

ABSTRACT

TRAIN-SEA-COAST - Programme for Human Resources Development

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In a world of increasing scarcities and uncertainties, the oceans together with outerspace represent the last frontier of humankind. Coastal areas are home to 60% of the world's population whose future fate - be it poverty or sustainable prosperity - will be significantly affected by decisions made today concerning coastal resources. Oceans, which cover over 71% of the earth's surface, contain a large proportion of the world's biodiversity and contribute as much as 50% of the earth total net primary production. They are major sink for atmospheric carbon dioxide and thus, powerful regulator of world climate.

The world's water resources are inextricably linked into a network of aquatic ecosystems from watersheds, aquifers, rivers and lakes to coastal zones and oceans. This makes it essential that they be managed as a continuum and not in a fragmented way.

This approach has been followed in UNDP's recent Strategic Initiative for Ocean and Coastal Management (SIOCAM). SIOCAM's overall objective is enhancing the capabilities of existing and future ocean and coastal management projects through the systematic identification, documentation and sharing of best practices and lessons learned. An assessment of needs and resources of projects was carried out at a workshop in December 1996. SIOCAM is preceding to establish training and information exchange networks, identify, document and disseminate best practices and resources through a world-wide-web page (www.unops.org/finance/wsiocam.html) and other means and enhance UNDP support for donor coordination activities. The major vehicle for the training exchange network is the TRAIN-SEA-COAST Programme of the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea. TRAIN-SEA-COAST is an inter-country cooperative and human resources development (HRD) network composed of training/educational

centres, in both developed and developing countries. It aims at strengthening the capabilities of institutions and individuals, having responsibilities in field of coastal and ocean management. One of the most relevant characteristics of TRAIN-SEA-COAST is that it is a global programme rooted at the national level. The instruments for capacity building are:

- a) the development of local capacity for the design, production and delivery of high quality training courses that address problems at the local, sub-regional and regional levels, and
- b) a cooperative network for the exchange of course materials, training, staff and information.

Today, the TRAIN-SEA-COAST programme has a total of 11 course development units (CDUs) in 10 countries, namely: Costa Rica, India, Fiji, Senegal, Philippines, France, USA, UK, Brazil and Thailand.