



UTTANRÍKISRÁÐIÐ
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Oceans and Climate Change

COP 15 Side Event, Bella Centre, 16 December 2009 (1500 or 1600 hrs preferred)

Background: Indonesia has taken the lead during climate negotiations in 2009 to promote a strong focus on the relationship between oceans and climate in a new global agreement on climate change. This initiative builds on the political commitment expressed in the *Manado Declaration* adopted on 14 May 2009 by 76 countries attending the World Ocean Conference in Manado, Indonesia.

In support of these efforts, an official side event during COP 15 will be devoted to maintaining and further strengthening a clear focus on oceans issues in renewed global commitments to addressing the common challenge of climate change.

As a special partner in this initiative, the Faroes, with their unique status as a self-governing island nation in the North Atlantic dependent on the sea and fisheries, will help highlight the particular challenges and opportunities facing island and coastal nations when it comes to adaptation and technological development in a changing climate.

Denmark's chairmanship of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2010 will also highlight oceans issues, in close cooperation with the Government of the Faroes. The COP 15 Oceans and Climate Side Event will therefore provide an excellent platform from which to explore and strengthen partnerships between the Nordic countries and other nations around the world, in particular with developing coastal and island nations, on approaches to adaptation and climate-related marine research and development priorities and opportunities.

Partners in developing the event also include the Government of Norway, the Nordic Council of Ministers and FAO.

The **Programme** for the event will be introduced by key high-level representatives from partner countries & organisations, followed by 2-3 brief focussed presentations, concluding with a general discussion (max 90 mins). Further details to be announced.

The focus of the Programme will be on the need to improve our understanding of changes in ocean dynamics and their impact on marine resources, developing technologies for clean and self-sufficient energy production in island communities, and sharing best practices in climate adaptation for sustainable development, in particular enhancing efficiency in fisheries to ensure their continued contribution to global food security.

Target participants will be COP 15 delegates, with a focus on building partnerships between the Nordic countries and coastal and Small Island Developing States, research and business representatives, relevant IGOs, NGOs, and media.

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