

ECOP Side event IO-CON 2024

Date and Time: 02-02-2024, 17:30:19:00

Venue: ITCOO E Classroom

Chaired by: Dr. Eric Raes, Minderoo Foundation

Coordinators: Debarati Sengupta (ECOP-Asia Ocean literacy team member) and Aditi Modi (IIOE2-ECSN core team member)

Report by - Midhila Varna V

Rapporteurs - Anupama & Zahid

Photos - Munzil

The ECOP side event organised on the second day of IO-CON 2024 was chaired by Dr. Eric Raes of the Minderoo Foundation. Debarati Sengupta and Aditi Modi jointly coordinated the session, which focused on the importance of science communication within the science-policy interface from the perspective of ECOPs.

Debarati provided background on ECOPs and discussed initiatives taken as part of ocean literacy events in coordination with NGOs like ECSF and Kolkata. Dr. Aditi shared the story of establishing the IIOE-Early Career Node, which started as an informal group and has now grown to over 1000 members from the Indian Ocean region. She also discussed outreach activities conducted by IIOE-ECSN through newsletters and webinars.

Dr Eric introduced the Minderoo Foundation and emphasised the importance of ocean literacy in raising awareness among stakeholders. He also shared a Google doc with participants containing various opportunities, such as travel grants and postdoc positions.

Representatives from ECOP Africa, Dr Isa and Dr Peter, shared their success stories in establishing an ECOP node in the African region. Roman Raphael, ECOP Asia coordinator, shared insights on the ECOP node in India. Trishneeta Bhattacharya announced the official establishment of an ECOP node for India before the Barcelona Conference in 2024 and invited participants to join. Sunanda Narayan (Joint Coordinator ECOP India) and Midhila Varna from ECOP India Node shared messages regarding the involvement of early career members. They outlined the goals of the ECOP India node for the coming years, including facilitating interaction among ECOPs and providing mentorship.

The session concluded with a discussion among participants, including Dr Uday Bhaskar, Dr Nimit Kumar, and Phalguni Tailor, who emphasised the need for an interaction platform for ECOPs. Dr Nimit Kumar highlighted the complementarity between being an ECOP member and

a member of ESCN or other groups, underscoring inclusiveness in collaborative efforts for the ocean decade.

Dr. Nimit provided closing remarks to conclude the session.

