



# ABNJ Regional Leaders Program

2015 – 2016 at the United Nations

## SUMMARY REPORT

The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program promotes knowledge sharing and leadership development regarding marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) among regional and national ocean leaders



### Project Organizers and Sponsors



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



Global Ocean  
Forum



University  
of Delaware



KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS  
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL  
CANDIDATE 2017 - 2018

UN - Nippon Foundation  
of Japan Fellowship  
Programme



MINISTRY OF  
OCEANS AND FISHERIES  
Republic of Korea

PSIDS Fellowship on  
Oceans and Seas



SQUIRE  
PATTON BOGGS

### Additional Support From

### Project Partners



Convention on  
Biological Diversity  
Secretariat



Institute for Sustainable  
Development and International  
Relations (IDDRI, France)



Natural  
Science



UNIVERSITY OF  
SCIENCE  
VIETNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS



world ocean  
network

# ABNJ Regional Leaders Program

United Nations, New York

## OVERVIEW

**The marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ)**, which comprise 64% of the ocean's surface, contain ecosystems with marine resources and biodiversity of great ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural importance. A variety of human activities take place in ABNJ, including fishing, shipping, scientific research, and bioprospecting for genetic resources, in addition to new and emerging activities, such as carbon storage in the deep seabed and offshore energy exploitation.

However, lack of knowledge of marine biodiversity and ecosystems in ABNJ, difficulties in enforcement of existing conservation and management measures, and disagreements over appropriate policy responses, among other factors, have hindered the sustainable management of ABNJ. As well, there is insufficient communication and coordination between ABNJ processes at the regional and global levels and there is a clear need to identify and better utilize best practices in different regions and sectors.

The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program is designed to strengthen the capacity of leaders from developing countries and small island developing States (SIDS) at the regional and national levels to better understand and address issues in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and to more effectively participate in global and regional ABNJ processes.

The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program is a key activity of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/Global Ocean Forum (GOF) project on

Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, part of the GEF/FAO Program on Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (Common Oceans) ([www.common-oceans.org](http://www.common-oceans.org)). The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program is organized by the University of Delaware and the Global Ocean Forum with FAO and hosted at the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), involving a wide range of partners and supporters noted on the brochure cover.

### Leadership Development Goals of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program

- 1) Gain background information and knowledge on ABNJ policy issues across all sectors, especially on fisheries and biodiversity conservation
- 2) Gain an understanding of regional and global ABNJ policy frameworks that address ABNJ issues
- 3) Gain understanding of global ABNJ processes by observing UN negotiations and deliberations on issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ)
- 4) Have the opportunity to present perspectives from the regional and national levels at the global negotiations
- 5) Acquire relevant information that could be applied towards improved regional and national policy-making, management, and the sustainable use of marine resources in ABNJ.

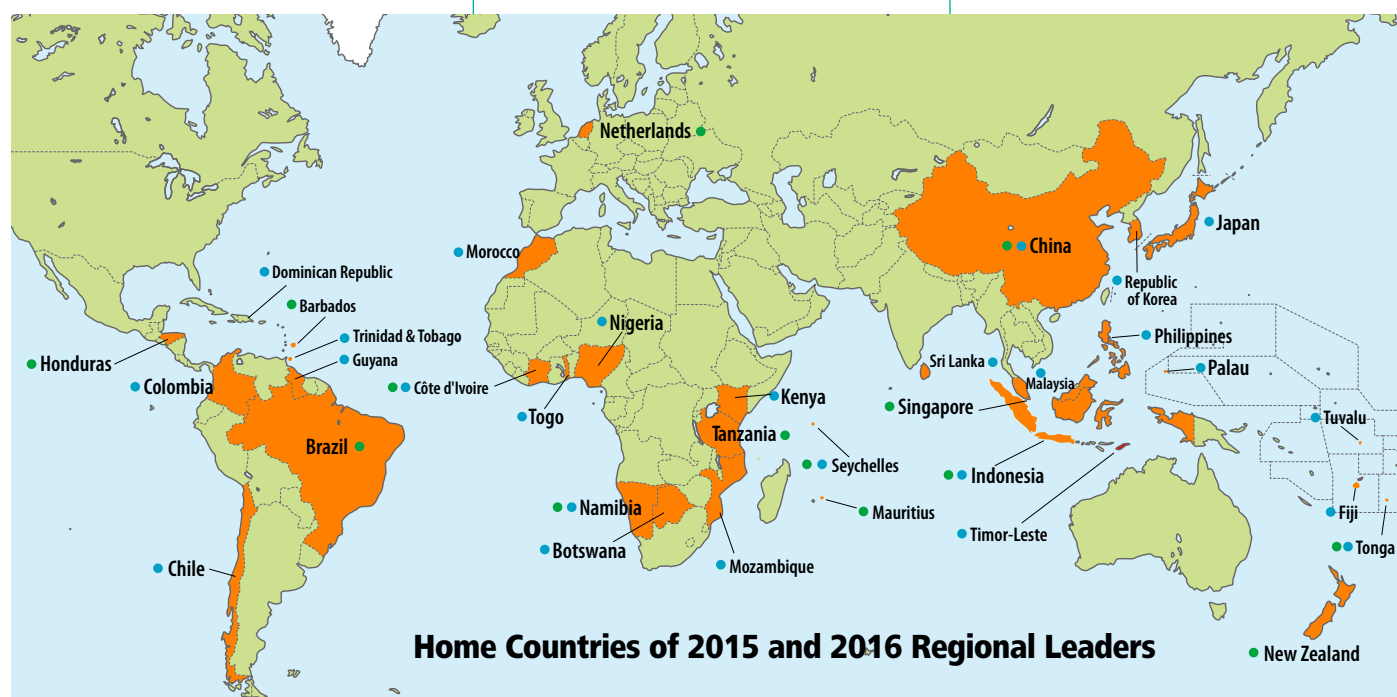
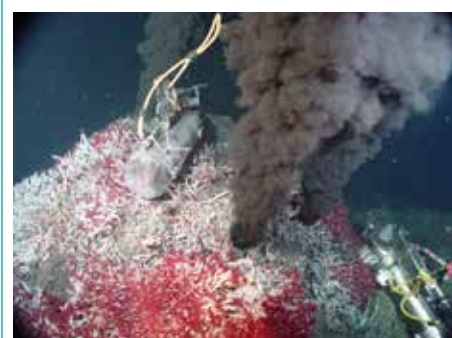


The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program involves four main aspects: 1) an intensive course focused on ABNJ issues, 2) participation in UN negotiations on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, 3) visits to the respective Permanent Mission offices to help establish linkages between the global level and experts at national and regional levels, and 4) presentation of regional and national perspectives on ABNJ challenges and opportunities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands, at a UN side event.

### 2016 and 2015 Regional Leaders Program

The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program was inaugurated in 2015 with 14 participants, the 2016 Program had 30 participants, for a total of 44 participants. The ABNJ Regional Leaders (2015 and 2016) have come from national governments and/or regional organizations concerned with marine resource management from around the world, from the following 34 countries: **Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Kenya,**

**Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Palau, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Tanzania, The Netherlands, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tuvalu,** as shown in the map below.



## 2016 ABNJ Regional Leaders Participants

The following 2016 ABNJ Regional Leaders were announced on March 1, 2016 (see list below also indicating, with many thanks, the source of support for the Regional Leaders). During the period March 21 to April 2, 2016, the ABNJ Regional Leaders participated in the intensive course focused on ABNJ issues; established linkages with their respective UN Permanent Missions; participated in the First Session of the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292 "Development of an international

legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction" (PrepCom); and presented regional and national perspectives on ABNJ challenges and opportunities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands, at a UN side event held on 30 March 2016 (from 12:15 to 13:45), at UN headquarters.

### 2016 Regional Leaders

***Funded by the GEF/FAO/GOF Project on Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ Capacity Project)***



#### **Abennaji Laamrich, Morocco**

Mr. Abennaji Laamrich obtained a Bachelor's in International Relations from the University of Law, as well as an Advanced Studies Diploma in International Law from Sorbonne University in Paris. Subsequently he joined the Ministry of Ocean Fisheries and Merchant Marine as a Marine Inspector. In 1988, he was admitted to the World Maritime University in Sweden where he obtained an Msc in General Maritime Administration. In 1990 he was promoted to a Maritime Affairs Administrator in charge of cooperation with international organizations. As Principal Maritime Affairs what? in 1999 he was nominated as an advisor in the Minister Cabinet in charge of public relations. In 2003 he obtained an MBA from Anglia Polytechnic University in Cambridge in 2003. He is currently an adviser and Project Manager in ATLAFCO (Conférence ministérielle sur la coopération halieutique des États Africains riverains de l'Océan Atlantique), which works to promote and strengthen regional cooperation with respect to fisheries development.



#### **Seraphin Nadjé Dedi, Côte d'Ivoire**

Mr. Seraphin Nadjé Dedi obtained a diploma as Engineer of Waters, Forests and Environment at Felix Houphouët Boigny Polytechnic Institute at Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire.

