



The countries of the Indian Ocean Rim Association have gathered to strengthen the Blue Economy.

The First IORA Ministerial Blue Economy Conference – ‘Enhancing Blue Economy Cooperation for Sustainable Development in the IORA Region’ - was jointly hosted by the Government of Mauritius and IORA from 2-3 September 2015 in Pointe aux Piments, Mauritius.

The Conference was attended by over 300 representatives from 18 IORA Member States and six IORA Dialogue Partners. The Right Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, inaugurated the Ministerial Conference and commended IORA Member States for their firm commitment to ensure the sustainable development of the Indian Ocean and has made an appeal to Member States to join efforts in the development of the Blue Economy.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius has also announced that soon Mauritius will be signing a contract for the exploration of deep sea water, which is naturally cold and rich in nutritious elements, for use in office air conditioning, high level aquaculture, thalassotherapy, bottled water and pharmaceutical products.

IORA Ministers approved the ‘Blue Economy Declaration’ that seeks to harness oceans and maritime resources to drive economic growth, job creation and innovation, while safeguarding sustainability and environmental protection. The shared vision for blue growth in the Indian Ocean Region is underpinned by recommendations in four priority areas: fisheries and aquaculture; renewable ocean energy; offshore hydrocarbons and seabed minerals exploration; and seaports and shipping.

Indonesia was pleased to announce that it will host a Second Blue Economy Conference in 2017. Indonesia takes over from Australia as Chair of IORA in October 2015.

Presentations from the Blue Economy Conference can be accessed on the IORA website through the following link:

<http://www.iora.net/blue-economy/day-1/session-1.aspx>

Mauritius, 03 September 2015