

ITEC Course on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance

16-27 November, 2026

Concept Note

1 Background

The paradigm shift to the Blue Economy for economic development has opened up several frontiers for exploration, exploitation and conservation of seas, oceans and marine resources in the world. The Blue Economy offers immense potential in income, trade, employment generation, technology transfer and investment. Being multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral in nature, it is spread across all major economic activities of a nation. The Blue Economy encompasses all major economic sectors of a nation, including agriculture, minerals, manufacturing and services, some of which are traditional and others are emerging in nature. Oceans and marine resources are vital for food, nutrition and livelihood security. Beyond livelihoods, the Blue Economy is crucial for climate change mitigation. It constitutes a distinct knowledge stream with its own methodology for estimating contributions to national GDP. The Blue Economy is not only restricted to the oceans and marine life, but also extends to riverine development, which is needed to foster regional development. Given the diversity within the Blue Economy sectors, the governance of the Blue Economy is multi-layered and complex. Altogether, the principle of the Blue Economy is to realise socio-economic development while maintaining ecological balance and ensuring environmental sustainability within national jurisdictions.

Amidst this context, the importance of comprehending the diverse dimensions of the Blue Economy is steadily increasing. To address this need, RIS proposes a two-week training programme under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance. This course aims to provide in-depth knowledge of the Blue Economy, covering its diverse sectors as well as initiatives taken at global and regional levels. It would provide insights into the governance of the Blue Economy at the national, regional and global levels. Issues related to areas beyond national jurisdiction, including UNCLOS, EEZ, CLCS, etc., are to be discussed. The relevance of ABNJ and BBNJ in the context of the Blue Economy is to be analysed. This would help develop international cooperation for strengthening the Blue Economy framework. The programme has been conceived to provide participants with a rigorous foundation of knowledge, analytical methodologies, and applied competencies necessary to critically engage with the opportunities and constraints that nations encounter in advancing the Blue Economy.

2 Coverage and Course Content

The course is designed to cultivate a comprehensive and critical understanding of both traditional and emerging sectors of the Blue Economy, with particular emphasis on ocean governance and sustainability. Beyond providing conceptual and theoretical foundations, it integrates applied perspectives to illuminate the potential and policy challenges that nations encounter in advancing the Blue Economy strategies. In doing so, the programme situates these discussions within the broader international discourse shaped by instruments such as the UNCLOS and global commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 14 on “Life Below Water.”

Key areas of focus will include:

- Blue Economy Accounting
- Blue Agriculture
- Marine Minerals
- Blue Industry and Marine Manufacturing
- Blue Services
- Coastal Community Development
- Ocean Governance and its different layers
- Maritime connectivity
- Development cooperation

By engaging with these frameworks, participants will be equipped not only to appreciate the economic potential of marine resources but also to critically assess the governance structures and sustainability imperatives that underpin their responsible utilisation. The programme will also include interactive sessions with policymakers and practitioners, case studies, panel and group discussions to provide hands-on exposure to various aspects of the Blue Economy.

3 Modules

- Introduction to Blue Economy and Ocean Governance
- Blue Agricultural Sector and Community Development
- Placer Deposits and Deep-sea Minerals and Blue Finance
- Marine Manufacturing and Industry
- Maritime Connectivity
- Emerging Technologies and Ocean Conservation
- Port Infrastructure and Role of International Bodies
- Blue Services
- Ocean Energy and Maritime Security

4 Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of the programme, participants will:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the concept of Blue Economy and Ocean Governance
- Understand the implications of various laws on oceans and ocean-related sectors
- Enhance their capacity to effectively assess the Blue Economy's contribution to their national economy
- Develop practical understanding through case studies and peer learning
- Build networks with policymakers, practitioners, and fellow participants for continued collaboration.