As First Executive Secretary of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), a Regional Fisheries Body (RFB), he leads initiatives such as EU-ACP FISH II Project, FAO EAF Nansen project implementation; Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA); Ecowas and Africa Union Fisheries and Aquaculture policies development for coherence and strengthening institutional collaboration in the African fisheries and aquaculture sector. As a member of African Union think tank on fisheries and Vice-Chair of Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF), he developed strategies to combat illegal fishing, led AU-NEPAD in "African strong voice in fisheries" at FAO's Committee on Fisheries (CHECK), and established the West Africa Task Force (WATF) to fight illegal fishing.



#### **Abdul Rahman B. Abdul Wahab, Malaysia**

Mr. Abdul Rahman B. Abdul Wahab is the Head of the International Section of the Department of , Malaysia. He is a member of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network at the secretariat of Southeast Asian Fisheries

Development Center (SEAFDEC) Bangkok, Thailand, and participates in various fora including Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Oceans Fisheries Working Group of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC-OFWG) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). He leads policy development including the National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (NPOA-IUU), National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the



Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME). He coordinates regional projects including with SEAFDEC and FAO. He has several years of experience with the World Trade Organization (WTO). Mr Wahab holds a Master's in Fisheries Policy from the University of Wollongong, Australia.



### **Li Gu, China**

Ms. Li Gu is the Deputy Director of the Divisions of International Organization and Conventions for China's Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP). She has worked in the Department of International Cooperation of MEP for over a decade. Before MEP, she was a lecturer in an institute to teach English for 7 years. She completed a Bachelor's Degree in English Language and Literature in 1998 in China and a Master's Degree in Public Affairs AT SciencesPo School of Public Affairs in France. Her current focus is on the issues related to the Convention of Biological Diversity, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Rotterdam Convention and two of the UNEP regional seas programs: the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) and the Coordinating Body on the seas of East Asia (COBSEA).



### **Angela Teresa Gonzalez Feliz, Dominican Republic**

Mrs. Angela Teresa Gonzalez Feliz is the Legal Officer in the Dominican Council for Fisheries and Aquaculture (CODOPESCA). CODOPESCA's vision includes the establishment of a sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture System, based on the principles and rules governing the conservation, management and fisheries development of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. She also works as an OSPESCA (Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuicola del Istmo Centroamericano) National Coordinator, linking between the Institution and the Regional Organism to strengthen cooperation. As a lawyer, she participated in the elaboration of the first draft of regulation applying the law creating the CODOPESCA, which is necessary for its implementation.



### **Jenny Sharyne Bowie Wilches, Colombia**

Ms. Jenny Sharyne Bowie Wilches is Third Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she is tasked with all the multilateral environment agreements related to oceans. She

is responsible for consolidating and defining the national position for the participation of the Colombian Government in different fora, including: The International Whaling Commission, The International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds, the Marine Environment Protection Committee –IMO, the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region; and the BBNJ ongoing Process, among others. She has previous experience working at the local level as the enforcement coordinator of Seaflower Biosphere Reserve, located at the Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina. Ms. Bowie holds a Master's Degree on Government and Public Administration from the Pontific Javeriana University of Colombia.



### **Cristobal Patricio Hernandez, Chile**

Mr. Cristobal Patricio Hernandez is a lawyer and advisor in the Oceanic Affairs Department in the Directorate of Environment and Oceanic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile. He provides advice on oceanic and fishery matters focusing on the international level with a view to develop policies and programs for the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources. Mr. Hernandez also participates in the creation of a new policy to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing in Chile (IUU Fishing) and is member of the national working group that analyzes the negotiating process of biodiversity beyond jurisdictional areas (BBNJ). Mr. Hernandez worked on the implementation of the Second Conference "Our Ocean" Valparaiso 2015 in October 2015 and in the Accession of Chile to the "New York Agreement of 1995 on straddling fish stocks and highly migratory (UNFSA)."



### **Salote Tagivakatini, Fiji**

Ms. Salote Tagivakatini is the Principal Foreign Service Officer United Nations and Treaties/Africa/Americas/Middle East/Europe Bureau (UA Bureau) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Fiji. She is responsible for the provision of technical and policy advice, drafting of high-level Ministerial Cabinet Papers, statements and briefs with regards to Fiji's foreign policy issues and interests in relation to UN matters and maritime affairs. She has previous experience as a Human Rights Lawyer with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Human Rights Program, as well as experience as State Prosecutor for the Fiji Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. She holds formal qualifications in Law, Sociology and

Criminology from the University of the South Pacific and Kent University, London.

***Funded by the GEF/FAO Project on Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ***



**Vincent Gerald Lucas, Seychelles**

Mr. Vincent Gerald Lucas is the Chief Executive Officer of the Seychelles Fishing Authority, the executive arm of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. He manages the development of Seychelles'

fisheries sector to its maximum economic potential, as well as ensures long-term sustainability of marine living resources and the ecosystem. As a trained fisheries scientist, Mr. Lucas has many years of experience in fisheries research, management and governance. He has been active as a scientist at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and at the South West Indian Ocean Programme (SWIOFP), where he was the regional coordinator for the pelagic fisheries component. Mr. Lucas has represented his country at many international and regional conferences and workshops such as the IOTC, South West Indian Ocean Commission (SWIOFC) and FAO, Committee on Fisheries (COFI). Mr. Lucas holds a Bachelor's in Fisheries Science and Technology with Ocean Science.

***Funded by the GEF/FAO Project on Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the ABNJ***



**Paulus Kainge, Namibia**

Mr. Paulus Kainge is the Chief Scientist in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. He leads research on demersal resources, conducting and coordinating research and formulating scientific advice on conservation measures for the sus-

tainable utilization of marine resources and protection of environment. He is a member of the Marine Resources Advisory Council, which advises the Minister on any matter pertaining to marine resources. Regionally, Mr. Kainge is the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO) where he convenes and presides over meetings of the SC and presenting SC reports to the Annual SEAFO Commission meetings. He is also a Vice-Chair of the Regional Demersal Working Group of the Benguela Current Commission (BCC). Mr. Kainge holds a Master's Degree in Fisheries Biology and Fisheries Management from the University

of Bergen in Norway and is a PhD candidate at the Technical University of Denmark.

***Funded by the Government of the Netherlands***



**Felismina Antia, Mozambique**

Ms. Felismina Antia is the National Director of Maritime and Fishery Policies in the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries and is currently charged with drafting the National Maritime Policy and other legislation. She has prior experience at

Maputo City Council (1997-2003) as Legal Advisor on land tenure, and at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (National Directorate of Water) as legal advisor as well as the Head of Department, in charge of coordination and participation in the elaboration of agreements between Mozambique and riparian countries. She has a Law degree from Eduardo Mondlane University and a Master's degree from the University de Queensland on Alternative Dispute Resolution.

***Funded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)***



**Kanako Hasegawa, Japan**

Ms. Kanako Hasegawa is the Associate Programme Officer at UNEP Regional Seas Coordination. She works for UNEP as a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) supported by the Government of Japan. Currently she is in charge of coordinating activ-

ities of the eighteen Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans including indicators work, information and knowledge sharing and cooperation with Regional Fisheries Bodies. She has previously worked in Venezuela, providing technical inputs on municipal environmental education, wastewater treatment and solid waste management. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from McGill University, Canada and a Master's degree in Nature, Society and Environmental Policy from Oxford University, U.K.

***Funded by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), Republic of Korea***



**Dongyeob Yang, Korea**

Mr. Dongyeob Yang is a Korean Government official and Visiting Scholar at the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy at the University of Delaware since December 2015. He has worked for the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF)

for 20 years, especially in fisheries affairs. He served as



a director of the division for fisheries negotiation and monitoring & control for illegal fishing activities in domestic areas. He also served as an Assistant Secretary of Secretary's Office for oceans and fisheries in the Office of the President. He is the recipient of the Korean Government Oversea Fellowship, which offers officials the opportunity to enhance their policy-making capacity. The main topic of his research focuses on Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management and how developing countries can be provided appropriate development assistance in this field.



### ***Sangkil Lee, Korea***

Mr. Sangkil Lee has worked for the Korean Ministry of Ocean Affairs and Fisheries since 2001, where he manages various policies related to the shipping industry, port authorities, and aquaculture. He is currently completing a Master's degree in

Energy and Environment Policy at the University of Delaware. For his undergraduate education, Sangkil studied economics at the Seoul National University in South Korea.

***Funded by the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) – United Nations Nippon Foundation Fellowship Program***



### ***Kouété Afachawo, Togo***

Mr. Kouété Afachawo is the Deputy Adviser in charge of legal affairs in sea state action under the authority of the Special Adviser of the President of Republic of Togo. He is currently involved in the maritime sector reform initiated by the Government.

Previously at the General Secretariat of the Government/Prime Minister, he participated in the legal consulting of the Government, coordination of government actions and legal drafting. He was responsible for examining the conformity of all draft texts (laws, ordinances, agreements, decrees) submitted by departments for their adoption by the Council of Ministers, drafting legal notice to the attention of the General Secretary of the Government / Prime Minister / President of the Republic, ensuring constant legal monitoring of decisions taken by the Council of Ministers, and developing normalization rules.



### ***Bojotlhe Butale, Botswana***

Ms. Bojotlhe Butale is currently Principal State Counsel in the International Law Unit of the International and Commercial Division

of the Attorney General's Chambers of the Republic of Botswana. She advises the Government of Botswana on all its international obligations under treaty law and customary international law. She has participated in the Inter-ministerial Committee on Treaties, Conventions and Protocols since 2010 where she advises on operationalization of treaties, conventions and protocols, as well as drafting state party reports and is part of a team that handles matters related to the UN. Additionally, she advises governmental departments on policy formulation, and in 2015 was part of the team that drafted the National Energy Policy. On an international level, she drafts and negotiates bilateral and multilateral agreements, on behalf of the Government. She holds an LLB (University of Botswana) and LLM in Public International Law (Stellenbosch University).



### ***Caroline Gichuri, Kenya***

Ms. Caroline Gichuri is a State Counsel in the International Law Division of the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice in Kenya. Her work mostly involves international law legal research. In particular, Ms. Gichuri has

conducted legal research on the maritime boundary dispute between Somalia and Kenya. Moreover, she provides legal advice to foreign States on inter-State cooperation for legal assistance on varied international law matters, including transnational crimes investigations in cross-border smuggling of banned goods by sea. Previously, Ms. Gichuri, through her office, prepared the submissions of Kenya to the United National General Assembly (UNGA) on the application of the principle of universal jurisdiction, especially as it related to criminalization and trial of maritime piracy cases. In addition, Ms. Gichuri was part of the delegation of Kenya to the first session of the plenary meeting on Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).



### ***Chizoba Odanwu, Nigeria***

Ms. Chizoba Odanwu is a Principal State Counsel in the Department of Public Prosecutions of the Federation, under the Federal Ministry of Justice Abuja Nigeria. She has experience prosecuting criminal cases/matters before Nigerian courts and

is currently prosecuting maritime offenses for the government of her country. She has participated in teams that offer policy advice to the government on maritime policies reforms and information on the Criminal Justice sector aiding in tackling maritime insecurity in the country as well as ensuring innovative prosecution of maritime criminal offenses. She has contributed to

the Nigerian Maritime Security Agency's bill (NIMASA) pending before the National Assembly for passage into law. She had been a member of the team specially trained by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in 2014 for the prosecution of terrorism related offenses. Ms. Odanwu holds a Bachelor of Law from Nigerian Law School and University respectively.



**Zaki Mubarak Busro,  
Indonesia**

Mr. Zaki Mubarak Busro is currently a PhD student in Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), University of Wollongong, Australia under the sponsorship of Australia Awards

Scholarship (AAS) and a Fellow in UN-Nippon Fellowship Program. Previously, he worked as a legal drafter and Head of Sub Division in the Legal and Organization Bureau of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia. As a legal drafter, he drafted and negotiated various bilateral and multilateral agreements with the other countries and domestic laws and regulations. At the Ministry, he served as a consultant on legal, policy and institutional matters related to the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Program as part of cooperation between UNDP/GEF and the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Before joining the Ministry, he was a member of an expert panel in the House of Representatives of Indonesia for international relations and ethics matters and Officer in the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.



**Jacqueline Joyce Espenilla,  
Philippines**

Ms. Jacqueline Espenilla is a Senior Attorney at the Department of Justice in the Philippines. She is involved in crafting the Philippines' South China Sea policy and working on other international legal issues--

e.g. human trafficking, forced migration, free trade agreements and bilateral/regional defense agreements. Before joining the DOJ, she was a consultant for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) dealing with regional and domestic environmental concerns. She has completed an internship with the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) where she focused on territorial disputes and environmental law issues. Jacqueline holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from Harvard Law School and a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from the University of the Philippines College of Law.



**Epeli Maisema, Fiji**

Mr. Epeli Maisema is the Technical Officer of the Ministry of Lands & Resources. He is currently a member of the Maritime Affairs Coordinating Committee (MACC), where he examines issues related to the delimitation of Fiji's maritime boundaries

including the extended continental shelf. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Marine Affairs and Land Management from the University of the South Pacific. He has attended overseas training twice; in July 2012 he attended the *Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy* held in Rhodes, Greece; in October 2014 he was selected by the Korean Maritime Institute to attend the *Yeosu Academy of the Law of the Sea* at Yeosu, South Korea. He is currently pursuing a Master's in Environmental Law from the University of the South Pacific.



**Randy Bumbury, Guyana**

Mr. Randy Terry Bumbury is a Fisheries Officer attached to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Department. He graduated from the University of Guyana in 2013 with a Degree in General Agriculture. Working in the Fisheries Department's Legal and

Inspectorate Unit for the past 2 and half years, he has assisted with the coordination of various inspections, licencing, training and monitoring exercises related to marine fisheries. To date he has worked on ten (10) fisheries dispute cases, which have all been resolved.



**Vivian Lezama Pizzati,  
Honduras**

Ms. Vivian Lezama Pizzati is a Latin American lawyer who has worked in diplomacy for the past 5 years. She currently works for the Honduran Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is a Minister Counselor based in New

York City. She is currently involved in Migratory and Environmental Issues. She has experience in legislative drafting from previous work as Legal Assistant to the Honduran Vice-President of Congress. She has worked with non-government organizations such as Fundacion Democracia Sin Fronteras on Transparency and Accountability in Legislative and Environmental Affairs with funding from the European Union and on educational projects with the MIDEH (Mejorando el Impacto al Desempeño Estudiantil de Honduras) organization under the Honduran Ministry of Education and USAID. She has previous experience in the Legal Department of the Honduran Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.





### ***Aruna Maheepala, Sri Lanka***

Mr. Aruna Maheepala holds a BA Degree in Economics from University of Sri Jayewardenepura as well as a Master's Degrees in Economics from the University of Kalaniya and Colombo, and a Postgraduate diploma in applied statistics at Peradeniya University. He also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law at Open University of Sri Lanka. He worked for the Red Cross Society for two years as a Community Support Coordinator under the project of psychosocial support programme (PSP). Currently he is the senior scientist at National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA). He has more than 6 years research experience in the field of economics, sociology, and marketing and has engaged with many research projects and consultancies. He was a Committee Member of the "National Committee on Socio Economic & Policy Analysis" (2009–2011).



### ***Didina Maria Assunção Coelho Da Silva, Timor-Leste***

Ms. Didina Maria Assunção Coelho Da Silva is an official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. She is a Desk Officer for the Republic of Indonesia and participated in the consultation meeting between Timor-Leste and Indonesia on the delimitation of maritime boundaries between the two countries. Ms. Coelho holds a bachelor's degree in law from Tarumanaga University, Indonesia.

***Funded by the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) Fellowship on Oceans and Seas***



### ***Semisi Seruitanoa, Fiji***

Mr. Ratu Semisi Rakuro Seruitanoa is an employee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Fiji. Semisi attained his Bachelor's Degree which covers 3 disciplines; International Relations (IR), International Business (IB) and International Environment (IE) from the International Pacific University (IPU) in New Zealand. His goals are to build his capacity as a staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to become a diplomat in the near future.



### ***Kasipo Margaret Teo, Tuvalu***

Ms. Kasipo Margaret Teo is currently a fellow under the Pacific Small Islands Developing States Fellowship Program on Oceans and Seas. Ms. Teo holds a double degree, Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Marine Affairs and Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and a Professional Diploma in Legal Practice, all from the University of the South Pacific. Prior to being part of the Fellowship Program, Ms. Teo was and still is the legal officer for the Fisheries Department, under the Ministry of Natural Resources for the Government of Tuvalu. Her responsibilities include providing legal advice and work to the Director of Fisheries and staff on matters pertaining to fisheries laws and policies. Ms. Teo also worked as a legal counsel for the Office of the People's Laws where her main responsibility was providing legal advice to the concerns of the general public. Ms. Teo's career objective is to assist in the development of the ocean resources (in particular fisheries) of Tuvalu, ensuring that the ocean resources, space, and services are sustainably managed, used and developed for the betterment of Tuvalu's people and economy, present and future.



### ***Landisang Lysandra Kotaro, Palau***

Ms. Landisang L. Kotaro is a Pacific Small Island Developing States Fellow on Oceans and Seas. Ms. Kotaro was a Legal Researcher and Senior Committee Staff of the House of Delegates of the Ninth Olbiil Era Kelulau (Palau National Congress) prior to accepting the fellowship. She worked closely with the House legal counsels and Members of the House of Delegates on proposed measures before the House. Among the several significant laws on which she worked is the historic Palau National Marine Sanctuary Act. Ms. Kotaro attained her Bachelor of Science in International Studies with a focus on Terrorism and Security at the University of Utah and attained her Master of Arts degree in Asia-Pacific Studies at the National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan. She has also participated in a number of leadership development trainings and programs including the Pacific Islands Leadership Program at the East-West Center in Hawaii.



### ***Rose Lesley Kautoke, Tonga***

Ms. Rose L. Kautoke is a Pacific Islands Small Island Developing States Fellow on Oceans and Seas. Prior to accepting this Fellowship, she was

employed as a Government Lawyer with the Attorney General's Office of the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga for three years. During her time with the Attorney General's Office her responsibilities ranged from criminal prosecutions, provision of legal advice, legal drafting, to representing the Government of Tonga in all legal matters assigned to her by the Solicitor General, with emphasis on law of the sea related matters. Ms. Kautoke was admitted as a Law Practitioner to the Tongan Bar in 2011 and was appointed a Commissioner of Oaths in 2013. She holds a Professional Diploma in Legal Practice, Professional Diploma in Legal Drafting and a Bachelor of Law from the University of the South Pacific.

