

**United Nations-Nippon Foundation
Alumni Programme**

2024 Alumni Meeting

Report

27-30 May 2024
Antigua and Barbuda

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1. Background

Generously funded by The Nippon Foundation, the Alumni Programme provides a unique platform for the Alumni of the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programmes to come together and actively engage in thought-provoking discussions and multi-stakeholder processes concerning the ocean. By doing so, they have the opportunity to further build their profiles as ocean professionals and expand their network by interacting with globally recognized experts and like-minded colleagues.

Since 2009, 12 meetings have been held, fostering a community of knowledgeable and passionate ocean professionals eager to make significant contributions to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and sustainable development of the ocean. In 2024, the Meeting was aimed at our Alumni from SIDS.

2. The 2024 Alumni Meeting

The 2024 Alumni Meeting took place from 27 to 30 May 2024, in Antigua and Barbuda. It successfully gathered 14 of our Alumni from SIDS, selected from a pool of 57 based on a call for expressions of interest.

The 2024 Alumni Meeting was planned to coincide with the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States: *"Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity"* (SIDS4 Conference). Our Alumni had the opportunity to participate in official programme events (such as plenary meetings including opening and closing segments, and interactive dialogues), as well as side events. In particular, the Alumni attended two side event co-organized by DOALOS during the Conference. Namely:

- *"Leveraging UNCLOS and the BBNJ Agreement in support of resilient prosperity in SIDS"*, jointly organized with AOSIS, the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC), UN-OHRLS, UNDESA and UNODC.
- *"Ocean action to support resilient prosperity in SIDS"*, a UN-Oceans event, organized with the support of UNESCO-UWH, WMO, IOC-UNESCO, FAO, IAEA, UNCTAD, UNDP, ISA.

The Alumni had multiple opportunities to gather and debrief on the various Conference side events they attended.

Additionally, our Alumni participated in various tailored activities, including substantive discussions on selected topics, such as the special circumstances of SIDS; sustainable fisheries, and sustainable blue economy. These activities also provided an opportunity to gather valuable insights in preparation for developing the training curriculum for the new Ocean Governance Fellowship for SIDS.

2.1. Objectives

The Meeting offered Alumni valuable opportunities to meet substantive objectives while facilitating in-person networking—both among themselves and within the broader group of Conference participants. During the Meeting, Alumni were able to:

- Identify and discuss challenges in ocean affairs and the law of the sea faced by SIDS.
- Share national and regional experiences; find common ground on certain challenges and explore opportunities for collaboration.

- Gain valuable insights from fellow Alumni and other experts attending the Conference.
- Network with government officials and ocean professionals from other SIDS.
- Strengthen their profiles as ocean experts.
- Contribute valuable insights for the new Ocean Governance Fellowship for SIDS, and engage with the development of the curriculum for the new Programme.

3. Participants

Name	Country
Yvonne Marlyne Edwin	St. Lucia
Vinesh Emrith	Mauritius
Alice Roxane Lasini Namata Funaki	Tonga
Litia Volaukiveiseisei Gaunavou	Fiji
Aleeza Rosemarie Moseley	Barbados
Zahidah Afrin Nisa	Fiji
Mariamalia Rodriguez Chavez	Costa Rica
Anama Vaifou Myra Solofa	Samoa
Tearinaki Patiale Tanielu	Kiribati
Tricia Lovell	Antigua and Barbuda
Marver Woodley	Antigua and Barbuda
Kahlil Jonathan Hassanali – attended as part of national delegation	Trinidad and Tobago
Adelsia Maria Coelho – attended as part of national delegation	Timor Leste
Fiona Indu – attended as part of national delegation	Solomon Islands

4. Programme of activities

The programme of activities detailed below includes activities part of the official Conference programme—such as plenary meetings, including opening and closing segments, and interactive dialogues—alongside activities tailored exclusively for the Alumni.

Alumni were encouraged to participate in as many side events as they wished, provided these did not conflict with the mandatory tailored Alumni activities. The two side events co-organized by DOALOS, held on Tuesday, 28 May, and Wednesday, 29 May 2024, were also mandatory.

The programme below also includes some of the side events that aligned with the objectives of the Alumni Meeting, which we recommend attending.

