



Introduction

The Indian Ocean Rim Association is an inter-governmental organisation which was established on 7 March 1997. IORA enhances economic dialogue and regional cooperation to promote sustainable growth and balanced development for a prosperous Indian Ocean Rim. The vision for IORA originated during a visit by late President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to India in 1995, where he said:

"The natural urge of the facts of history and geography ... should broaden itself to include the concept of an Indian Ocean Rim for socio-economic co-operation and other peaceful endeavours. Recent changes in the international system demand that the countries of the Indian Ocean shall become a single platform."

21 Member States

Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

7 Dialogue Partners

China, France, Japan, United States of America, Egypt, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Priority Areas

- Maritime Safety & Security
- Trade & Investment Facilitation
- Fisheries Management
- Disaster Risk Management
- Tourism Promotion & Cultural Exchanges
- Academic, Science & Technology

*With the Blue Economy and Women's Economic Empowerment as focus areas

Celebrating Twenty Years

The first IORA Leaders' Summit was hosted by the Republic of Indonesia on 7 March 2017 in Jakarta. The Summit was entitled "Strengthening Maritime Cooperation for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Indian Ocean" and Prime Ministers and Presidents from the region issued the milestone IORA Concord and accompanying IORA Action Plan for 2017 – 2021.

Structure

IORA's apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually. The Republic of Indonesia has been the Chair of IORA since 2015. The Republic of South Africa will assume the role for 2017-2019, followed by the United Arab Emirates. A committee of Senior Officials (CSO) meets twice a year to progress IORA's agenda and consider recommendations by Working Groups and forums of officials, business and academics to implement policies and projects to improve the lives of people in the Indian Ocean Member States.

Specialised Agencies of IORA

○ Fisheries Support Unit (FSU)

Headquartered in the Sultanate of Oman since 2003, FSU plays an important role in enhancing the cooperation, better utilisation of fisheries resources, exchanges of expertise and joint research activities.

○ Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT)

Established in 2008 in the Islamic Republic of Iran, RCSTT aims to facilitate the transfer of sustainable and appropriate technology to, and between, Member States.

IORA Special Fund

The IORA Special Fund is a financial mechanism for supporting projects and programmes adopted by the Association within the identified priority areas of the Association.

IORA Secretariat

The Secretariat manages, coordinates, services and monitors the implementation of policy decisions and work programmes adopted by the Association. It is based in Mauritius and overseen by a Secretary General who is appointed for a three-year period.

CHAIR

The Council of Ministers elect the Chair of the Association for a period of two years. This is based on the voluntary offer by Member States to become the Chair or, if there is no voluntary offer, the Chair will be elected on the basis of geographical consideration.

	Year
Republic of Mauritius	1997 – 1998
Republic of Mozambique	1999
Republic of Mozambique	2000
Sultanate of Oman	2001
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	2003 – 2004
Islamic Republic of Iran	2006 – 2008
Republic of Yemen	2009 – 2010
Republic of India	2011 – 2012
Commonwealth of Australia	2013 – 2014
Republic of Indonesia	2015 – 2017
Republic of South Africa	2017 – 2019
United Arab Emirates	2019 – 2021

IORA SECRETARIAT

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AUSTRALIA
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: Canberra
Language: English
Currency: Australian Dollar



BANGLADESH
Joined IORA in 1999
Capital: Dhaka
Language: Bengali
Currency: Bangladeshi Taka



COMOROS
Joined IORA in 2012
Capital: Moroni
Languages: Comorian, Arabic, French
Currency: Comorian Franc



INDIA
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: New Delhi
Languages: Hindi, English
Currency: Indian Rupee



INDONESIA
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: Jakarta
Languages: Indonesian, Bahasa, Indonesia
Currency: Indonesian Rupiah



IRAN
Joined IORA in 1999
Capital: Tehran
Language: Persian
Currency: Iranian Rial



KENYA
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: Nairobi
Languages: Swahili, English
Currency: Kenyan Shilling



MADAGASCAR
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: Antananarivo
Languages: Malagasy, French
Currency: Malagasy Ariary



MALAYSIA
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: Kuala Lumpur
Language: Bahasa Malaysia
Currency: Malaysian Ringgit



MAURITIUS
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: Port Louis
Languages: English, French, Mauritian Creole
Currency: Mauritian Rupee



MOZAMBIQUE
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: Maputo
Language: Portuguese
Currency: Metical



OMAN
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: Muscat
Language: Arabic
Currency: Omani Rial



SEYCHELLES
Joined IORA in 2011
Capital: Victoria
Languages: English, French, Seselwa
Currency: Seychellois Rupee



SINGAPORE
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: Singapore
Languages: English, Mandarin, Malay, Tamil
Currency: Singapore Dollar



SOMALIA
Joined IORA in 2014
Capital: Mogadishu
Languages: Somali, Arabic
Currency: Somali Shilling



SOUTH AFRICA
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: Pretoria
Languages: English, Afrikaans, isiZulu, isiXhosa, Sesotho sa Leboa, Setswana, isiNdebele, siSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, Sesotho
Currency: South African Rand



SRI LANKA
Joined IORA in 1997
Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
Languages: English, Tamil, Sinhala
Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee



TANZANIA
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: Dodoma
Language: English, Swahili
Currency: Tanzanian Shilling



THAILAND
Joined IORA in 1999
Capital: Bangkok
Language: Thai
Currency: Thai Baht



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Joined IORA in 1999
Capital: Abu Dhabi
Language: Arabic
Currency: United Arab Emirates Dirham



YEMEN
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: Sana'a
Language: Arabic
Currency: Yemeni Rial

Dialogue Partners



CHINA
Joined IORA in 2000
Capital: Beijing
Languages: Standard Mandarin
Currency: Renminbi



EGYPT
Joined IORA in 1999
Capital: Cairo
Languages: Arabic, Modern Standard Arabic
Currency: Egyptian pound



FRANCE
Joined IORA in 2001
Capital: Paris
Languages: French
Currency: Euro, CFP franc



GERMANY
Joined IORA in 2015
Capital: Berlin
Languages: German
Currency: Euro



JAPAN
Joined IORA in 1999
Capital: Tokyo
Languages: Japanese
Currency: Japanese yen



UNITED KINGDOM
Joined IORA in 2000
Capital: London
Languages: English
Currency: British Pound



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Joined IORA in 2012
Capital: Washington, D.C.
Languages: English
Currency: United States Dollar