



# 9<sup>th</sup> INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE 2026

COLLECTIVE STEWARDSHIP FOR INDIAN OCEAN GOVERNANCE

 April 10-12, 2026

 Mauritius

 [Conference Schedule](#)



In association with  
**RSiS** | S. RAJARATNAM  
 SCHOOL OF  
 INTERNATIONAL  
 STUDIES  
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore



# DAY 1



**April 10, 2026**

(Friday)



1830 hrs

## Inaugural Session

### Curtain Raiser Address



**Ram Madhav**  
President, India Foundation  
India

### Address



**Sayyid Badr bin  
Hamad bin Hamood  
Albusaidi**  
Foreign Minister  
Oman

### Keynote Address



**S Jaishankar**  
External Affairs Minister  
India

### Chief Guest Address



**H.E.  
Navinchandra  
Ramgoolam**  
Prime Minister  
Mauritius



1930 hrs



**Inaugural Dinner**

***Hosted by***

**H.E Navinchandra Ramgoolam**

**Prime Minister  
Mauritius**



## DAY 2



**April 11, 2026**

(Saturday)



0930 - 0950 hrs

## Special Keynote

Chair



**Ram Madhav**  
President, India Foundation  
India

Speaker



**Dhananjay Ramful**  
Minister of Foreign  
Affairs, Regional Integration  
and International Trade  
Mauritius



0950 - 1130 hrs

## Plenary 1

### Chair



### Suresh Prabhu

Former Union Minister, Govt of India; Chairman, Governing Council, India Foundation India

### Speakers



### Khalilur Rahman

Foreign Minister  
Bangladesh



### Barry Faure

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and Diaspora  
Seychelles



### Mahmoud Thabit Kombo

Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
East African Cooperation  
Tanzania



### D N Dhungyel

Foreign Minister  
Bhutan



### Shishir Khanal

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Nepal



### Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahyan

Cabinet Member and Minister  
of State  
UAE



1145 - 1300 hrs

## Plenary 2

### Chair



### M J Akbar

Former Minister of State for External Affairs, Govt of India; Member, Governing Council, India Foundation India

### Speakers



### Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Social & Family Development Singapore



### UN Kheang

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Cambodia



### Mohamed Abu Bakr

Deputy Foreign Minister for African Affairs Egypt



### Gustavo Sobrinho Dgedge

State Secretary for Environment Mozambique



1300 - 1400 hrs

## Lunch





1400 – 1515 hrs

## Plenary 3

### Chair



**J Bissoondoyal**  
Secretary for Foreign Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mauritius

### Speakers



**P Kumaran**  
Secretary (East), Ministry of  
External Affairs  
India



**Rogelio E.  
Villaneuva Jr**  
Deputy Assistant Secretary,  
Maritime and Ocean Affairs  
Office, Department of  
Foreign Affairs  
Philippines



**Indra Mani  
Pandey**  
Secretary General  
BIMSTEC



**Sanjiv Ranjan**  
Secretary General  
Indian Ocean RIM Association



**Ji-Hyun Park**  
Ambassador of the  
Republic of Korea In  
Mauritius



**Irada Zeynalova**  
Ambassador of the  
Russian Federation in  
Mauritius



**Fayez Meshel B  
ALTEMYAT**  
Ambassador of Saudi Arabia  
in Mauritius



1530 - 1630 hrs

## Plenary 4

### Chair



### Ruchira Kamboj

Former Permanent Representative  
of India to the UN  
India

### Speakers



### Ekapol Poolpipat

Ambassador of Thailand to  
South Africa  
Thailand



### Huang Shifang

Ambassador of  
China to Mauritius  
China



### Salem Rashed Al-Shebli

Ambassador of State of  
Kuwait to Mauritius



### Fatoumia Ali Bazi

Ambassador of Comoros  
in Mauritius  
Comoros



### Nguyen Thanh Hai

Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary of  
Vietnam to India  
Vietnam



### Frédéric Bontems

Ambassador of France in  
Mauritius



### Craig Halbmaier

Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.  
U.S. Embassy in Mauritius



1630 - 1700 hrs

## Networking Break





1700 - 1800 hrs

## Indian Ocean Economic Conclave

### Special Address



**John Michaël Tzoun Sao Yeung  
Sik Yuen**

Minister of Commerce  
& Consumer Protection  
Mauritius

### Chair



**Shaurya Doval**

MD, Zeus Caps; Member,  
Governing Council, India  
Foundation  
India

### Panelists



**Abhimanu  
Kundasamy**

CEO,  
Economic Development Board  
Mauritius



**Shahzad Athar**

CEO, International Ports,  
Adani Ports & SEZ  
India



**Kevin  
Ramkaloan**

CEO Business Mauritius  
Mauritius



1800 - 1915 hrs

## Indian Ocean Sustainability Forum

### Special Address



#### **Arvin Boolell, GOSK**

Minister of Agro-Industry,  
Food Security, Blue Economy  
and Fisheries, Mauritius

