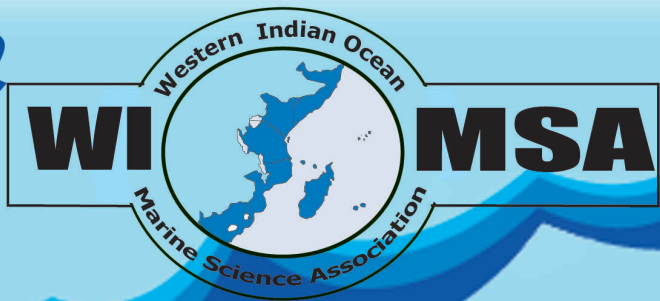


7<sup>th</sup>



## **SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM 24 - 29 October 2011 Mombasa, Kenya**

### **First Announcement and Call for Abstracts**

The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) have the pleasure to announce the Seventh WIOMSA Scientific Symposium that will be held in Mombasa, Kenya in October 2011.

WIOMSA is a regional professional, non-profit, membership organization, established in 1993, dedicated to promoting the educational, scientific and technological development of all aspects of marine sciences throughout the western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. WIOMSA has a particular interest in linking the knowledge that emerges from research to the management and governance issues that affect marine and coastal ecosystems.

KMFRI is a public organization that was established through the Science and Technology Act, Cap 250 of the Laws of Kenya (1979) with a wide mandate to undertake research on aquatic resources and advise the government on the sustainable management of these resources.

#### **DATES**

Monday 24th – Friday, 28 October 2011.

The week is divided into the following:

- National Annual KMFRI Conference – 24 October 2011. The joint Opening Ceremony of the National Annual KMFRI Conference and the Seventh WIOMSA Scientific Symposium will be held on the same day.
- The Seventh WIOMSA Scientific Symposium - 25th to 28th October 2011. This component will include: keynote presentations, oral and poster presentations as well as special sessions and roundtable discussions.
- Excursions and tours to different places of interest – 29th October 2011

## VENUE:

Whitesands Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya.

## SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES:

The Symposium will bring together practitioners, academics, researchers as well as students, to share knowledge, experience and solutions to the challenges experienced in our coastal and marine environment. The specific objectives of the symposium are to:

- Present current knowledge on disciplines related to the theme of the symposium;
- Provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information and experiences on coastal and marine science issues in the western Indian Ocean region;
- Promote interaction among social and natural scientists in order to strengthen multi- and transdisciplinary research for sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment;
- Identify gaps and priority research areas for improved management of the coastal and marine environment of the western Indian Ocean region.

## SYMPOSIUM THEME

The Symposium theme is ***“Coping with Global Change”***. This theme covers the implications of changes in major drivers on the coastal and marine environment ranging from natural, physical and biological drivers. Major drivers include: demographic pressure, economic development, socio-political changes and climate change.

## THEMES:

All interested authors are invited to submit abstracts on the proposed themes listed below. Authors may also submit abstracts on other topics relevant to the wider field of coastal and marine science. The main themes include but are not limited to:

### ***Global change and coastal and marine environment***

- Climate and ocean (Impacts, mitigation and adaptations)
- Trends of extreme events and major oceanographic processes

### ***Biodiversity and ecological processes***

- Biodiversity and diversification processes (including biology and reproduction of marine organisms; connectivity of marine populations and community resilience)
- Functional ecology of coastal ecosystems such as estuaries, coral reef, rocky shores, mangrove, etc.
- Ecology and Conservation of Endangered marine species (turtles, mammals, sharks, seabirds)
- Marine organisms and bioactive natural substances
- Ecosystem assessment and monitoring: roles of bioindicators, chemical tracers and models
- Ecosystem modeling and forecasting

### *Overexploitation of resources*

- Fisheries: trends, challenges and sustainability
- The ecological impacts of fishing
- Ecosystem-based fishery assessment and management in theory and practice
- The biology, and ecology of marine birds, invertebrates, and mammals related to fisheries and ecosystems

### *Human dimension and governance systems*

- Economic/Social/Environmental/Cultural opportunities and challenges of economic activities in coastal and marine environment
- Interactions between conservations initiatives and poverty reduction strategies
- Effectiveness of the conservation initiatives and governance systems

Experts are invited to consider organizing a session in any area related to the above broader topics.

### **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:**

Abstracts are invited on any topic related to the theme of the symposium. Priority will be given to multi-/trans-/interdisciplinary abstracts. Abstracts must be in English and should not exceed 300 words. Submitted abstracts must contain the following information: title, name(s) of author(s), affiliations, postal and e-mail addresses. It should also clearly state the preferred mode of presentation (oral or poster). Abstract must be in Times New Roman, 12-point font, single spacing with justified alignment.

Abstracts should describe briefly the statement of the problem, the methodology, the results and the conclusion. The abstract should be submitted in plain text only without the inclusion of tables, graphs, images, etc.

All abstracts will be reviewed for merit and relevance. Abstracts must be received by WIOMSA no later than 30th April 2011. Confirmation of acceptance for oral or poster presentations will be communicated to authors by 1st June 2011. Abstracts should be submitted to [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org).

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:**

A limited number of travel grants will be provided to experts from the region whose abstracts have been accepted. Applications for the travel grants should indicate details of the support required. These applications need to be submitted by 30th June 2011 to [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org).

### **SYMPOSIUM STRUCTURE:**

The symposium will have a combination of plenary and parallel sessions. Prominent experts from within and outside of the region will be invited to attend the symposium and deliver keynote presentations. Posters will be displayed throughout the symposium and a dedicated poster session will be arranged to facilitate discussions with the presenting authors.

## COMPETITIONS:

During the Symposium, three competitions will be organized. These are:

- Best Student Poster competition
- Best Student Oral competition
- Best Photo competition

Winners of these competitions will be awarded special prizes.

## REGISTRATION FEES:

A registration fee of US\$ 200 for non WIOMSA members, US \$ 150 for WIOMSA members and US\$ 100 for students will be charged to help cover some of the costs of the symposium.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

Deadline for submission of abstracts	30 April 2011
Notification of abstracts acceptance	1 June 2011
Deadline for submission of proposals for organization of side events (such as workshops, courses and meeting)	15 June 2011
Deadline for application of travel grants	30 June 2011
Deadline for confirmation by institutions participating in the exhibition	31 July 2011

## EXHIBITIONS:

Space will be available for exhibits by organizations, programmes, projects and commercial companies. Please contact the WIOMSA secretariat ([secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org)) for more details.

## LANGUAGE:

The official language of the symposium will be English.

