Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):
Strengthening maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean region

A seminar jointly hosted by the Australian High Commission and the Durban University of Technology

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is a group of 20 member states united by the common bond of an ocean and a commitment to the prosperity and sustainable economic growth of the Indian Ocean. IORA progresses cooperation in the priority areas of: maritime safety and security; trade and investment facilitation; fisheries management; disaster preparedness; academic, science and technology cooperation; and tourism and cultural exchange (further information below). IORA is currently chaired by Australia (2013-15).

The seminar will explore Australian and South African perspectives on IORA and the Indian Ocean and emerging challenges to the Indian Ocean maritime security domain. It will also provide a forum for expert practitioners on Indian Ocean issues to canvass options for enhanced regional cooperation.

Introduction and official welcome
Prof Darren Lortan: Former Executive Dean in the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Durban University of Technology

Keynote address:
Maritime security challenges in the Indian Ocean: The South African experience
Retired Chief of the South African Navy, Vice Admiral Johannes Mudimu

Panellists:
A reinvigorated IORA and Australia’s term as Chair (2013-15)
HE Mr Graeme Wilson: Australia’s High Commissioner to South Africa

South Africa’s interests in the Indian Ocean: A strategic overview
Amb Anil Sooklal: Deputy Director-General, Asia & Middle East, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa

The Status of Port State Control in IORA
Mr Leon Govender: Head of Department of Maritime Studies, Durban University of Technology

Respondent:
Ms Saeeda Verrall: Programme Officer: Maritime Crime Programme - Indian Ocean Division, Mauritius, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Date: Monday 30 June
9.30am to 12.30pm (registration from 9am), to be followed by lunch
Venue: Hotel School Conference Centre, Ritson Campus, Durban University of Technology (DUT)
Address: Enter via Winterton Walk
RSVP/enquiries: invitations.pret@dfat.gov.au and/or will.butler@dfat.gov.au - Tel 012 423 6188

IORA background

IORA’s membership reflects the diversity of the Indian Ocean region. IORA members are spread across small island countries, such as Comoros and Seychelles, to larger G20 members such as South Africa, India, Indonesia and Australia. IORA member states are linked by common challenges - the need to keep shipping lanes open, to keep fishery stocks viable, to prepare for disasters such as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and to promote trade, education and tourism links. These common challenges can only be effectively addressed through close regional cooperation. For instance, IORA members have been integral to countering piracy in the region with no successful piracy attacks recorded since May 2012.

Australia assumed the position of Chair of IORA, previously known as the Indian Ocean Rim - Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), in Perth in November 2013. At this meeting, which was hosted by The Hon Ms Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia took over the reins from India, while Indonesia became the new Vice-Chair. For further information on IORA, including member states, dialogue partners, observers and areas of focus/key projects, please refer to: http://www.iora.net/