

Draft Background Note

STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP - MANGALURU

Stepping Stone Towards a Safe and Sustainable Ocean Economy in India

Theme: Fishing & Aquaculture, Shipping & Ports

 06 February 2026 | 10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

 The Ocean Pearl, Mangaluru

Strategic Partners



Other Partners



Genesis for the series of Stakeholders' Workshops

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4	Workshop 5	Workshop 6	Workshop 7	Workshop 8
Kochi	Mumbai	Chennai	Bhubaneswar	Visakhapatnam	Mangalore	Goa	Kolkata
11.09.2025	03.11.2025	28.11.2025	19.12.2025	12.01.2026	06.02.2026	24.02.2026	10.03.2026

Ocean Centres India is stepping another stone towards a safe and sustainable ocean economy by introducing a series of multi-stakeholder workshops in India. As a closed-group discussion, these workshops aim to deliberate on the issues, challenges, and solutions towards a safer and more sustainable ocean economy in India. During these workshops, stakeholders will collectively map ocean-related safety and sustainability challenges and identify the key gaps that require collective action to address, particularly the safety challenges associated with adopting sustainable practices. By giving voice to a wide range of organisations, including the voices of the unheard, the workshops will serve to explore the systemic causes of safety deficits. Best practices, both on the business and governmental level, will be shared with stakeholders as useful points of reference when identifying gaps and opportunities. We truly hope to count on your engagement in this unique, locally-led, and globally connected initiative. Your participation in these workshops will help deliberate upon issues, challenges, and possible solutions to advance a shared vision of ocean industries that are not only productive but also inclusive, safe, and sustainable for generations to come.

The Workshop in Mangaluru on 06 February 2026

The workshop in Mangaluru is the sixth in a series of eight national workshops. The focus area of this workshop is on the fisheries & aquaculture, as well as the shipping & ports sectors, with a central theme centred on the mental well-being of seafarers and the socio-economic challenges faced by fishers and aquaculturists. The workshop will bring together multi-stakeholders around the identified themes with a focus on putting safety at the heart of sustainability. There will be an inaugural session followed by two panel discussions. The workshop will take place at Hotel Ocean Pearl, Mangaluru, from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM.

Inaugural Panel

The inaugural panel will highlight the Ocean Centres initiative and its goals as a multi-stakeholder platform and will set the context for deliberations on the identified themes. Addresses by different dignitaries will give strategic importance towards a safer and more sustainable ocean economy in India, highlighting the key issues, challenges, and possible solutions in national as well as local contexts. The inaugural panel is intended to give strategic directions on some of the pertinent aspects, like -

- Background rationale of the Ocean Centres Initiative
- UN Global Compact and its ten principles

- Best practices from the Government and Businesses in the Fisheries & Aquaculture and Shipping & Ports Sectors
- Foster collaborations and locally-led solutions
- Putting Safety at the Heart of Sustainability

High-Level Panel 1 – Socio-Economic Challenges of Fishers and Aquaculturists

Fishing and aquaculture sectors in Karnataka, spanning a 300 km coastline, face a pivotal socio-economic transition marked by high debt and climatic vulnerability. While the state's fish production has grown significantly, over 79% of traditional fishing families in coastal pockets earn very less as their monthly incomes. It may highlight a gap between sectoral growth and community prosperity. This panel will explore the systemic challenges associated with industrial growth, capital-intensive mechanisation, marginalisation of artisanal fishers, and seasonal migration in search of alternative livelihoods. Furthermore, the discussion will address the dual threats of escalating operational costs—driven by high debt and exploitation by middlemen—and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events like cyclones, which cause massive infrastructure losses. By examining the efficacy of existing state subsidies and the urgent need for climate-resilient infrastructure, this session also aims to formulate a roadmap for the economic empowerment and social security of Karnataka's 2.8 million-strong fishing community.

High-level Panel 2 – Mental Wellbeing of Seafarers: Issues & Challenges

Indian seafarers—who comprise approximately 9.35% of the global maritime workforce, face several critical challenges ranging from regulatory shifts to physical safety threats. The mental wellbeing of Indian seafarers has emerged as a critical safety and humanitarian priority. Despite their essential role in global trade, these professionals face an escalating "hidden crisis" characterized by extreme social isolation, the normalization of fatigue under 24/7 operational demands, and the constant stress of navigating high-risk conflict zones. The unique challenges of the Indian context, including the pressure of being primary family providers and the struggle for job security amidst shifting global regulations, further exacerbate rates of anxiety and depression. This panel aims to address the systemic gaps in psychological support, the stigma surrounding mental health in maritime culture, and the urgent need for industry-wide frameworks that prioritize the emotional resilience of those who keep the world's supply chains moving.

Target Participants

Stakeholders in these workshops will comprise a diverse range of organisations committed to advancing a safe and sustainable ocean economy. These include businesses and industries, government agencies, regulatory bodies, financial institutions, trade unions, NGOs, academic and research institutions, fishers, seafarers, and community-led organisations of all kinds. These workshops are in hybrid mode, with an option to participate online as well.

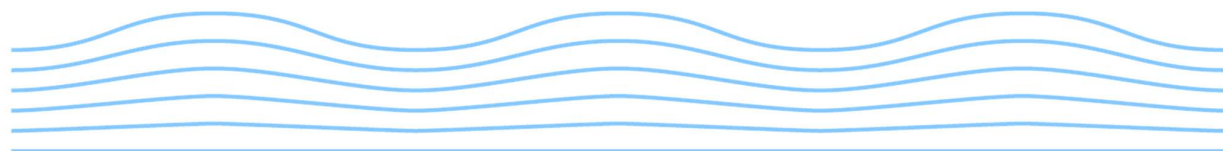
Workshops Registration

To participate in the workshops, please express your interest by submitting the workshop registration form at <https://forms.gle/WrSR5mkDhgkvFes46> or by scanning this QR Code. There is no fee for registration, but prior registration is kindly required.



About the Ocean Centres

The Ocean Centres were established through a partnership between the UN Global Compact (UNGC), a leading advocate for sustainability in the private sector, and Lloyd's Register Foundation, a global safety charity. They are implemented through UNGC Country Networks in seven nations identified by local experts during the initiative's scoping phase: Brazil, Ghana, Kenya, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The Ocean Centres are multi-stakeholder collaboration platforms dedicated to accelerating the transition toward **safer and more sustainable ocean economies**, enabled by better standards, skills, and evidence. By fostering dialogue and co-creation among government bodies, private sector actors, trade unions, financial institutions, civil society, youth, community-led organisations, academia, and other stakeholders, each Ocean Centre aims to support them in safe adoption of sustainable and resilient business practices in four main Action Areas: **Shipping & Ports, Fishing & Aquaculture, Offshore Renewables, Finance & Investment.**



Stakeholders Workshop Series

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Save the dates and register your interest at: <https://forms.gle/WrSR5mkDhgkvFes46>