#### **Observer**



#### **Lizanne Aching, Trinidad and Tobago**

Ms. Lizanne Aching is a diplomat at the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations (UN), New York. She covers Sixth Committee issues at the UN, as well as issues related to, inter alia, the law of the sea, the –International? Criminal Court and UN Security Council reform.



## **2015 Regional Leaders Program**

The 2015 ABNJ Regional Leaders Program was inaugurated in 2015, with a first session held on 15-21 January 2015 at the United Nations in New York.

Fourteen participants were selected from a pool of 108 applicants based on the following criteria: Focal area/sector, Regional/National Leader, potential for ABNJ leadership, relevant work, educational background, years of experience, also taking into account other considerations such as representation from various world regions.

ABNJ Regional Leaders participated in the 9th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, and gave presentations on capacity development and ABNJ, including regional and national perspectives from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific Islands at a formal UN side event during the negotiations.

The training was held at UNDOALOS (on 15, 16, 19, and 21 January), the Church Center of the United Nations (17 January), and at UN Headquarters (20, 21 January).



#### **Steven Ambabi, Namibia**

Mr. Ambabi is Deputy Director in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, in the Directorate of Operations responsible for Technical Services, where he is tasked with regulating fishing activities within the Namibian Exclusive Economic Zone and beyond through Monitoring, Control and Surveillance. He also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Namibia Fish Consumption Promotion Trust (NFCPT) and a member of the Board of Trustees and Chairperson of the Swakop Uranium Foundation. Mr. Ambabi has served as the Head of the Namibian delegation to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Board member of Fisheries Observers Agency, and Deputy Director of the Division of Technical Services in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.



#### **Mohamed Badal, Mauritius**

Mr. Badal is the Head of the Office of Ocean Affairs and Development at the Prime Minister's Office, Government of Mauritius, where he focuses on offshore hydrocarbon and minerals, continental shelf submissions, development of the Ocean Economy Roadmap and Implementation plan, and co-management of the Joint Zone in the Mascarene Plateau with the Seychelles. He has experience as the



Office-in-Charge and Principal Research Scientist at the Mauritius Oceanography Institute and as a Programme Specialist at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. Mr. Badal holds a Ph.D. in physical oceanography from the University of Mauritius, with a focus on oceanic processes of the SW Indian Ocean and a study on tsunami modeling and preparedness.



#### ***Abou Bamba, Cote d'Ivoire***

Mr. Bamba is the Regional Coordinator for the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa (Abidjan Convention). He has many years of experience in international governance as a Regional Coordinator for Africa for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Coordinator for the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa, and Technical Advisor for the World Bank/International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Mr. Bamba holds an M.Sc in Management of Marine Resources from the Université du Québec à Rimouski, Quebec, Canada and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Center for Diplomatic and Strategic Studies, Paris, France.



#### ***Michael Donoghue, New Zealand***

Mr. Donoghue, New Zealand, is the Threatened and Migratory Species Advisor at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), where he leads a team in the conservation of iconic Pacific species, such as turtles, sharks, whales, dolphins, and dugongs, co-ordinates SPREP's involvement with the Marine Sector Working Group of the Pacific Leaders Forum, and heads the Blue Team which reports to the Director-General of SPREP on various marine issues. He has also served as Executive Director, Pacific Islands Programme at

Conservation International and in the New Zealand Department of Conservation as a Marine Mammals Policy Advisor. Mr. Donoghue holds a Master's Degree in Oceanography from Southampton University.



#### ***T. Suka Mangisi, Tonga***

Mr. Mangisi is the Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations, responsible for providing policy and legal advice, as well as guidance on day-to-day operations of the Mission with regards to foreign policy issues and interests, UN elections, the Mission's budget and management, and human resource and personnel management. He has experience as the Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Principal Assistant Secretary (legal) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Tonga. Mr. Mangisi holds a Ph.D. in International Public Policy from Osaka University.



#### ***Rose Mtui, Tanzania***

Rose Sallema Mtui is a Principal Environmental Management Officer (PEMO) working with the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) under the Ministry responsible for Environment in Tanzania. NEMC oversees all environmental matters in the country and coordinates both national and regional coastal and marine programmes/projects. Ms. Mtui heads the Environmental Research Coordination Department and also supervise coastal/marine management projects such as Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem, Western Indian Ocean Marine Highway Development and Coastal and Marine Contamination Prevention and Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonisation and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) project and Tanzania Coral Reef Task Force (TzCRTE). With the WIOMHP project, Ms. Mtui supervised the development of Environmentally Sensitive Area Maps, which mapped the



***Francois Baillet, UNDOALOS, lecturing to the Regional Leaderss***



***Amrikha Singh receives her ABNJ Regional Leaders Course Certificate***

whole coastline of Tanzania including Zanzibar, including identifying all sensitive areas with Mangroves, Coral Reefs, Sea-grass beds, oil and gas exploration and extraction sites, fish landing sites, shipping routes (marine highway), cetacean migratory routes, socio-economic activities, and tourist sites. Ms. Mtui holds a Master's Degree in Aquatic Sciences from the University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.



#### ***Andrei Polejack, Brazil***

Mr. Polejack is the Coordinator for Ocean Sciences and Antarctica at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation in Brazil, the nationally designated institution for IOC/UN-ESCO. He represents the Ministry in national and international fora relating to ocean and Antarctic sciences, provides technical advice, and negotiates agreements and cooperation in support of marine research. Mr. Polejack has also served as the Technical Advisor for the Brazilian Antarctic Program at the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development. He holds a Master's Degree in ecology from the Universidade de Brasilia.



#### ***Seema Parkash, Singapore***

Ms. Parkash is First Secretary, UN Matters, Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations. She was formally a Foreign Service Officer at the International Organisations Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Singapore. She analyzes, reports, and provides policy advice pertaining to Singapore's strategic interests. She has previously contributed to developing and implementing Singapore's Arctic engagement policy and strategy and managing bilateral relations with South Asian countries. Ms. Parkash has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Duke University.



#### ***Rodney Quatre, Seychelles***

Mr. Quatre is the Head of the Conservation and Research Section at the Seychelles National Parks Authority, where he is responsible for overseeing ongoing projects, liaising with local and international scientists and organizations, representing the organization at international and regional meetings/workshops, and preparing cabinet papers for the ministers in Seychelles. He also serves as the Secretary of the Shark Research Foundation Seychelles and country focal point for the coral reef monitoring network. He also has experience as a Research Officer and Senior researcher at the Seychelles

Center for Marine Research and Technology and project officer in the Coastal Zone Management unit of the Ministry of Environment. Mr. Quatre holds a Master's in Environment from the Australian National University.



#### ***Amrikha Singh, Barbados***

Ms. Singh is the Senior Project Officer for the Sustainable Development Sub-programme, Directorate of Human and Social Development, Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) Secretariat (headquartered in Guyana), where she is responsible for designing regional programmes in oceans governance, collaborating with the United Nations Environment Programme for regional environmental governance, and supporting CARICOM in international environmental governance. She has experience as an Environmental Officer and Research Officer in the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage, Government of Barbados, and has worked as a United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Consultant. Ms. Singh holds a Master's degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of the West Indies.



#### ***Hendra Siry, Indonesia***

Mr. Siry is the Secretary for Coordination and External Affairs Interim-Regional Secretariat of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) (a multi-lateral partnership by Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste working to sustain marine and coastal resources) and the Deputy Director for Coastal Disaster Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation in the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries. While working in the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, he has served as the Deputy Director for Spatial and Zoning Plans Region II, Senior Researcher and Chair for the Research Center for Marine and Fisheries Socio-Economic Data Center, Deputy Director for Technical Affairs, and was also the lead negotiator on Ocean Dimensions for the Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research during the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Meetings. Mr. Siry holds a Ph.D. from the Resources Management in Asia-Pacific Program at the Australian National University.



#### ***Raymon Van Anrooij, the Netherlands***

Mr. Van Anrooij, the Netherlands, is a Fishery and Aquaculture Officer for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Barbados, where he is the



Secretary of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC). He has experience in developing FAO's programme in fisheries and aquaculture in Central Asia; contributing to the development of methodologies and guidelines on co-management and fisheries credit and insurance issues; conducting economic and social studies on management and development of aquaculture; and analyzing the global socio-economic situation in fisheries and aquaculture. Mr. Van Anrooij holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Madison University.



*Stefan Amundsen, NEAFC, lecturing on the role of regional fishery management organizations in ABNJ*



### **Zheng Miao Zhuang, China**

Mr. Zheng is a doctor of environmental science at China Agriculture University in Beijing and also serves as a research fellow in the China Institute for Marine Affairs of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA), where he focuses on marine environmental management and law of the sea, particularly on marine genetic resources and biodiversity conservation. He has drafted the East Asian Seas sustainable development strategy-China's implementation plan framework, participated in the preparation of China's Ocean Development Report, attended the UN Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ), and written about BBNJ. Mr. Zheng holds a Ph.D. from China Agriculture University.



*Dr. Miriam Balgos, Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain and Dr. Palitha Kohona listen to comments from regional leaders*



### **Zheng Yuanjie, Singapore**

Mr. Zheng works for the International Organizations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Singapore. He has several years of experience working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the embassy in Tokyo, Northeast Asia Directorate, and as a country officer to Japan and Korea. Mr. Zheng holds a Master's of Arts in Global Studies from Sophia University.



