise, major achievements, academic qualification and professional experience as succinctly as possible.
- d) An Abstract (about 300 words in MS-Word only) of the Paper/Country Status Report that would be presented at the Workshop.
- e) A copy of relevant pages of valid Passport.

Note: The documents (b), (c) and (d) above must be in **MS-Word format** only; PDF or image files will not be accepted. Hard copies of the Application Form and the above attachments are **NOT REQUIRED** to be submitted.

Presentation of Papers

Delegates/Participants are expected to present a Country Status Report and/or a research/scientific paper on any of the themes appropriate to the Workshop.

Publication of Papers

A publication edited by one or more international experts and based on the papers presented by the participants during the Workshop and also containing papers contributed by other experts in the field may be brought out in the form of a book as a follow-up of this Workshop. Therefore, all participants are requested to submit the manuscripts of their full papers in MS-Word format only well in advance, but latest by **March 6, 2026**.

Selection of Applicants

Selection of applicants will be made based on their academic and professional background, relevance of their current engagements in the relevant field and the abstract of paper submitted by them. Successful applicants will be electronically informed about their selection.

Other details and terms and conditions for the participation of scientists from various countries will be given to the individual candidates on receipt of their applications.

Financial Arrangements for International Travel

The financial terms and arrangements for international travel of the foreign participants will be conveyed to individual applicants on receipt of their application and other documents.

Local Hospitality

Local hospitality in Mauritius including accommodation, meals and local transport including the airport transfers to the foreign participants sponsored by the NAM S&T Centre will be provided by the Mauritian host from **25 March, 2026 [noon] to 28 March, 2026 [noon]** (i.e. from one day before to one day after completion of the Workshop). The participants will have to make their own arrangements to stay beyond these dates.

Entry Formalities and Immigration

Participants of the Workshop must be in possession of a current passport or any other internationally recognized travel document, which must have a period of validity of at least six months beyond the period of stay in Mauritius and must be endorsed for travel to Mauritius.

Participants should have a valid visa for entry into Mauritius. The Mauritian diplomatic mission located in or closest to the country of the participant should be approached for obtaining an entry visa. For a large number of countries, however, online visa application is available. Upon request, the organisers will facilitate the issuance of visa by providing the participants with an official letter of invitation.

Note: The governments/institutions of the selected participants will be required to bear the following costs:

- All expenses in the home country incidental to travel abroad, including expenditure for passport, required medical examinations, vaccinations and miscellaneous expenses such as internal travel to the airport of departure in the home country.

- Salary and other related allowances for the participants during the period of the Workshop
- Cost of medical insurance to cover the period of participation in the Workshop.

The organisers of the Workshop will not assume responsibility for the following expenditures in connection with the participant's attendance in the Workshop:

- Expenses incurred for any insurance, medical bills or hospitalization fees.
- Compensation in the event of death, disability or illness of participants.
- Loss of personal belongings or compensation for damage caused to them by climatic or other conditions.
- Other costs, including the visa fee, airport taxes, flight cancellation and excess baggage, etc.

Other Useful Information

- Mauritius is usually warm and humid in the month of March, with average maximum and minimum temperatures 29°C and 23°C respectively.
- Mauritian Standard Time is +04 hours ahead of GMT.
- The Local Currency is Mauritian Rupee (MUR); the current exchange rate of USD 1\$ = ~46.5 MUR.

Secretariat & Enquiries

<i>Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre)</i>	<i>Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research, Republic of Mauritius</i>
<p>Dr. Amitava Bandopadhyay Director General, Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre), Core - 6A, 2nd Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi –110003, Republic of India Tel: +91-11-24645134, 24644974 E-mail: namstcentre@gmail.com Website: https://www.namstct.org</p>	<p>Prof. (Dr.) Kiran Bhujun Director – Tertiary Education and Scientific Research Division, Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research, Government of Mauritius, Level 12, SICOM Tower Ebene Cybercity Ebene 72201 Republic of Mauritius E-mail: Director.Tertiary@govmu.org</p>

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ON
PROMOTING BLUE ECONOMY AND OVERCOMING ITS IMPLEMENTATION
CHALLENGES

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MAURITIUS

APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE TYPE OR USE BLOCK CAPITALS
(NO COLUMN SHOULD BE LEFT BLANK)

PHOTO

SECTION-A

(To be filled in by the Applicant)

- 1 Last Name (Prof. /Dr. /Mr. /Mrs. /Ms.):
(As in Passport)
First Name:
Middle Name:
- 2 Designation (Position held):
- 3 Nationality:
- 4 Date of Birth:
Place of Birth (City)(Country).....
- 5 Passport No:
Place of issue:
Date of Issue: Valid up to:

(Please attach copies of the relevant pages of your Passport)

- 6 Name of the Parent Institution (Employer).....
Full Address (Office):
Phone: Mobile:
Fax: E-mail:

7 Full Address (Home):

.....
.....

Phone: Mobile:

Fax: E-mail:

8 Educational Qualifications:

Highest Degree:

Year of Award:

University:

Field of Study:

9 A Short Biography (to be written in third person; 250-300 words max; in MS Word only – to be **ATTACHED**)

10 An Opinion/Write-up (a short paragraph; in MS Word only) on how the applicant qualifies to participate in the Workshop - to be **ATTACHED**

11 An Abstract (about 300 words, in MS-Word only) of the Paper/Country Status Report that would be presented by you at the Workshop - to be **ATTACHED**

Date: Signature:

SECTION-B

ENDORSEMENT BY THE NOMINATING AUTHORITY

(The Applicant in a Member Country of the NAM S&T Centre must get the Application Form endorsed by the Focal Point of the Centre in his/her country, if he/she wishes to take advantages extended to the official nominee of the country. For the list of Member Countries and names/addresses of the Focal Points please visit the Centre's official website; www.namstct.org.)

Name (in full):

Designation:

Signature: Date:

SEAL

Enclosures:

- An Opinion/Write-up (a short paragraph; in MS Word format) on how the applicant qualifies to participate in the Workshop.
- A Short Biography (to be written in third person; 250-300 words max; in MS Word only) highlighting the current engagement, areas of expertise, major achievements, academic qualification and professional experience as succinctly as possible.
- An Abstract (about 300 words; in MS-Word only) of the Paper/Country Status Report that would be presented at the Workshop.
- A copy of relevant pages of your valid Passport[It must have a period of validity of at least six months beyond the period of stay in Mauritius].
