

“Promoting Ocean Literacy for Sustainable Development in the Western Pacific”

Scoping Workshop for the WESTPAC Interseasonal Task Force on Ocean Literacy

Ocean Literacy
builds stewardship,
boosts readiness for ocean risks,
supports sustainability, and
nurtures next generations'
care for marine resources.

Jointly, we will

- Share efforts on Ocean Literacy in Western Pacific
- Identify challenges and opportunities
- Inspire collective actions to advance Ocean Literacy in the region



9-10

OCT 2025

01:00 PM - 04:00 PM (GMT+7) | 09 OCT
09:00 AM - 12:00 AM (GMT+7) | 10 OCT



Abigail Sisti
US

Abigail Sisti is a 2025 John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellow supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s National Ocean Service as an international policy specialist. She holds a Ph.D. in marine science from the Virginia Institute of Marine science. Abigail's experience in ocean literacy spans includes translating research for diverse audiences – including classrooms, policy makers, and industry partners. She recently participated in the São Paulo School of Advanced Sciences for Ocean Literacy.



Anis Faizal Reza
Indonesia

Born in Pandeglang on March 20, 1975, Anis Faisal Reza – better known as "Abah Lala" – balances two worlds. With a degree in Economics from Mathlaul Anwar University, he works as a Civil Servant at Banten's Regional Revenue Agency, yet his true passion lies in social activism.

Abah Lala founded Gugus Mitigasi Lebak Selatan (GMLS), a disaster preparedness community in Panggarangan Village that's become a national model for community-based disaster risk reduction. His approach blends local wisdom, like the traditional "Bayah Dikumbah," with cutting-edge tech, earning a UNESCO IOC Certificate of Appreciation in 2022.



Anna Oposa
Philippines

Anna Oposa is the Executive Director and "Chief Mermaid" of Save Philippine Seas (SPS), a movement to conserve coastal and marine resources by empowering "seatzens" towards collective action and behavior change. She has been at the forefront of several programs and campaigns on shark conservation, preventing and managing marine litter, and ocean-climate action. SPS programs are designed to be engaging, fun, and pun-filled to make it accessible to many. In recent years, SPS has been working closely with development partners and national government agencies to integrate environmental education in the national curriculum and capacity-building programs for government personnel.



Danfeng Weng
China

Danfeng Weng, an associated professor, is working at the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center, Third Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources of China.

Danfeng also serves as leading expert for several China-APEC Cooperation Projects in relation to ocean literacy and two APEC Support Fund Projects, one is Capacity Building for Blue Citizen in the APEC Region, and the other is APEC Workshop on Blue Citizen Communities for Ocean Literate Society, through which she gained substantial experience in the field of marine international cooperation, ocean literacy research and practices.



Dao Viet Ha
Viet Nam

Dao Viet Ha is Director of the Institute of Oceanography, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) and a leading pioneer in marine toxicology and food-safety research in Vietnam and the Western Pacific. For over 30 years she has advanced the country's first studies on marine toxins, providing a scientific basis for food-safety management and treatment of poisoning, and earning recognition from the global scientific community, as well as represented Vietnam in key international forums. Ha directs innovative public outreach at the Oceanographic Museum, strengthening awareness of Vietnam's sea and island sovereignty. Recipient of the 2023 Vietnam Kovalevskaja Award and honored in the 2024 "Glory in Vietnam" program, Dr. Ha exemplifies scientific excellence and leadership in advancing ocean literacy and sustainable marine stewardship.



Ferdiansyah
Indonesia

Ferdiansyah is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia. He holds a postgraduate degree in Chief Information Officer studies from the School of Electrical Engineering and Informatics, Institut Teknologi Bandung. His work centers on stakeholder-driven policy analysis, with more than a decade of experience in cultural and natural heritage preservation, youth leadership development, literacy promotion, and initiatives to strengthen national character and identity. In recent years he has also contributed to the drafting of legal regulations and the creation of national public-policy instruments. One of his key 2025 initiatives is a ministerial decree establishing a national coordination team for the preservation and management of Indonesia's cultural and natural heritage.



Lalith Amaralal
Sri Lanka

KHML Lalith Amaralal has been serving as the Deputy Director General, Research and Development of National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) and has over 25 years of experience. He holds a PhD degree in fisheries Economics, M.Sc. in International Fisheries Management, PG Dip. In Fisheries Policy & Planning and has contributed many national and international peer reviewed publications in the fields of fisheries socio-economics, policy and planning and management. He served as the technical head and member of country delegates for trade & policies, resource management and blue economy. He has contributed immensely for the sustainable development of fisheries industry of the country.



