IOC Circular Letter No. 2413
(Available in English and French)

To: Member States (main national co-ordinating bodies for liaison with the IOC)

cc: Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO in IOC Member States
Officers of the IOC and Major Subsidiary Bodies

Subject: Inter-agency Report ‘A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability’ as a contribution to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development-UNCSD (RIO+20)

Dear Sir/Madam,

The IOC Assembly, through Resolution XXVI-5, decided to inter alia request the IOC to continue to play an advocating role for ocean during the RIO+20 preparatory process and at the Conference itself. As a response to this request, the Commission has led the preparation of an UN inter-agency report entitled ‘A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability’, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Report was launched on 1st November 2011 by Mme Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, at a Special event organized during the 36th Session of the UNESCO General Conference.

The report aims to provide a context for the RIO+20 discussions and negotiations, through analysis of current challenges in ocean and coastal management, an assessment of how well the multiple goals and objectives of previous international efforts have been met, and through building on recent dialogue and emerging consensus at the international level. Importantly, this Paper presents a number of tangible proposals, ten in total, toward ocean sustainability that should be regarded as priorities for consideration in the RIO+20 outcomes. Each is assessed against the three pillars of sustainable development, a range of cross-cutting issues, as well as the dual focus of RIO+20, being the green economy and the institutional framework for sustainable development. The report has been officially submitted to the UNCSD Secretariat as an inter-agency input into the compilation document to serve as a basis for the preparation of the zero draft of the RIO+20 outcome document.

.../...
This Report and its summary for decision-makers are designed to sensitize Member States on the objectives and issues that will be negotiated at Rio+20 conference, from an ocean perspective. I would kindly ask you to disseminate the report through your national networks. These are available from the Rio+20 Ocean website that the Commission has put in place: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/rio20

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

[signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO