

## IORA ACTION PLAN 2017-2021

PRIORITY AREA	FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES		
	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
<p><b>MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY - Promoting Maritime Safety and Security in the Region</b></p>	<p>Establish an IORA Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security</p> <p>Enhance cooperation with the United Nations Offices and Agencies to support the IORA Working Group in addressing common safety and security challenges</p> <p>Encourage Member States to sign the IORA MOU on Search and Rescue</p> <p>Explore the establishment of the Maritime Institute of Malaysia as an IORA Centre of Excellence for Maritime Safety and Security</p>	<p>Implement training and capacity building programs</p> <p>Implement IORA MOU on Search and Rescue</p> <p>Explore further proposals for establishing IORA Centres of Excellence for Maritime Safety and Security</p>	<p>Explore a regional surveillance network of existing Member States institutions including sharing of data and exchange of information on maritime transportation systems.</p>
<p><b>TRADE AND INVESTMENT FACILITATION - Enhancing trade and investment cooperation in the region</b></p>	<p>Organise capacity building and technical support on regional trade and investment with a focus on the facilitation and reducing of barriers to trade including through closer collaboration with the Working Group on Trade and Investment (WGTI)</p> <p>Strengthen regional cooperation for promotion of SMEs</p> <p>Establish an IORA online platform (entitled</p>	<p>Revitalise Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF) as a platform to share information on trade and investment and strengthen linkages between WGTI, IORA Chambers of Commerce and private sector</p> <p>Explore the possibilities of promotion and cooperation in the field of financial services among Member States</p>	<p>Explore the feasibility of an IORA Business Travel Card (IBTC) to enhance economic integration amongst IORA Member States</p>

	<p>'IORA Trade Repository') to provide information on tariffs and rules of origin to assist and improve trade and business facilitation</p> <p>Establish IORA Guide for Investment to help promote investment</p>		
<p><b>FISHERIES MANAGEMENT -</b> Promoting sustainable and responsible fisheries management and development</p>	<p>Revitalise the FSU through implementation of the FSU Action Plan</p> <p>Sign an MOU with FAO and IOTC to develop regional fisheries management and information sharing</p>	<p>Implement joint capacity building projects with FAO and relevant organisations including aquaculture to address food security</p>	<p>Explore an IORA Mechanism to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing</p>
<p><b>DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT</b> – to improve resilience and responses to disaster risk management</p>	<p>Enhance cooperation with the Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) and other multilateral organisations and agencies</p>	<p>Explore creation of an IORA Centre of Excellence for Disaster Risk Management for sharing information, expertise and best practice</p> <p>Implement training and capacity building programs</p>	<p>Develop resiliency through early warning systems, regional exercises, and training for coordinated disaster risk reduction</p>
<p><b>ACADEMIC, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION -</b> Strengthening academic, science and technology cooperation</p>	<p>Strengthen the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG)</p> <p>Strengthen Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT)</p> <p>Institutionalise the Indian Ocean Dialogue as an annual mechanism for multi-sector and 1.5 track engagement</p> <p>Create a data base of higher educational</p>	<p>Strengthen cooperation with universities in the Indian Ocean, including the University Mobility in the Indian Ocean Region (UMIOR)</p> <p>Support RCSTT to promote science and technology</p> <p>Strengthen the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG) through the sharing of information and knowledge</p>	<p>Explore cooperation projects with the International Solar Alliance and IRENA</p>

	institutes recognized by IORA Member States	Implement training and capacity building programs  Conduct a feasibility study of an Indian Ocean Technical and Vocational University in Bangladesh	
<b>TOURISM AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES -</b> Fostering tourism and cultural exchanges	Establish a Core Group for Tourism  Strengthen the Core Group for Culture	Conduct feasibility studies to explore the potential of cruise tourism  Establish an IORA Tourism Resource Centre and Website in the Sultanate of Oman	Develop joint capacity building projects in tourism including community-based tourism for poverty reduction, cultural heritage and eco-tourism
<b>BLUE ECONOMY -</b> Harnessing and developing the Blue Economy in the Region	Establish an IORA Working Group on the Blue Economy  Implement the outcomes of the Blue Economy Core Group Workshops as well as Ministerial and High-level Expert Meetings	Develop appropriate mechanisms of cooperation for sustainable development of blue economy sectors, including training and capacity building programs	Improve livelihoods of coastal communities through capacity building programs
<b>WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT -</b> Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls	Establish an IORA Working Group on Women's Economic Empowerment  Establish a Women's Business Forum in the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF)	Establish cooperation with UN-Women and relevant organisations for capacity building and information exchange  Champion initiatives to increase women's economic empowerment such as the Women's Empowerment Principles  Implement training and capacity building programs	Organise activities and to strengthen women's economic capacity and participation in business
<b>INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS</b>	Strengthen the IORA Secretariat's capacity to support Member States and	Conduct public diplomacy and outreach programs	Deepen collaboration amongst academic, business, government, civil society as well

<p><b>AND BROADENING ENGAGEMENT –</b>          Strengthening the IORA Secretariat and its collaboration with stakeholders</p>	<p>deepen regional cooperation</p> <p>Strengthen the administration and functioning of the IORA Special Fund (SF) to implement sustainable development programs</p> <p>Establish cooperation with other regional bodies such as the African Union (AU) and ASEAN</p>	<p>Strengthen engagement with Dialogue Partners through concrete collaboration</p> <p>Hold Ministerial, High-level or Expert meetings as required to promote IORA's priority and cross-cutting areas</p>	<p>as regional and multilateral bodies</p> <p>Explore the establishment of the IORA Development Fund</p>
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