Alumni activity	
SIDS4 Conference official programme	
Side event in the Conference Venue	
Group touch-base meeting	

Day 1 | Sunday, 26 May 2024**Welcome and collection of Conference badges**

Time and venue:	4:30 PM, United Nations registration centre (AICASA building of the Conference Venue)
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Day 2 | Monday, 27 May 2024**Opening Cultural Ceremony**

Time and venue:	9-9:30 AM, Plenary Overflow Room on the first floor of the South Block building of the Conference venue.
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Official opening of the Conference and first plenary meeting

Time and venue:	10 AM-1 PM, Plenary Overflow Room on the first floor of the South Block building of the Conference venue.
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**How Debt for Nature and Climate Swaps Can Help SIDS Economies:
Belize Case Study and Tools for SIDS**

Time and venue:	12-1:30 PM, Room 4
Organizers:	Government of Belize, The Nature Conservancy

Achieving Sustainable and resilient ocean economies in SIDS through development cooperation

Time and venue:	12-1:30 PM, Room 10
Organizers:	OECD, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, World Resources Institute

Advancing Blue Economy through Marine Spatial Planning

Time and venue:	2-3:30 PM, Room 6
Organizers:	Pacific Islands Development Forum, National Ocean Technology Center (MNR, of the People's Republic of China), China Oceanic Development Foundation, Tonga, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Fiji, Blue Praxis (Australia)

Ocean knowledge for resilient prosperity: the role of the Ocean Decade to underpin sustainable ocean economies in SIDS

Time and venue:	2-3:30 PM, Room 4
Organizers:	Trinidad and Tobago and IOC/UNESCO

Addressing the threats posed by sea level rise

Time and venue:	4-5:30 PM, Room 1
Organizers:	Government of New Zealand, Global Centre for Climate Migration (GCCM), others (TBC)

Leveraging SIDS knowledge, technology, innovation and capacity to advance deep-sea research for the benefit of humanity

Time and venue:	4-5:30 PM, Room 10
Organizers:	Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, International Seabed Authority, Cook Islands, Malta, Indian Ocean Rim Association

Group meeting

Time and venue:	5:45-6:45 PM, Casanova.
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Day 3 | Tuesday, 28 May 2024

Third plenary meeting	
Time and venue:	9 AM-1 PM, Plenary Overflow Room on the first floor of the South Block building of the Conference venue.

Leveraging UNCLOS and the BBNJ Agreement in support of resilient prosperity in SIDS	
Time and venue:	1:30-3 PM, Overflow ID.
Organizers:	DOALOS, AOSIS, the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC), UN-OHRLLS, UNDESA and UNODC

Alumni activities – Special circumstances of SIDS	
Time and venue:	4-6 PM, Point Wharf Fisheries complex, Lower North Street

Group meeting	
Time and venue:	5:30-6 PM.

Day 4 | Wednesday, 29 May 2024

Ocean action to support resilient prosperity in SIDS	
Time and venue:	10-11:30 AM, Room 5
Organizers:	UNESCO-UWH, WMO, OLA/DOALOS, IOC-UNESCO, FAO, IAEA, UNCTAD, UNDP, ISA

Tackling the triple-planetary crisis in SIDS	
Time and venue:	12-1:30 PM, Room 7
Organizers:	UNEP, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, DESA (TBC)

Small Islands, Plastic Oceans	
Time and venue:	1:30-3 PM, ID Room
Organizers:	Alliance of Small Island States (Samoa Mission), TBC

Equitable Partnerships as a Cornerstone for the Ratification and Implementation of the BBNJ Treaty for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) TO Navigate Towards a Sustainable and Resilient Future	
Time and venue:	4-5:30 PM, Room 8
Organizers:	Kiribati, Antigua and Barbuda, High Seas Alliance, Maldives, Palau

Group meeting	
Time and venue:	5:30-6:30 PM, Gather

Day 5 | Thursday, 30 May 2024

Alumni activities – Sustainable fisheries	
Time and venue:	9:30-10:30 AM, Point Wharf Fisheries complex, Lower North Street

Alumni activities – Sustainable blue economy	
Time and venue:	10:30-11:30 AM, Point Wharf Fisheries complex, Lower North Street

Alumni activities – Discussion and feedback on SIDS Fellowship curriculum	
Time and venue:	12-1 PM, Point Wharf Fisheries complex, Lower North Street

SIDS4 Conference - Final Closing Plenary	
Time and venue:	2:30-5:30 PM, Plenary Overflow Room on the first floor of the South Block building of the Conference venue.

5. Photos





