



World Ocean Day 2023: She's Making Waves - Celebrating Women in Ocean Advocacy, Science and the Blue Economy

Speakers



The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland, KC

Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland, KC was born in the Commonwealth of Dominica. As the only woman to have been appointed Secretary-General of Commonwealth she is placing special emphasis on mobilising the 56 nations of the Commonwealth to tackle climate change – including its disproportionate impact on women – and, through women's enterprise, to build the resilience of smaller or more vulnerable countries. Eliminating domestic violence and violence against women and girls is another area of focus.

Her career has been marked by achieving a number of extraordinary firsts, including being the first woman in the more than 700-year history of the office to serve as Her Majesty's Attorney-General for England and Wales and for Northern Ireland. While holding this and other senior ministerial office she was given responsibility, inter alia, for gender equality, domestic violence, forced marriage, and international child abduction, and from these positions promoted diversity and equality of opportunity, particularly for women and girls.



H.E Hon. Titilupe Fanetupouvava'u Tu'ivakano

High Commissioner of Tonga to the United Kingdom

Her Excellency Fanetupouvava'u is an experienced civil servant, with more than 18 years of experience working within the Tongan public service. In her government roles, she has served as Senior Assistant Secretary for the Information Unit within the Prime Minister's Office from 2004 to 2007, then as Assistant Lord Chamberlain from 2007 to 2011, and thereafter Chief of Protocol within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

She currently serves as the High Commissioner of the Kingdom of Tonga accredited to the Court of St James's, as well as Member States of the European Union. She also serves as Permanent Representative for the Kingdom of Tonga to several International Organizations which includes the IMO, WTO, OPCW, FAO, and IFAD. Her Excellency holds a BA in Anthropology from the University of Auckland, a post-graduate Certificate in Diplomatic Studies from the University of Oxford, and a Master's degree in International Affairs from King's College London.



Zandile Ndhlovu

Ocean Conversationalist, The Black Mermaid Foundation

Cape Town, South Africa

Zandile Ndhlovu is South Africa's first Black African Freediving Instructor, and the founder of The Black Mermaid Foundation, an organization seeking to create diverse representation in the Ocean Arena, her work centres

around enabling access to Ocean spaces to local ocean facing communities in hope to diversify Ocean spaces recreationally, professionally and in sport, while creating a new generation of Ocean guardians.

As a Diversity and Inclusion Consultant, she is able to make use of these skills in her advocacy while working to reshape narratives through storytelling. She has contributed to global topics that include Ocean Conservation, Climate Change, Coastal Justice and capacitating the youth to participate in the Blue Ocean Economy. Zandile is a change agent, using her voice to create the needed expansion in society, through her work in the Foundation, public speaking and on her social platforms.



Dr Juli-Anne Royes Russo

Founder/CEO of the Caribbean Aquaculture Education and Innovation Hub (CAEIH) and Women in Caribbean Aquaculture (WiCA)

Jamaica

Juli-Anne Russo a native of Kingston, Jamaica, is the founder of the Caribbean Aquaculture Education and Innovation Hub and Women in Caribbean Aquaculture. She is an Aquaculture Scientist specialising in aquatic animal nutrition, feed management and the prevention of diseases in fish. Dr. Russo has been a consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations (FAO) in the Aquaculture branch, USAID, IDB and Compete Caribbean to provide technical services to fish farmers in developing countries. Her interests are in food and nutrition security, women in aquaculture, aquaculture biosecurity, environmental sustainability and rural development.



Oliver Steeds, OBE
Chief Executive and Mission Director
Nekton

United Kingdom

Oliver Steeds is the Founder of Nekton and leads the management and development of the organisation and field operations. Formerly he was a critically acclaimed broadcast journalist with ABC, NBC, Channel 4, Discovery Channels and others. He is co-founder of Encounter EDU including their ocean programme. Through its ocean training programs, Nekton has a proven track record of inclusive gender-balanced approach to ocean science.

In May 2023 in collaboration with the Nippon Foundation, the Ocean Census was launched. The Census has five core aims: expeditions to discover new life; advancing science (cyber-taxonomy); enabling open access data to catalyse conservation; innovating and amplifying storytelling to inspire public and policy interest; and building an inclusive, international network of biodiversity scientists.



Louise Sanger, MA
Head of Research, Interpretation & Engagement
Lloyd's Register Foundation Heritage & Education Centre

United Kingdom

Louise works for the Lloyd's Register Foundation, a global charity with a mission to engineer a safer world. In her role she leads on strategic research for the Heritage & Education Centre, with a focus on raising awareness of women in maritime, safety at sea, seafarer wellbeing, the history of maritime technology and innovation, ocean governance and maritime systems. Louise has built a programme of activity called 'Learning From the Past' to bring new perspectives and evidence to future global safety challenges. She scopes and initiates flagship projects that showcase HEC's vision, developing key research themes to generate valuable new insights that inspire change in the long-term. Louise is a maritime historian by background, and also is Trustee of the British Commission for Maritime History, Committee Member of the UK Maritime Heritage Forum and a Diversity & Inclusion Ambassador.