

United Nations – The Nippon Foundation Critical Needs Programme

Building capacity to address critical needs of the most vulnerable States

Activities

A highly customized individual curriculum is developed by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, in consultation with the nominating State, for the successful candidate(s). This personalized curriculum will place emphasis on building the capacity of the Fellow(s) to effectively address the high-priority needs identified by their States.

In addition, the Fellow(s) are trained in parallel with twelve United Nations – Nippon Foundation Fellows during their practicum phase with the Division. This parallel approach creates an enriched learning environment, providing the Critical Needs Fellow(s) the opportunity to gain an in-depth and multi-faceted understanding of the legal regime established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and related agreements as well as of United Nations multilateral processes relating to oceans.

Through the delivery of presentations by recognized experts, United Nations staff, as well as through observing United Nations multilateral processes, the Fellow(s) learn about the main developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea relating, for example, to implementation of SDG 14 and other relevant SDGs, the delineation of maritime zones, including the continental shelf, sustainable fisheries, biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, maritime security, sustainable ocean-based economies, the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects, oceans and climate change, ocean governance etc. They will also learn about the activities of the bodies established under UNCLOS (Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, International Seabed Authority, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea) and of relevant United Nations system organizations. Fellows will observe relevant United Nations processes related to oceans, with a view to reinforce their understanding of ocean affairs and the law of the sea.

For example, Fellows can expect to observe:

- Meetings of the intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to consider the recommendations of the preparatory committee on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible;
- The United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea; and
- The Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Professional skills development activities will also be organized for the Fellow(s), including theory lectures and practical exercises. In particular, the Fellows will receive training by UN staff as well as professional trainers on:

- Report writing skills, which they will practice by preparing substantive reports of the intergovernmental meetings they attend;
- Presentation skills, which they will practice through presentations to the other Fellows;
- UN documents research skills;
- Team building; and
- Strategic communication.