

Session II: Marine Habitats Protection for Blue Economy

Chairs: Prof. Thomas Leschine, University of Washington

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Ocean-Oriented Sustainable Development:

The Story of Hong Kong's Fisheries

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Sustainable development has become a widely applied development concept since the late 1980s but it remains a complex and elusive principle to achieve or demonstrate in practice. As a concept, sustainable development has been preoccupied with terrestrial issues and far less attention has been given to the marine environment or indeed to biodiversity issues in general. Marine fisheries play a crucial role in blue economy development. People in coastal regions depend on healthy fisheries for their livelihoods and as a food source. There is a clear need to achieve a more balanced sustainability perspective that integrates both terrestrial and marine environments.

As one of Hong Kong's earliest primary industries, fisheries have played a key role in the city's development. With proximity and access to important marine resources, Hong Kong long enjoyed a prosperous local fishing industry. However, by the 1990s local fish stocks had almost totally collapsed due to overfishing, extensive coastal reclamation projects, and marine pollution. As the primary seafood trade hub in Asia, the Hong Kong government has been attempting in recent years to develop a more integrated approach to develop a sustainable fishery. The government is working closely with green groups, fishery experts and fishermen, not only to protect marine habitats and to rebuild fish stocks, but also to provide better alternative livelihoods for fishermen. Through these efforts, marine sustainable development has been

mainstreamed as one of key issues on the local development agenda. As Hong Kong rethinks the ways in which it manages its marine environment to try to promote sustainable fisheries its experience may provide useful lessons for other coastal cities in the region which aim to promote the 'blue economy' and where fisheries play a vital role in local development.

Marine Economic Development and Its Strategic Industry Evaluation & Promotion in Taiwan

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Concerning the importance of nations' safety and key economic resources, ocean is becoming a competitive area among states. Thus, many countries establish their new ocean laws to materialize a blue ocean strategy for related industries. However, there is an urgent need for government sector to build a sustainable development strategy and create comparative advantages which without doubt is the fundamental of our vision as an ocean nation. Taiwan is surrounded by ocean resources which provide niches to compete others under the trend of developing blue economics and globalization. Over past decades, Taiwan has shown particularly strong in marine industries which government policy and budget support are expected to play a major role in the growing sea-based industry. The fact that the ocean provides many opportunities for Taiwan in developing the marine sector which influences the future of Taiwan's economic sustainability, such as marine fisheries, shipping & transportation, marine energy, marine recreation etc.. However, the development of new marine industries and the potential jobs they offer are also depends on marine technology, expertise, financial support etc. This presentation examines the Taiwan's marine economic development; policies for its strategic industry evaluation and promotion from the government are also discussed. These help to evaluate the direction of Taiwan's marine economy, focusing on leveraging the budget and