Mahadi Mohammad
Malaysia

Mahadi Mohammad is an Associate Professor at the School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), specialising in marine biodiversity. With over 20 years of experience, he possesses expertise in marine taxonomy, ecological monitoring, and the resilience of coastal ecosystems. His research focuses on coral community structure, the physiological responses of reef organisms to stressors such as temperature, sedimentation, and nutrient enrichment, as well as the ecology of benthic marine organisms. Mahadi also plays a key role in shaping national environmental policy as a Marine Ecology expert for the Department of Environment (DOE) Malaysia. Additionally, he serves as an Assessor for the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), contributing to academic quality assurance and sustainable development frameworks.



Polina Lobanova
Russia

Since 1999, Polina Lobanova has been studying the World Ocean at the St. Petersburg State University, in the Department of Oceanology, the first in the Russian higher education system, and has been teaching students marine chemistry and physical and biological interactions in the ocean for 8 years. Polina is very interested in the actions of the Ocean Decade: in 2019, she was a co-convener of a Summary Report of Working group "Healthy and Sustainable Ocean" (Summary of the Regional Planning Ocean Decade Workshop for the North Pacific and Western Pacific Marginal Seas), in 2020 Polina organized the online discussion "Ocean Decade 2021-2030. Contribution of Young Scientists of Russia", and since 2024, Polina has been giving lectures to schoolchildren to popularize ocean science in Russia.



QiCheng Meng
China

QiCheng Meng is an Associate Researcher at the State Key Laboratory of Satellite Ocean Environment Dynamics, Second Institute of Oceanography, China. He holds a Ph.D. in Fluid Mechanics from University College London and specializes in coupled physical-biogeochemical modeling and the ecological impacts of hydrodynamics. QiCheng's work has uncovered key drivers of hypoxia in the East China Sea, informed projects on carbon sinks, ecosystem stability, and hypoxia mitigation, and included research cruises in the Bohai Sea, East China Sea, and Indian Ocean. Author of 35+ papers, he has contributed to the UN World Ocean Assessment III and the UN Ocean Decade, and maintains collaborations with partners in Germany, Portugal, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines.



Redza Zakaria
Malaysia

Redza Zakaria is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Universiti Malaya (UM) with over 11 years of experience spanning litigation, corporate law, and in-house corporate practice. Recognized for excellence in commercial, corporate, and environmental dispute resolution, he previously served as in-house counsel for a Kuala Lumpur water utility, managing both regulatory and litigation matters, and later worked as a Senior Consultant in Deloitte Malaysia's Indirect Tax team. He is currently pursuing a PhD in International Environmental Law while teaching Law of Evidence and International Trade Law at UM. Redza also serves as Deputy Head of the Maritime Law, Policy and Governance Unit under the Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences and provides legal assistance to the Department of Irrigation and Drainage within Malaysia's Department of Environment.



Sachiko Oguma
Japan

Sachiko Oguma is a Senior Administrator in Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF). She obtained a master's degree and Ph.D. in Science from Tohoku University. She specialized in physical and chemical oceanography. She previously held a research position at Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, Japan Fisheries Agency, and contributed to the physical oceanographic research at Oyashio-Okhotsk region. She also had work experience as a data manager at Marine Information Research Center of Japan Hydrographic Association, and Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology. She is currently responsible for initiatives aimed at promoting ocean education and enhancing ocean literacy in schools throughout Japan.



Suchana Chavanich
Thailand

Suchana Chavanich received her Ph.D. in Zoology at University of New Hampshire, USA. She is currently a professor at Department of Marine Science, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. She has a broad base of ecological research interests that involve the study of nearshore species from tropical to polar regions. In addition, her research focuses on conservation and restoration of marine ecosystems and impact of climate change and marine debris on marine ecosystems. She is considered to be Thailand's first female scientist to go diving in Antarctica and Arctic. Her research work on Arctic-Antarctica and coral reefs has inspired Thai and young people on the value of marine ecosystems.



Syarifah Aini Dalimunthe
Indonesia

Syarifah Aini Dalimunthe is a Human Geographer and Researcher at the Research Center for Population, Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN). Her work centers on disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, and human-environment interactions, with a focus on community-based approaches. She coordinates the Ocean Literacy and Blue Citizen Working Group under IOC UNESCO-BRIN and collaborates with international partners including JICA, the Third Institute of Oceanography of China, Nagoya University, the University of Tokyo, Chuo University, and EU partners. Her research covers climate risk financing, nature-based solutions, and loss and damage among vulnerable communities. She has led projects on earthquake early warning systems, gender and disaster resilience, and coastal adaptation.

More information on Ocean Literacy initiatives of the WESTPAC

