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MESSAGE

Oceans are central to life on earth. They are rich in oil and mineral resources, suppliers of oxygen, absorbers of carbon dioxide, a virtual heat sink, rich in biodiversity, which have emerged on global economic highway, for transit of seaborne trade.

With extensive maritime trade transitting the oceans oil spills regrettably continue to happen consequently may countries continue to face the associated problems of such oil spills being directly or indirectly connected to the spill. This leads to detrimental environmental effect on the marine and terrestrial natural habitat while having serious repercussions on the regions economic growth.

Due to such oil spills, usually by accident rather than been engineered ones, we are witnessing pollution of the oceans and contamination of the natural marine habitat with adverse impact of climate change on oceans. Consequently, a large percentage of extreme climate events turn into natural disasters and the navies and the Coast Guard of the respective countries have to be ready to provide rapid response in terms of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. In order to overcome recurrence of oil spills and to fight the ill effects of such a maritime disaster it is essential that public awareness is generated on this very important issue. In this regard the Oil Spill India (OSI) has been conducting an International Conference & Exhibition on Oil Spill Prevention,

Preparedness, Response & Restoration systems over the last five years. This international conference provides a global forum for Governments, regulators, industry, academia and response organizations to discuss, deliberate, share and learn the best of practices, technologies and experiences on oil spill management. It is heartening to note that some of the key takeaways from the previous editions of the conference have been successfully implemented by various nodal agencies and regulators.

The Edition of the OSI aims at discussing the world's worst spills as case studies to increase public sensitivities to oil spill disasters, while looking at stimulating landscapes of Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration activities. The concurrent exhibition will also provide an insight to the latest in global technology and equipment for prevention and response of oil spill.

The seas around us are gaining new found importance on each day goes by and I have no doubt that the current century is the century of the seas. We therefore have a responsibility to ensure 'Swakch Sagar' or clean oceans for our future generations.

I wish OSI and its organisers all the very best for a fruitful and meaningful two day deliberations towards their endeavor to provide effectual knowledge sharing and networking opportunities for this global cause.



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