*Michael Donoghue receives course certificate from Biliana Cicin-Sain*



*Dr. Miriam Balgos lectures regional leaders*



## **Short Course Content, ABNJ Regional Leaders Program**

A total of six course modules, each consisting of a lecture, followed by a discussion period, comprised the course. Lectures were given by 18 experts during the ABNJ introductory course. Please see the summary of course modules and the list of lecturers below.

### **Course Modules**

**Module 1, “Overview: The Importance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): Why Should you Care?”** provided a broad overview of ABNJ issues, including: Significance; ecosystems and threats; major uses; protection of marine biodiversity; legal and policy frameworks; ongoing debates about future policy directions; major issues; and how can regional leaders contribute to the application of integrated, ecosystem-based approaches to ABNJ.

**Module 2, ‘The Legal and Policy Framework for Managing Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction—Global Level,’** provided the legal and policy background for ABNJ. Topics covered include: The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (evolution, conflicts, maritime jurisdictions, continental shelf, outstanding issues, the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and other related agreements.

**Module 3, “Ecosystems and Resources in ABNJ, Threats and Opportunities,”** examined the ecosystems and resource of ABNJ. Topics included: types of ecosystems and issues that are raised; marine biodiversity; threats; overview of ecosystem approaches; gaps in current legal and policy frameworks regarding ABNJ ecosystems, resources, and marine biodiversity; uses and applications of marine genetic resources; and an overview of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS).

**Module 4, “Existing Authorities and Processes Related to ABNJ at the Global Level,”** presented the existing authorities and processes working in ABNJ. Topics discussed were: fisheries, shipping and control of marine pollution; deep seabed mining, submarine cables, and marine biodiversity.





*ABNJ Regional Leaders complete their final day of training kindly hosted by Douglas Burnett and the Squire Patton Boggs Law Firm*

**Module 5, “Authorities and Processes Related to ABNJ at the Regional Level: Experiences and Lessons Learned,”** compared regional ABNJ experiences. Each participant presented his/her regional/national experience, interests in ABNJ, challenges, lessons learned, and possible future improvements/needs. Additionally, participants heard lectures from a regional fishery management organization (RFMO) and a voluntary regional environmental stewardship entity on their experiences at the regional level.

**Module 6, “Capacity Development Regarding ABNJ,”** provided background on past discussions of capacity developing in the BBNJ negotiations including a survey of capacity needs in ABNJ and current capacity development initiatives under the Common Oceans Program.

**Module 7, “Global Negotiations Regarding ABNJ: Evolution, Issues, Possible Outcomes of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction,”** provided background on the BBNJ Working group. Topics included: Evolution of the UN Working Group, major issues, Rio+20 outcomes, and outlook for current negotiations.

**Module 8, “Preparing to Participate in the PrepCom Negotiations: How the UN Works and the Dynamics of International Negotiations,”** gave insight to UN negotiations from the inside and the outside of the UN.



*2016 ABNJ Regional Leader Participants and organizers in the UN-DOALOS conference room*

## Course Lecturers (in the order of module presentation)



**Biliana Cicin-Sain**, University of Delaware and Global Ocean Forum

Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain (PhD in political science, UCLA, postdoctoral training, Harvard University) is President of the Global Ocean Forum, and Director of the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy and Professor of Marine Policy at the University of Delaware. An expert in the field of integrated coastal and ocean governance, she has authored over 100 publications in the field, and has forged international collaboration among all sectors of the international oceans community to advance the global oceans agenda, as founder and president of the Global Ocean Forum. Dr. Cicin-Sain's international ocean work has been recognized through a number of awards, including: 2010 Laureate for the Elizabeth Haub Award for Environmental Diplomacy; 2010 honorary doctorate in maritime law by Korea Maritime University; 2007 Coastal Zone Foundation Award (US); 2007 Elizabeth Mann Borgese Meerespreis (Prize of the Sea, given by the Ministry of Science, Economics and Transport of the Land Schleswig-Holstein, Germany); 2002 co-recipient of the Ocean and Coastal Stewardship award (given by the California and the World Ocean Conference).



**Miriam Balgos**, University of Delaware and Global Ocean Forum

Dr. Miriam Balgos is an Associate Scientist at the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy at the University of Delaware and Program Coordinator for the Global Ocean Forum. Miriam's expertise is in providing leadership and services in integrated and ecosystem-based ocean and coastal resources management and climate change. Prior to her current position, Miriam served as a Research Associate at the WorldFish Center in the Philippines. Miriam has also served as a consultant for USAID-RDMA, FAO, CBD, URI-CRC. Miriam has a Ph.D. in Marine Studies from the University of Delaware, and a BSc in Fisheries and MSc in Marine Biology from the University of the Philippines.



**Vladimir Jares**, UN DOALOS

Mr. Vladimir Jares is the Deputy Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. He has dealt with many issues concerning the law of the sea, in

particular those related to the implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and related Agreements. Since 1997, he has been involved in providing services to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and, currently, serves as its Secretary. He has also been involved in capacity-building activities of the Division, delivering many of its training courses, including on UNCLOS article 76 implementation.



**Alice Hicuburundi**, UN DOALOS

Alice Hicuburundi is from Burundi and a Senior Legal Officer at the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations. Ms. Hicuburundi studied Law at the University of Montpellier I, in France. She joined the United Nations in 1989 as a successful candidate to the United Nations National Competitive Examination Programme. For the last eight years, she has focused her attention on issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. She was the current Secretary of the Working Group established by the General Assembly on those issues. Ms. Hicuburundi is also the Secretary of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process established by the General Assembly in order to facilitate the annual review by the Assembly of developments in ocean affairs, including issues related to marine biodiversity and fisheries. She is team leader with regard to issues relating to oceans and sustainable development, marine scientific research, migration by sea and international cooperation and coordination. Before joining the United Nations, Alice Hicuburundi served as counsellor to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Burundi from 1987 to 1989.



**Francois Bailet**, UN DOALOS

François Napoléon Bailet, BSc (Environmental Sciences), Diplôme d'Étude Approfondies - DEA (Law and Economics of Development) and PhD (International Public Law) served as the late Elisabeth Mann Borgese's Special Assistant until her passing in 2002, after which he was appointed Deputy Executive Director of the International Ocean Institute Network (IOI), then Expert Advisor in Ocean Governance to the IOI, and now serves as Honorary Adviser to the President of IOI. In August of 2004, he assumed his current post as Senior Legal Officer in Charge of Capacity Building and Trust Funds at the United Nations within the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations. He also heads the Maritime Security





**Dr. Douglas Burnett and Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain**

Cluster within the Division and is the Secretary of the United Nations Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects. Dr. Bailet is a founding Advisory Committee member of the Global Forum on Ocean Costs and Islands.



**Valentina Germani, UN DOALOS**

Ms. Valentina Germani is a Legal Officer with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), where she has worked since 2001. Currently, she is the Programme Advisor of the United Nations - Nippon

Foundation of Japan Fellowship Programme on Human Resources Development and Advancement of the Legal Order of the World's Oceans. Previously, her assignments at the Division included working on delineation of maritime zones, in particular the continental shelf, marine environment and biological diversity, fisheries, sustainable development and capacity-building. From 2010 to 2012, Ms. Germani was seconded to the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, where she worked as a Legal Officer dealing with compliance and the UNFCCC intergovernmental negotiating processes. Before joining the United Nations, Ms. Germani worked as a Lecturer on the LLM Programme of the University of London, where she taught International Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law at the University College of London and Queen Mary, respectively. Ms. Germani obtained a Master Degree in Law in Public International Law.



**Marjo Vierros, UNU**

Dr. Marjo Vierros is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, where she coordinates the Global Marine Governance project. She is also a Senior Fellow with the Traditional Knowledge Initiative of the United Nations Uni-



**Mr. Sidney Kemble lecturing the ABNJ Regional Leaders**

versity. She has degrees in biology, oceanography and marine biology and has worked with research, conservation and United Nations organizations in the Caribbean, North and Central America, Bermuda and the Pacific. She is originally from Finland and currently lives in Vancouver. Her research interests include linking global and local scales in ocean and coastal management, implementation of an ecosystem approach in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, marine genetic resources, and application of traditional knowledge and science in community-based marine management.



**Ward Appeltans, UNESCO-IOC**

Mr. Ward Appeltans is the marine biodiversity focal point at UNESCO-IOC where he manages the Ocean Biogeographic Information System and supports the new Biology and Ecosystems Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System. He graduated as a

marine biologist at the Free University of Brussels, Belgium and before he joined IOC in 2012, he was a project manager for nearly 10 years at the Flanders Marine Institute where he managed, among others, the World Register of Marine Species and worked for several European marine biodiversity projects.



**Jessica Sanders, FAO**

Jessica Sanders is a Fisheries Officer in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Economics and Policy Division at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. She works on a wide range of issues related to fisheries management

from policy to institutional issues to cross-disciplinary topics. She has been working on management of deep-sea fisheries and conservation of associated ecosystems, including the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, in areas beyond national jurisdiction since the development of the FAO Deep Sea Fisheries Program in 2006.

