

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Ocean Collective Summit 2024 kickstarts the business of marine conservation



Mr Tan Kiat How, Senior Minister of State for National Development and Digital Development and Information delivering the opening address at The Ocean Collective Summit 2024.

[Photo: The International SeaKeepers Society Asia]

[SINGAPORE, 17 October 2024] – The Ocean Collective Summit (TOCS) 2024 commenced today at Sheraton Towers Singapore with Mr Tan Kiat How, Senior Minister of State for National Development and Digital Development and Information, giving the opening address.

Organised by The International SeaKeepers Society (SeaKeepers) and The Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning Centre, the annual two-day summit brought together conservationists, business leaders, and policymakers to advance the shared objective of protecting the world’s oceans.

Mr Tan said: “I am heartened to know that the SeaKeepers have been supporting our local marine conservation efforts, such as reef cleanups, providing research grants for local students, as well as awards for local marine champions.

“We will continue to work with the local scientific and nature community here in Singapore, as well as learn from international leaders at platforms like today’s summit, to protect and conserve our marine biodiversity and ecosystems.”

Now in its third edition this year, TOCS 2024, with the theme “Uniting Businesses in Ocean Conservation”, serves as a knowledge-sharing platform for industry leaders and change-makers to discuss the emerging challenges and opportunities in the blue economy and marine conservation.

Mr Fabien Cousteau, famed aquanaut, oceanographic explorer, and environmental advocate, delivered the keynote address, focusing on the intersections between science, technology, and marine conservation.

He said: “At the core of marine conservation, it’s not just about saving the oceans—it’s about safeguarding our own future. As intelligent beings, we have the knowledge and the tools to envision a sustainable world where business, science, and technology work hand-in-hand to protect our oceans. But the real question is: do we have the wisdom to make those necessary choices? This summit is a call to action for each of you to form partnerships, innovate, and create solutions that will secure our planet’s future.”



Ms Nuryanee Anisah (centre), winner of the Ocean Innovators Challenge, alongside judges (L-R) Mr Justin Lee, Mr Alan Wah, Mr Fabien Cousteau, with President at The International SeaKeepers Society Asia, Mr Julian Chang at The Ocean Collective Summit 2024.

[Photo: The International SeaKeepers Society Asia]

Additionally, Mr Cousteau was one of the three judges for the Ocean Innovators Challenge that happened later in the afternoon. The session featured three young entrepreneurs presenting their conservation-focused business ideas to a panel of judges, including Mr Alan Wah, Chief



Strategy & Business Development Officer at M-TEchX Asia, and Mr Justin Lee, Principal at TRIREC, for mentorship opportunities.

Ms Nuryanee Anisah, who is the co-founder and CEO of Commenhers - an impact-driven enterprise that provides environmental solutions by upcycling textile waste into high-quality products - won the favour of both the attendees and the judges to win the Ocean Innovators Challenge with her informative and lively presentation.

She said: "It feels surreal to have won both the audience award and the overall prize in the Ocean Collective Innovators Challenge. I'm deeply moved by how our work at Commenhers has resonated with others.

"This journey has been incredibly rewarding, and I've gained valuable insights into the Ocean community. While textiles may seem unrelated to ocean conservation, the truth is we are all interconnected. The clothes we wear contribute to the ocean's microplastic pollution, showing just how significant the impact can be."

Sustainability is good for business

During today's conference, Ms Hani Nusantari, Founder & Educational and Outreach Officer of JARI Foundation shared how her foundation blends sustainable tourism practices with community engagement to create a balanced and respectful interaction between tourism, culture, and the natural environment.

Ms Hani said: "Instead of just watching the sunset, we want tourists to engage with the local community. The idea is about connection, how we learn from each other, improve understanding, and bring people together when they visit the island. It's about connecting not only visitors but also fostering collaboration between villages, which often operate independently. Our goal is to create meaningful connections that benefit everyone."

Mr Chavalit Frederick Tsao, Chairman of the century-old business TPC (Tsao Pao Chee), also discussed balancing economic growth with environmental protection in maritime trade.

Meanwhile, Professor Lawrence Loh, Director of the Centre for Governance and Sustainability at NUS Business School, conducted a quick sustainable business boot camp on how to drive sustainable change within organisations. In short, sustainable practices enhance brand reputation, attract eco-conscious consumers, and ensure long-term viability.



Innovation at the forefront of marine conservation

Technology provides tools and solutions necessary to mitigate and even reverse environmental degradation. From real-time ecosystem monitoring to advanced data analytics, technology empowers precise, data-driven decision-making and effective conservation strategies.

During the Innovative Solutions Showcase, Mr Dan Lundqvist, Director of Overseas Business at M-TEchX Asia, showcased how nanofibers can be used to clean up oil spills as well as solve water pollution issues by filtration.

At the same time, Dr Jerome Lombardi, Senior Research Fellow and Urbax Venture Lead at NUS Centre for Advanced 2D materials, shared how his research has managed to create “green cement” that drastically reduces the carbon footprint compared to traditional cement.

