

CONCEPT PAPER

THE 2nd IORA BLUE ECONOMY MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Jakarta, 8 - 10 May 2017

Blue economy is not merely a dynamic business model of an ocean economy. The model is also dedicated to address the issue of scarcity of resources, and the waste issues while ensuring the long-term economic prosperity, hence embodied the key value of sustainable development goals, especially the goal number 14. The Indian Ocean is blessed by vast and untapped natural resources but it also faces great threats and challenges from unsustainable practice of utilizing the ocean and competition over resources, control of international trade and military activities in its international waters. The implementation of Blue economy to catalyze ocean-driven economic growth is directly linked to threats and challenges confront by Indian Ocean, especially to human wellbeing and the livelihood coastal communities namely food security and maritime security.

In maritime security area, cooperation has been established by IORA member states and beyond to address the rise of maritime security threats in the region. Indonesia as the current Chair of IORA would like to further maritime cooperation to maintain current peace and stable Indian Ocean, and also to increase the prosperity of the region. In this context, elaboration on various undeveloped areas such as marine tourism, private sector's involvement in infrastructure, port network, financial inclusion, and the threat of marine plastic debris would be further explored.

In the view of the above, Indonesia will host the 2nd Blue Economy Ministerial Conference (BEC-II) in Jakarta from 08 - 10 May 2017. The general overviews of the three days agenda to be discussed are as follows:

a. Day 1 Working Session on various issues Blue Economy related issues:

The first day of Conference is the working session. It will include series of brief presentations and discussions among experts and professional of IORA Member States, including from state owned enterprise and NGOs representative on the area of discussions, such as fisheries and aquaculture, marine tourism, port network; customs network; and marine plastic debris.

The experts of the Working Session will provide recommendations based on discussions of each working session to the Senior Official Meeting.

b. Day 2 Senior Official Meeting:

The second day is designated for Senior Officials of the respected IORA Member States. It is planned to include several reports and presentations, by Chair of the Working Session, as well as discussion on the draft of Jakarta Declaration and voluntary commitments on Blue Economy by Senior Officials to be recommended to Ministerial Meeting.

c. Day 3 Ministerial Conference :

The 3rd day of conference is the Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy led by Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs Republic of Indonesia. The Conference will discuss the outcomes (the Jakarta Declaration and the Recommendation Report) of BEC-II prepared by Senior Official Meeting, as well as hear general statement from each IORA member states and its dialogue partners. It is hoped that the conference would adopt the Jakarta Declaration on Blue Economy and the Recommendation Report as the outcome documents.