**Merete Tandstad, FAO**

Merete Tandstad is a Fishery Resources Officer in FAO's Marine and Inland Fisheries Branch (FIRF). She has degrees in marine biology and aquatic resource management from universities in the UK. After a few years with the Norwegian Hydro technical Laboratory in Trondheim, Norway, working on water quality and rearing of marine species, Merete came to FAO in 1995 as an Associate expert with the then Nansen Programme (now EAF Nansen project) supporting the implementation of project activities with a focus on shared stock management in West, Central and Southern Africa. Since then she has held various positions and responsibilities within FIRF. Current areas of work include: ecosystem approach to fisheries, resource assessment, biodiversity issues in fisheries, regional collaboration and deep-seas fisheries. She is also providing technical support to a range of projects in West Africa and globally - and is the Lead Technical Officer for the ABNJ Deep-sea project.

**Fredrik Haag, IMO**

Fredrik has a background in applied environmental research, focusing on Marine and Coastal Zone Management. Whilst working for the Swedish Maritime Administration, he was transferred to IMO on secondment in 2006, initially working as GESAMP Officer within the Office for the London Convention and Protocol, coordinating the work of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection. In 2008, he moved to the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project as Technical Adviser, and took over the management of the project as its Chief Technical Adviser in 2011. Throughout his time at IMO, he has been actively involved in the technical cooperation and assistance programme of the organization, implementing technical workshops on IMO subject matters in all parts of the world. In late 2012, he joined the Office for the London Convention/Protocol and Ocean Affairs as the Technical Officer. Apart from the abovementioned topics he is also involved in other issues, such as the technology transfer for ships' energy efficiency, sustainable development and the post-2015 agenda, and represents the Organization in several UN-wide mechanisms and initiatives.

**Michael Lodge, ISA**

Michael W. Lodge is Deputy to the Secretary-General and Legal Counsel for the International Seabed Authority (ISA). He received his LLB from the University of East Anglia, and has an

MSc in marine policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is a barrister of Gray's Inn, London. His professional experiences to date include serving as Legal Counsel to the ISA (2007-2010 and 1996-2003); Counsellor to the Round Table on Sustainable Development, OECD (2004-2007); Legal Counsel to the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (1991-1995). He has also held appointments as a Visiting Fellow of Somerville College, Oxford (2012-2013) and an Associate Fellow of Chatham House, London (2007). Currently, he is a member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Oceans.

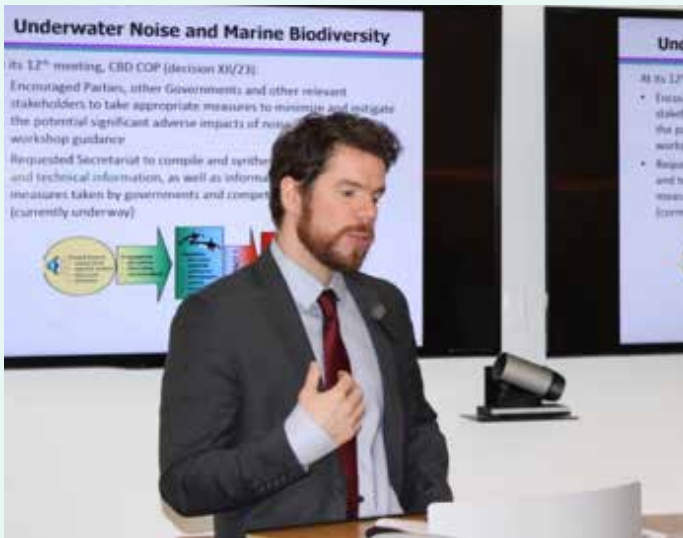
**Jihyun Lee, CBD Secretariat**

Jihyun Lee is the Environmental Affairs Officer for marine and coastal biodiversity within the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, covering various issues related to the implementation of the Jakarta Mandate, such as integrated marine and coastal management, marine protected areas, conservation of deep sea biodiversity, and marine invasive alien species. She serves as coordinator for UN-Oceans Task Force on Marine Protected Areas and Other Area-Based Management Tools as well as Working Group on Marine Biodiversity and Networks of Marine Protected Areas of the Global Ocean Forum.

**Joseph Appiott, CBD**

Joseph Appiott is an Associate Programme Officer at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). At the CBD Secretariat, Joe facilitates a range of scientific and technical activities focused on supporting countries in implementing the Convention and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. These include regional workshops to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), the development of guidance for tools such as marine spatial planning and marine protected areas as well as for specific threats such as ocean acidification and marine debris, and capacity development activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative. Joe was previously a Policy Researcher with the Global Ocean Forum and the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy. Joe has an M.S. in Marine Policy from the University of Delaware where he is also a Phd candidate. His graduate research focuses on governance of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.





*Joseph Appiott (CBD) lecturing the ABNJ Regional Leaders*



*Dr. Douglas Burnett lecturing the ABNJ Regional Leaders*



***Douglas Burnett***, International Cable Protection Committee

Douglas R. Burnett, International Law Advisor for the International Cable Protection Committee (since 1999), and Maritime Partner in the New York office of Squire Patton Boggs (U.S.) LLP, [douglas.burnett@squirepb.com](mailto:douglas.burnett@squirepb.com) an international law firm with 44 offices in 21 countries. His practice focuses on international law, submarine cables, maritime and shipping, involving litigation and arbitration. Douglas is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and University of Denver Law School and is a retired captain in the U.S. Navy. He has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court and testified as an industry expert on submarine cables before the 2007 Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the UNCLOS hearings. Douglas has worked on submarine cable cases for over 30 years. He has frequently instructed at the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy in Greece.



***Ambassador Palitha Kohona***, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the UN

Ambassador Dr. Palitha T.B. Kohona served as the Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka until his appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. Prior to this he served as the Secretary-General of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) established by the Government of Sri Lanka. Dr. Kohona was the Co-Chair of the 9th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, the Chairman of the UN Ad-Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and a Vice President of the 23rd Meeting of the States Parties

to the Law of the Sea Convention. He is the Chair of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Territories Occupied since 1967.



***Charlotte Salpin***, UN DOALOS

Ms. Charlotte Salpin is currently Legal Officer at the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, where she has worked for the past 9 years. Her areas of focus include the protection and preservation of the marine environment, marine biodiversity, marine scientific research and sustainable development. She previously worked at the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of the United Nations Environment Programme and in non-governmental organizations. Charlotte holds masters in international law and in environmental law from Paris University and London University. She has authored and co-authored several articles on various aspects of ocean affairs and the law of the sea.



***Stefan Ásmundsson***, NEAFC

Stefán Ásmundsson is the secretary of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). In 1998 Stefán Ásmundsson graduated with distinction from Lancaster University, with a Masters degree (LLM) in international law and international relations. In his studies, he placed an emphasis on the international legal framework of fisheries. He then worked until 2009 in the Icelandic Ministry of Fisheries, as a Director from 2003, working on various fisheries related issues, mainly involving international aspects and including being Iceland's Head of Delegation to NEAFC. He served as President of NEAFC 2007-2009. Stefán worked as a Pol-



*Dr. Ann Powers lecturing the ABNJ Regional Leaders*

icy Officer in the European Commission in 2009-2011, working on the reform of the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy. He took up the post of Secretary of NEAFC on 1 July 2011.



### **Ambassador Eden Charles, Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations**

Mr. Eden Charles is a career diplomat who was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations on March 26, 2012. Prior to his posting to the United Nations, Ambassador Charles served in the Treaties, International Agreements and Legal Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago. There he was intimately involved in advising on international legal issues; negotiating multilateral agreements on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and drafting international instruments, relating to, inter alia, maritime boundary delimitation; fisheries; air services; mutual legal assistance and; extradition.

He was appointed as Chair of the Sixth Committee (Legal) of the UN on June 15, 2015. He serves as the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee recommending elements of a draft text for a legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction to the General Assembly.



### **Tina Farmer**

Tina Farmer is the Communications Adviser to the FAO Office of the Deputy Director-General covering topics related to natural resources. Prior to that she was the information officer for the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, including as editor of the flagship publication "State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture" and also as the FAO Lead Technical Officer for the ABNJ Capacity Project. Tina has been covering global processes such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Climate Change Agreement.



### **Sainivalati S. Navoti, ISA**

Mr. Navoti is a Senior Legal Officer for the International Seabed Authority. He has previously acted as the lead negotiator for G77 and China for the Fiji Mission to the United Nations. He has also acted as the lead AOSIS (Alliance of Small Island States) Climate Negotiator for the Government of the Republic of Nauru. Mr. Navoti holds a Bachelor of Law from the University of Auckland and a Master's of Science from the University of South Pacific.



### **Steve Fletcher, UNEP-WCMC**

Steve leads the Marine Programme in its work to support the integration of biodiversity considerations into marine policy and practice through focusing on developing and maintaining global marine biodiversity datasets and supporting enhanced marine policy-making and decision-processes through testing new approaches, sharing effective practices, and capacity building. Prior to joining the Centre, Mr. Fletcher was Director of the Centre for Marine and Coastal Policy Research at Plymouth University, where he retains an Associate Professorship in Marine Policy. Mr. Fletcher has a PhD in marine policy and an MSc in integrated coastal management.



