

## The future ain't what it used to be: Planning for and adapting to a changing world ocean

**Speaker:** Dr. Lawrence Hildebrand, World Maritime University & International Ocean Institute, Malta

**Lunch time Lecture:** 25th September 13:00 - 14:00

**Venue:** SANBI Kirstenbosch Research Centre, Seminar Room (accessible via the main Kirstenbosch entrance, follow the signs to the Research Centre)

**Abstract:** The coasts and oceans we know and depend on today will not be the ones we will inherit tomorrow. We are observing and recording unprecedented changes in these coastal and ocean systems, changes that may not be to our liking and supportive of our present way of life. Our social systems, settlement patterns, critical infrastructure, major investments and dependence on marine resources, must adapt to these changes in a proactive and probably profound way. As things stand now, we are not making enough of the forward-looking changes necessary in our laws, policies, economies, institutions and practices, or more importantly, our attitudes toward these changes and the urgency this should engender. How will we govern, survive and prosper under such an uncertain future? Will our complacency leave us vulnerable and unprepared? I am hopeful, however, that by learning about and taking responsibility for future-looking planning and adaptation for our coasts and oceans, we will rise bravely to the challenge. After all, tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.

**Bio:** Dr. Lawrence "Larry" Hildebrand is Distinguished Scholar and Special Advisor at the World Maritime University-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute in Malmö, Sweden and a Governor of the International Ocean Institute in Malta. Recently retired as Professor and Head of the Ocean Sustainability, Governance and Management MSc. specialization at WMU and now based back in Canada, he has served the global coastal and ocean agenda for over 4 decades in senior capacities in the Canadian government, the United Nations, other NGOs, and universities on several continents. Dr. Hildebrand has taught and supervised at the post-graduate level for many years and is widely published in the field. He has contributed to the teaching in the IOI-Canada course since the 1980s and is very pleased to once again return to South Africa and participate in this important IOI course.