



**ADDRESS OF  
THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF  
THE COORDINATING MINISTER FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
AT THE 1ST MINISTERIAL IORA BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE  
MAURITIUS, 3 SEPTEMBER 2015**

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, The Right Honorable Sir Anerood Jugnauth  
Honorable Ministers,  
Secretary General of IORA,  
Ambassadors,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me take this opportunity to extend our most heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius for hosting this very first and indeed very important Indian Ocean Rim Association Conference on Blue Economy. In my view, our gathering today is indeed significant for a number of reasons.

First, this Conference is timely in the midst of the uncertain direction of where the global economy is heading. Recession has hit major economies across the world. Harnessing, sustainably and responsibly, the gifts of the ocean in many different forms, from fisheries, mining, renewable energies and maritime transportation, could well be the answer of the next source of poverty alleviation, wealth creation and energy efficiency. The policy trend of returning to the ocean can be seen in many parts of the world from Europe to Indian Ocean to Asia to the Pacific.

Maritime Summit, Ocean Summit, Ocean Policy, Sustainable Ocean, Maritime Strategy are all the lingua franca of global policy makers these days. Therefore, our 1st Blue Economy Conference today should not only be part of the global policy trend but should actually become the global policy trendsetter that would add value to the life of hundreds of millions of people who are dependent on coastal living.

Second is the fact that we as the members of the United Nations have agreed on the post-MDG Sustainable Development Goals that also carry a very relevant Goal for our Conference as well as our organization, namely Goal on Ocean that enumerates a number of goals and targets on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The concrete results of our Conference could actually become the realisation of Goal 14 and at the same time Goal 14 could draw from our experience in implementing our commitment of Blue Economy principle in managing our Indian ocean to be replicated elsewhere. We all need to nurture strong IORA caucus group at the United Nations General Assembly in order to harmonize our national as well as regional stance in the deliberation relating to the implementation of Goal 14 as well as any global debate relating to sustainable and responsible management of

oceans and seas. This could also mean the increasing visibility of IORA at global level.

Third is the fact that since blue economy principle also relates to seabed mining and a large part of the continental shelf in the Indian Ocean is beyond the legal definition of UNCLOS 1982, namely 200 nautical miles from the baselines, it is worth considering that our organization develop a strong relationship with the International Seabed Authority in order to strengthen our capacity to understand further seabed mining processes and regulatory environment surrounding the matter. It is true that the area managed by the International Seabed Authority is beyond the jurisdiction of Indian Ocean Rim's member states, but they are in our neighborhood and it is imperative that we all understand and know the matter at hand because when something unfortunate happens and impacts our coastal communities, we should be prepared. On a similar note, we should prepare ourselves on the

upcoming debate on the biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. Within IORA we should have a clear understanding on how this debate would impact on our people. We must insist that Indian Ocean countries understand the ramifications of activities in the seabed, subsoil and water column of those vast areas. Even though they are not under member States' jurisdiction.

Fourth is the creation of platform for connectivity of our economies and people through network of concrete blue economy projects from fisheries, renewables, mining to shipping and ports. Such connectivity would without any doubt increase many doors of economic opportunities by all of us here in the rim of Indian ocean.

Indeed, Indonesia sincerely wishes that our 1st Blue Economy Conference of IORA will result in a number of concrete collaborations that would hopefully be able to implemented soon and also could later on be presented to the 2nd IORA Ministerial

Blue Economy Conference which Indonesia would be honored to host if member states of IORA would extend their kind agreement.

Finally, let me also share with you that blue economy principle has been stipulated in our law on the use of the oceans and seas that was adopted by the Indonesian House of Representative last year.

We are now developing our new National Ocean Policy and maritime spatial planning and implementing various pilot projects of blue economy in our Indian Ocean coasts.

We are eager to share such experience with the member states of IORA during our chairmanship from this October to 2017 as well as beyond those two-years period for the fact that Indonesia's vast waters are located in the Indian Ocean. We all have to move our blue economy agenda for the prosperity of our people and the time is now.

I Thank You.