### **Ann Powers, Pace University**

Professor Ann Powers is a faculty member emerita of the Center for Environmental Legal Studies, where she has taught a range of environmental courses focusing on the law of oceans and coasts, international environmental law, UN diplomacy. and water quality. Her scholarship includes emerging ocean issues and water pollution trading programs, among other subjects. Professor Powers' recent work has focused particularly on ocean and international issues, and she has worked with United Nations



Environment Program projects, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Commission on Environmental Law and its Law Academy. Professor Powers is a graduate of Indiana University and Georgetown University Law Center. She clerked for the Honorable Thomas A. Flannery, U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia.



**Kanako Hasegawa, UNEP Regional Seas Programme**

Ms. Kanako Hasegawa is the Associate Programme Officer at UNEP Regional Seas Coordination. She works for UNEP as a Junior Professional Officer (JPO)

supported by the Government of Japan. Currently she is in charge of coordinating activities of the eighteen Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans including indicators work, information and knowledge sharing and cooperation with Regional Fisheries Bodies. She has previously worked in Venezuela, providing technical inputs on municipal environmental education, wastewater treatment and solid waste management. She holds a Bachelor's in Environmental Science from McGill University, Canada and a Master's degree in Nature, Society and Environmental Policy from Oxford University, U.K.



**Kenneth Sherman, NOAA**

Dr. Sherman is Director of the Narragansett Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),

and is an Adjunct Professor of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography. His studies include comparisons among Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) in relation to the impacts of natural and human interventions on ecosystem productivity and biomass yields. He has served as chief scientist of the Antarctic Program of the National Marine Fisheries Service and scientific consultant to FAO on assignments in West Africa and South America. He serves as scientific advisor to several UN organizations and the Global Environment Facility in the development and implementation of LME assessment and management projects in Asia, Africa, Latin America and eastern Europe.



**David Freestone, Sargasso Sea Commission**

Professor David Freestone is an adjunct Professor and Visiting Scholar at George Washington University Law School in Washington D.C. He is the Executive Secretary of the Sargasso Sea Commission, established by the 2014

Hamilton Declaration on Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea, and working to protect this unique high seas ecosystem. He is also founding Editor of the International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law (now in its 30th year). From 1996-2008 he worked at the World Bank in Washington DC, first as head of the international law group, and from 2004-2008 as Deputy General Counsel/Senior Adviser. He holds an advanced Doctorate in Law (LL.D) from the University of Hull, UK and an LL.M from the University of London. He has published more than 20 books on law of the sea and environmental law, including *The 1982 Law of the Sea Convention at 30* (ed.) (2013, Martinus Nijhoff) and *The World Bank and Sustainable Development* (Martinus Nijhoff, 2012).



**Mr. Sidney Kemble**

Mr. Sidney Kemble is the Oceans and Law of the Sea policy advisor of the Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN. After he attained his master degree in International and European Law and in Constitutional law,

he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. First in the Treaties Division. Prior to his current position he worked as a legal counsel in the International Law Division of the Legal Department dealing with law of the sea and international environmental law.



*David Freestone lecturing the ABNJ Regional Leaders*

## ABNJ Welcome Reception for the ABNJ Regional Leaders at the Netherlands Mission

Ambassador Karel van Oosterom, Permanent Representative of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations and Deputy Permanent Representative Mr. Paul Menkveld kindly hosted the 2016 ABNJ Regional Leader for a Welcome Reception on March 22, 2016 at the Netherlands Mission. Mr. Paul Menkveld, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations, Ambassador Eden Charles, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Biliiana Cicin-Sain, President of the Global Ocean Forum, and Ms. Tina Farmer, Communications Advisor, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations all gave remarks. The ABNJ Regional Leader participants were able to meet each other, as well as connect with their respective Permanent Missions Permanent Representatives, who were also in attendance. This was a great way to start the 2016 Regional Leaders Program. All the organizers of the Program and the Regional Leaders were very grateful to the Permanent Mission of Netherlands for their warm hospitality and support.



*Chizoba Odanwu, Salote Tagavakatini, Ingrid Kersjes, and Biliiana Cicin-Sain*



*ABNJ Regional Leader Participants Jenny Wilches, Landisang Kotaro, Rose Kautoke, and Li Gu*



*Ambassador Eden Charles Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, gives remarks*



*Mr. Paul Menkveld, Seraphin Nadjé Dedi, and Abdennaji Laamrich*



*Mr. Paul Menkveld, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations, giving welcome remarks at the reception and noting the extensive efforts by Netherlands on capacity development for developing countries and SIDS*





*John Brincat (European Commission), Tina Farmer (FAO), and Marjo Vierros (UNU)*



*Mr. Paul Menkveld, and Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain*

## Participation in the BBNJ Process

ABNJ Regional Leaders Participants--armed with knowledge from lectures on international negotiations (including history, purpose, and main organs of the UN; understanding the structure and dynamics of negotiations; national delegations; non-governmental organizations; and participation in the BBNJ meeting), were then able to observe the BBNJ process at UN headquarters on 20 and 21 January as accredited participants.

A side event at the BBNJ meeting, organized by the GOF and the ABNJ Regional Leaders featured group presentations (by region: Africa (Atlantic and Indian Ocean), Latin America and the Caribbean (Atlantic), Asia and the Pacific Islands) from the ABNJ Regional Leaders, which covered: 1) a synopsis of the EEZ/ABNJ context; and 2) perceived needs for capacity development on ABNJ. The side event was co-chaired by Ambassador Mahe 'U.S. Tupouniua of Tonga and Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain, with Ambassador Ronald Jumeau, Seychelles, providing introductory and closing comments. The side event drew about 50 attendees, including many representatives from governments.



*Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain (GOF), gives remarks*



*2015 regional leaders and organizers at the 9th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction*



*UN Side Event on Capacity Development and ABNJ: Regional and National Perspectives Examples from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific Islands*



## Side Event on

### **Regional and National Perspectives on Area-Based Management and Capacity Development Needs in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): Examples from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands Regions.**

Having completed a full week of intensive training modules, the ABNJ Regional Leaders Participants were able to participate (as accredited participants through the Secretariat of the Global Ocean Forum, the International Coastal and Ocean Organization) in the 1st Session of the Preparatory Committee Established by the UN General Assembly Resolution 69/292 “Development of an International Legally Binding Instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction” as accredited participants from March 28 to March 31, 2016.

After contacts and meetings with their respective Permanent Representatives, a number of the ABNJ Regional Leaders, as well, became part of their national delegations providing technical expertise to their delegations in the Prep Com and also providing links to expertise at the national and regional levels.

All the ABNJ Regional Leaders participated at a UN side event, organized on March 30, 2016, by the Global Ocean Forum and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with support from the Global Environment Facility, entitled *Regional and National Perspectives on Area-Based Management and Capacity Development Needs in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): Examples from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands Regions*. The side event was co-chaired by **H.E. Mr. Ronald Jumeau, Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Devel-**

**oping State Issues, Seychelles and Mr. Sidney Kemble, Deputy Legal Advisor, Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations. Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain, Global Ocean Forum,** presented on the challenges of enhancing capacity development in ABNJ and on possible modalities for doing so. **H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations Adv. Themble Joyini, Counsellor (Legal Advisor/ Sixth Committee), Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations** spoke about the importance of capacity development and the central role that this topic will play in the legally binding agreement to UNCLOS. **Ms. Merete Tandstad, Fishery Resources Officer, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** delivered the closing remarks, making special reference to the work of the Common Oceans program in capacity development.

For each of the regions noted above, the ABNJ Regional Leaders, organized in regional groups (see Box xx), gave presentations on their respective regions covering: 1) a synopsis of the EEZ/ABNJ context from the perspective of different regions/nations, with special emphasis on area-based management; 2) discussion of perceived needs for capacity development regarding area-based management on ABNJ from regional/national perspectives; 3) perspectives on possible modalities for advancing capacity development under a new international instrument. About 70 UN delegates and NGOs attended the side event.



*Regional Leader Participants at the Side Event*

## SIDE EVENT



*Nearly 70 attendees of the side event, listen attentively to the ABNJ Regional Leaders Presentations on Regional and National Perspectives on Area-Based Management and Capacity Development Needs in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)*



*Ambassador Joyini, Dr. Cicin-Sain, Ambassador Otto, Ambassador Jumeau and Mr. Sidney Kemble lead the Regional and National Perspectives on Area-Based Management and Capacity Development Needs in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)*



*2016 ABNJ Regional Leader Participants in the main conference room during the PrepCom at the United Nations Headquarters*



## Awarding of Course Certificates

After the completion of all aspects of the training (course, participation in the Prep Com negotiations, meetings with the respective Permanent Representatives, presentations at the side event, followed by the taking of a course exam and the filling out of course evaluations, each of the ABNJ Regional Leaders received a Training Certificate. This ceremony was held at the UNDOALOS Office, with participation from Nicole Glineur from the funding sponsor, the Global Environment Facility, Marco Boccia and Merete Tandstadt from the FAO, Valentina Germani from UNDOALOS and Biliana Cicin-Sain and Miriam Balgos from the Global Ocean Forum and the University of Delaware. A special note of thanks was given by all participants to Ujwala Ramakrishna from the Global Ocean Forum and the University of Delaware for her strong support of all aspects of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program.