The second day of the summit will begin tomorrow with a fireside chat with Mr Cousteau about rethinking sustainability as global resources continue to deplete. Following that, there will be a panel discussion about investing in a sustainable blue economy, along with a discussion on exploring blue food solutions, including lab-grown seafood.

To cap off the summit, the participants will engage in a collaborative action planning session, designed to empower the community to formulate actionable plans to drive meaningful marine conservation efforts within their organisations.

For more information about TOCS 2024, please see **Annex A** below or visit www.theoceancollective.net.

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About The Ocean Collective Summit

The Ocean Collective Summit (TOCS) is a knowledge-sharing conference that serves as a platform for public institutions, private organisations, and non-government agencies to discuss critical marine conservation issues.

Initiated by The International SeaKeepers Society, the conference is held in collaboration with Fabien Cousteau; the Founder of The Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning Centre and Proteus Ocean Group; and famed for his work as an Aquanaut, Oceanographic Explorer and Environmental Advocate.

TOCS aims to bring a focus on the ocean and its intricate connections to life and all the inhabitants of our planet, Earth. Through its annual conference, TOCS will gather thought leaders in the marine conservation space to raise awareness, educate, and inspire action to work collectively towards a more sustainable future.

For more information, please visit <https://theoceancollective.net/>

About The International SeaKeepers Society

The International SeaKeepers Society (SeaKeepers) is a non-profit marine conservation organisation that strives to enhance understanding of the oceans, advocate for critical ocean issues, as well as promote oceanographic research, conservation and education.

Founded in 1998 by a small group of yacht owners concerned about the deterioration of our natural environment, SeaKeepers runs several yacht-involved programmes that enable the yachting community to support oceanographic research and conservation efforts. The organisation also collaborates with like-minded organisations, academic institutions, government agencies, and scientists.

The International SeaKeepers Society expanded into Asia in 2016 with the SeaKeepers Asia chapter, under the leadership of Board Member and Asia President Julian Chang. The International SeaKeepers Society Asia aims to raise awareness about the region's status, fostering appreciation and dedication to the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the marine environment and ecosystem whenever feasible.

Motto: Research. Educate. Protect and Restore.

For more information, please visit <https://www.seakeepers.org/>

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Annex A: Programme Agenda for The Ocean Collective Summit 2024*

Day 1: 17 October 2024

| Time | Session |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM | Commencement of The Conference |
| 9:15 AM - 9:30 AM | Welcome ceremony - Waves of Change: A Better World <i>Jay Wade</i> |
| 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM | Opening Address <i>Senior Minister of State Mr Tan Kiat How</i> |
| 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM | Opening Keynote – Strategies for Safeguarding Our Oceans: Integrating Technology, Science, and Business <i>Fabien Cousteau</i> |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Innovative Solutions Showcase <i>Dan Lundqvist, Kenny Lim, Dr. Jerome Lombardi, Dr, Malika Meghjani</i> |
| 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | Lunch |
| 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM | Navigating the Blue Economy <i>Dr. Meri Rosich</i> |
| 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM | Challenges and Opportunities of Eco Tourism <i>Hani Nusantari</i> |

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|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Balancing Growth and Environmental Protection in Maritime Trade <i>Chavalit Frederick Tsao</i> |
| 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM | Sustainable Business Bootcamp <i>Prof Lawrence Loh</i> |
| 3:15 PM - 3:30 PM | Coffee Break & Networking Session |
| 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM | Ocean Innovators Challenge <i>Fabien Cousteau, Alan Wah, Justin Lee, Nuryanee Anisah, Abery Lia Chan, Elizabeth Tseng</i> |
| 5:00 PM - 5:15 PM | Day 1 Recap & Networking Session |

*Programme is subject to changes. For more information, visit www.theoceancollective.net

Day 2: 18 October 2024

| Time | Session |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM | Commencement of The Conference |
| 9:15 AM - 10:00 AM | Fireside Chat – Rethinking Sustainability: Tackling Resource Depletion <i>Fabien Cousteau, Nicholas Fang</i> |
| 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM | Panel Discussion - Investing in a Sustainable Blue Economy <i>Janet Shum, Celine Schulze, Dr. Daniel Mira-Salama, Ghislaine Nadaud</i> |
| 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Exploring Blue Food Solutions <i>Joey Goh, Mihir Pershad, Dr. Dirk Eichelberger</i> |
| 12:00PM – 1:00 PM | Lunch |
| 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM | Preparing the Energy Mix of the Future Leveraging Diversity <i>Lanci Dosso</i> |
| 1:30 PM - 1:45 PM | #SCITOK: Science Communication & Education in the Digital Age <i>Biogirl MJ</i> |
| 1:45 PM – 3:45 PM | Collaborative Action Planning Session |



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|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <i>Fabien Cousteau, Dan Lundqvist, Alan Wah</i> |
| 3:45 PM - 4:15 PM | Conference Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks <i>Fabien Cousteau, Julian Chang</i> |

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