### Chair



#### **Jagjeet Sareen**

Partner and India Head,  
Dalberg Advisors  
India

### Panelists



#### **Saliem Fakir**

Executive Director, African  
Climate Foundation  
South Africa



#### **Amit Mallick**

Director (International  
Cooperation), International  
Big Cat Alliance  
India



#### **Rajesh Bahadur Thapa**

Senior Project Coordinator  
(Glaciers-to-Ocean), ICIMOD  
Nepal



#### **Meera Satishchandra Koonjul**

Director of Fisheries, Ministry of  
Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue  
Economy and Fisheries  
Mauritius



#### **S Meeheelaul**

Director of Climate Change, Ministry  
of Environment, Solid Waste  
Management and Climate Change  
Mauritius



1930 hrs



**Dinner**

*Hosted by*

**S.Rajaratnam School of  
International Studies**

In association with

**RSiS** | S. RAJARATNAM  
SCHOOL OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
STUDIES  
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore



## DAY 3



**April 12, 2026**

(Sunday)



0930 - 1030 hrs

## Thematic Sessions-1: Freedom of Navigation (Session I)

### Chair



### Vice Adm Sanjay Jasjit Singh (Retd)

Former Vice Chief of Naval Staff,  
Indian Navy  
India

### Speakers



### Chheng Kimlong

Director, Asian Vision Institute  
Cambodia



### Prasad Kariyawasam

Former Foreign Secretary  
Sri Lanka



### Capt Asiva Coopen

Director of Shipping  
Mauritius



0930 - 1030 hrs

## Thematic Session-2: Maritime Laws and Governance (Session I)

### Chair



**Sujeet Kumar**

Member of Parliament  
India

### Speakers



**Preeti Saran**

Former Ambassador  
India



**Sinderpal Singh**

Senior Fellow and Assistant Director  
at the Institute of Defence and  
Strategic Studies,RSIS  
Singapore



**Capt C G Binoop**

Commandant, NCG  
Mauritius



**Lisa Simrique Singh**

United Nations Resident  
Coordinator for Mauritius  
United Nations



0930 - 1030 hrs

## Thematic Session-3: Maritime Security (Session I)

### Chair



**Anil Trigunayat**  
Former Ambassador  
India

### Speakers



**Mohd Faiz Abdullah**  
Chairman, Institute of Strategic  
and International Studies  
Malaysia



**Adm Jayantha Perera (Retd)**  
Former Naval  
Commander  
Sri Lanka



**Jane Chan**  
Senior Fellow and  
Coordinator of the Maritime  
Security Programme, RSIS  
Singapore



**Oskar Benedikt**  
Ambassador of the  
European Union in Mauritius  
European Union



1030 – 1130 hrs

## Thematic Sessions-1: Freedom of Navigation (Session 2)

### Chair



### Capt. Alok Bansal

Executive Vice President,  
India Foundation  
India

### Speakers



### Mehmet Seyfettin Erol

President, Ankara Centre for Crisis  
and Policy Studies (ANKASAM)  
Turkey



### Assad Alshamlan

Director, Center for European  
Studies, Prince Saud Al Faisal  
Institute for Diplomatic Studies  
Saudi Arabia



### Alexey V Kuznetsov

Director, INION RAN  
Russia



### Rashid Mohd E. Al-Khelaifi

Chargé d'Affaires  
Qatar



1030 - 1130 hrs

## Thematic Session-2: Maritime Laws and Governance (Session 2)

### Chair



### Sujan R Chinoy

Director General, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

India

### Speakers



### Sumitra Karki

Director, Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement  
Nepal



### Dao Ngoc Bau

Director General, Institute of Politics and International Relations Ho Chi Minh Academy of Politics  
Vietnam



### A. Subramanyam Raju

Centre Head, Centre for Maritime Studies, Pondicherry University  
India



### Moses Vilakati

Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment  
African Union



1030 – 1130 hrs

## Thematic Sessions-3: Maritime Security (Session 2)

### Chair



**Deepa Wadhwa**

Former Ambassador  
India

### Speakers



**Lesley Craig**

Head of South Asia Regional  
Department, Foreign, Commonwealth  
and Development Office  
UK



**Phil Midland**

President, IHS International  
USA



**Vishwanath Virahsawny**

Deputy Commandant NCG  
Mauritius



**Sojarison Tahiry**

Chargé d'Affaires,  
Madagascar



1230 hrs



**Lunch**

***Hosted by***

**P Kumaran**

**Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs  
India**



Policy Planning & Research Division  
Ministry of External Affairs  
Government of India





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