



Italy-IORA Platform

Celebration messages for IORA Day 2021

*Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Hon. Manlio Di Stefano*

Honorable Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, Secretary General, Excellences and distinguished representatives of IORA Member States and dialogue partners, it is an honor and a pleasure for me to congratulate you all on IORA Day 2021.

This celebration comes at a difficult time. Our countries are still affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. But during the last year, we all witnessed IORA's capacity to address crucial issues for the Indian Ocean region, tackling challenges such as human development, women empowerment, sustainable tourism, which are indeed so precious for our communities.

I would like to extend my greetings today to all the Ambassadors of IORA Member States who are accredited to Italy. Since the very first phases of our dialogue partnership, we have been able to count on a truly efficient team of IORA Ambassadors in Rome. Thanks to their active involvement with our Italy-IORA Committee, which groups Italy's major players in the blue economy, in 2020 Italy was able to share experiences and ideas on fisheries, aquaculture, clean energy and sustainable shipping, through a number of webinars and events.

We will continue to base our dialogue partnership on this multi-stakeholder participation, with the objective to strengthen cooperation between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean, two regions which will share a crucial role in global economic recovery.

My best wishes for IORA Day to you all.

Secretary General of IORA - H.E. Gatot Hari Gunawan

Greetings from Mauritius

As we mark 24 years of IORA as the apex organization of the Indian Ocean Region this year, allow me to thank the Italian Government and Undersecretary Hon. Manlio Di Stefano for arranging this celebration to commemorate this achievement.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association is moving from strength to strength. We have an expanding membership that now comprises 23 Member States and 9 Dialogue Partners. We also have a more robust institution and program of work to meet our common goal of enhanced economic cooperation in the Indian Ocean Rim region.

I wish to salute Italy for being such a proactive and supportive partner to IORA since becoming our newest Dialogue Partner in 2019. Indeed, despite the myriad challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, Italy has launched an online Italy-IORA Platform to showcase its commitment and active participation in IORA. Italy has also actively supported the priority areas of Tourism (particularly cruise tourism), the Blue Economy, and Fisheries Management through the hosting of several virtual engagements and programs in 2020. This tremendous support and level of commitment is most welcome, and we look forward to continuing our cooperation with Italy on more initiatives and events this year.

Thank you and we wish you all the best and stay safe

Secretary General of the Italy IORA Committee – H.E. Laurence Martin

Today we celebrate the IORA DAY 2021, a day that marks an important milestone in the recent history of the Italian – IORA dialogue partnership.

It is an absolute honour and pleasure for me to express on behalf of the Italian-IORA Committee our support to the values, principles and objectives promoted by IORA and our firm determination, in these still difficult times of Covid- 19 Pandemic, to continue addressing global and regional challenges such as climate change, sustainable development, women empowerment.

Thanks to the proactive commitment of public and private business stakeholders, this Committee that leads the Italian-IORA Platform has been quickly able to forge concrete and operational cooperation along the lines covered in the IORA Blue Economy priority pillars.

Let me stress the crucial role the Italian Maritime Cluster, in its shipping, shipbuilding, fisheries, ports, yachting components, in that exercise and the numerous webinars, seminars that have been organized with the precious support of the IORA Diplomatic network in Rome on sustainable Cruise Tourism , fisheries and aquaculture and blue competences, that witness a particularly prolific year rich of contents.

We are eager to pursue the journey together towards a fruitful Blu dialogue partnership !

Best Wishes for IORA DAY 2021!