## Evaluations of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program 2015 Session

At the close of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program, participants completed a course evaluation. The purpose of the course evaluation was to determine the effectiveness of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program in order to improve implementation of future training sessions. The course evaluation had a total of 14 questions, including yes or no, ranking, and open-ended questions.

- More than 90% of the participants gave an overall rating of very good and excellent for the course
- More than 80% of the participants noted at least a very good improvement in their ABNJ leadership knowledge/skills as a result of this course.
- More than 90% of the participants reported that they were likely to apply the ABNJ knowledge and skills learned in this course when they returned to their respective jobs.



*Mr. Cristobal Hernandez receives his certificate of completion for the ABNJ Regional Leaders o from Dr. Cicin-Sain, accompanied by Merete Tandstad (FAO), Marco Boccia (FAO), and Nicole Glineur (GEF)*



*Ms. Vivian Lezama Pizzati receives his certificate of completion for the ABNJ Regional Leaders o from Dr. Cicin-Sain, accompanied by Merete Tandstad (FAO), Marco Boccia (FAO), and Nicole Glineur (GEF)*



*Ms. Jacqueline Joyce Espenilla receives his certificate of completion for the ABNJ Regional Leaders o from Dr. Cicin-Sain, accompanied by Merete Tandstad (FAO), Marco Boccia (FAO), and Nicole Glineur (GEF) Jacqueline Joyce Espenilla*



*Mr. Abennaji Laamrich receives his certificate of completion for the ABNJ Regional Leaders o from Dr. Cicin-Sain, accompanied by Merete Tandstad (FAO), Marco Boccia (FAO), and Nicole Glineur (GEF)*



*2016 regional leaders take a final picture before returning to their home countries.*



## Commentaries on the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program

*I found the ABNJ course to be well planned, relevant and an eye-opener, for which I have to thank you and your team immensely. The course came at an opportune time especially for young leaders like me who come from land-locked states. Your presenters were experts in their own right and all materials were relevant and eloquently delivered. The timing of the course was impeccable as it helped me appreciate the technical discussions at the PrepCom and the need to have the PrepCom. Armed with the information acquired from the ABNJ course I am able to form strong positions, interpret the UNCLOS provisions on High Seas and the Area better, appreciate my region's challenges and needs such as capacity development and technology and information transfer. I feel empowered. I thank you and your team.*

*– Ms. Bojotlhe Butale, State Counsel Attorney General's Chambers, Botswana*

*The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program is one of the best programs I have ever attended. It helped open a new horizon for my work and build a bridge between what I have known and done with what I haven't. The Program is well designed to tell one aspect of sustainable development from different angles, which is very thought-provoking. The practice of giving lectures and involving participants in real-time international negotiation back to back is worth applauding.*

*– Ms. Li Gu, Deputy Director Level, Division of International Organizations and Conventions, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Peoples' Republic of China*

*Thank you for this great opportunity, which has enabled me to contribute immensely to my national delegation. This will also provide the basis for the pursuit of national consultations ahead of 2017 on BBNJ. I believe that the*

*program not only provides a platform to discuss issues of national, regional and global interest, but does so in a thoughtful, meaningful and useful manner reaching out to the appropriate people. This is often lacking in a lot of programs and for that I applaud you and your teams' vision and great work. I have learned a lot and I look forward to welcoming you all in Fiji for the Oceans Summit in June 2017.*

*– Ms. Salote Koronuku Jade Tagivakaitini, Principal Foreign Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fiji*

*I am humbled and filled with great pride to have taken part in such a momentous course and to be part of the historic PrepCom. I thank you for all the hard work you have put into the Regional Leaders 2016 Program. This knowledge gained is a rare and invaluable opportunity which will be used to assist my country's development and for the common heritage of mankind (will put in my best effort in this regard). The mixture of views, the delivery of the material and regional presentations were of the highest quality from brilliant minds across the globe.*

*– Mr. Randy Bumbury, Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana*

*I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your team for making this training a great success. I would also like to thank all participants for their devotion and hard work. A special thank you to my colleagues from the African team. We greatly appreciate all the support provided during this training program.*

*– Mr. Vincent Gerald Lucas, Chief Executive Officer Seychelles Fishing Authority, Seychelles*



**I**wish to sincerely thank the dedicated training team, for packaging and executing this wonderful ABNJ program. It was indeed a great and memorable experience for me to be a part of it all. The highly informative lectures were brilliantly delivered by seasoned and very resourceful experts in the field. The knowledge and experiences gained on issues regarding the oceans, high seas and the deep seabed governance are quite invaluable. Having the privilege of observing the Prep Com processes was quite rewarding, as well as meeting with, and networking with colleagues from all over the world. Thank you once again, it was indeed great.

– **Ms. Chizoba Odanwu**, Principal State Counsel Federal Ministry of Justice, Nigeria

**T**he Regional Leader Program has far exceeded my expectation. Besides raising awareness, it has significantly enriched my knowledge and comprehension on matters and issues concerning Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). The speakers were resourceful and highly knowledgeable. It also helped me to understand better the issues and situation in each region relating to ABNJ. The opportunity to attend and observe the conduct of the first Prep Com and to deliver a presentation at a side event specially arranged by the organizers has been a meaningful experience. This kind of capacity building is highly imperative and I applaud GOF/FAO/GEF for launching the initiative and hope international organizations will continue to lend future support for the continuity of this program. The knowledge and experience gained from this program will help me to be more effective in in-country deliberation and coordination with a view to jointly shaping the Implementing Agreement envisaged by the United Nations in particular in the negotiation under the Prep Com.

– **Mr. Abdul Rahman Bin Abdul Wahab**, Head, International Section Department of Fisheries, Malaysia

**B**orrowing the language of the Prep Com, I wish to align myself with the statements made by my colleagues in congratulating you and your team for hosting a wonderful and productive training program. The experience has been an eye-opening view of the legal and political issues in the ABNJ. I particularly appreciated how we were continuously challenged to analyze important and timely issues by comparing and contrasting our various experiences at the national and regional levels. Finally, I would like to commend your team's choice of speakers in terms of their variety and quality. It was a privilege to learn from them and benefit from their expertise.

– **Ms. Jacqueline Joyce Espenilla**, Attorney, Department of Justice, Philippines

**A**s a Program Manager in ATLAFCO, the inter-governmental organization dedicated to fisheries, I had a narrow knowledge about ABNJ. Through the opportunity to participate in this prestigious ABNJ Regional Leaders Program, I can say that I am proud to gain enough knowledge about, among others, the social and environmental benefits of conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. Now I can represent my region brilliantly in the future negotiations related to that issue. Thanks to the Global Ocean Forum and the other partners.

– **Mr. Abdennaji Laamrich**, Project Manager Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT/ATLFCO), Morocco



## Commentaries on the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program

**A**s an Island State with great aspirations regarding its surrounding ocean for its economic welfare, the Republic of Mauritius cannot neglect the potential and linkages to ABNJ close to its boundary. The Global Ocean Forum has added much to the understanding of this part of the ocean, which has long been considered of lesser importance by Island Nations. This is now being challenged and programmes such as the ABNJ Regional Leaders contribute to dealing intelligently and responsibly with ABNJ."

– **Dr M. Rezah Badal**, Prime Minister's Office, Mauritius

**T**he ABNJ Regional Leaders Program opened my eyes to processes in other sectors related to ocean governance. Until then I was largely focused on fisheries, but now I have seen the value of inter-sectoral approaches and learning from each others' regional governance processes"

– **Raymon VanAnrooij**, West Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, Barbados

**F**rom my attendance of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Programme, I gained a better understanding of the origins of UNCLOS, how the numerous parts of the agreement fit together, and why some Articles, especially those related to the high seas, are now in some ways coming to inhibit the sustainable utilisation of marine living resources, particularly in the Pacific islands region. I also came to realise that each area of the world has a different set of problems associated with ABNJ - the issues in the Pacific Islands, for example, are fundamentally different from those of continental countries, especially in Africa. The programme also allowed me to develop an excellent network of contacts throughout the world, allowing a more informed input to regional efforts to promote a coordinated approach towards ABNJ issues, including con-

tributions to various briefs for UNFCCC COP 21, and to Pacific Island delegations at the UNGA on Oceans issues, including Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the Secretary General's report on Oceans."

– **Mike Donoghue**, SPREP, Apia, Samoa

**T**hank you indeed for making the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program experience truly memorable and an educational one as well. As the Ambassador from Seychelles said at the UN side featuring the ABNJ Regional Leaders, a primary goal of the program was to have us talking to each other on this one topic of BBNJ/ABNJ. We are committed to many other issues and wearing many other hats but the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program has allowed us to speak and learn on this very important topic.

– **T. Suka Mangisi**, Permanent Mission to the UN, Kingdom of Tonga

**I** should say that the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program exceeded all of my expectations. We were able to see the many different perspectives on issues related to the high seas and the deep sea bed through the lectures. This was a fantastic experience! The whole group was intense in its discussions and exchange of views and information. This was key to better understanding the challenges we are now facing with respect to ocean governance. I learned a lot about the interconnections between science and policy from the different perspectives presented. The high point of the training was certainly experiencing the real negotiations, in which everything we learned was there, being put in action. Once again, thank you very much for this wonderful opportunity!"

– **Andrei Polejack**, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Brazil





