

Third edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative – 4th June 2012

Concluding Speech by Robert Calcagno and H.E.M. Bernard Fautrier

Robert Calcagno

CEO of the Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation

Your Serene Highness,
Dear Friends,

Dialogue is not always easy between the different stakeholders and countries, but once again the Monaco Blue Initiative has demonstrated the relevance of its method. This evening, I would like to thank everybody not only for their input but also for their willingness to understand the point of view of others, which is perhaps even more difficult.

This essential dialogue must lead to action and has indeed enabled us today to confront our differing ideas on ocean protection. Let me try pick out a few sentences from each of you, to summarize the meeting. First, we emphasized the importance of the “local”. I believe everybody in the room mentioned it. Richard Kenchington, more specifically, pointed out: “we need to understand everyone’s objective”. Anne McDonald and others stressed that we must also take into account social, cultural and historical matters. Without these, we won’t succeed.

The second point is “economy”. We need to develop the local economy and generate local revenues as much as possible; this is indeed a key point recurrent throughout the day. As a conclusion to the local aspect, I remember the intervention of Hugh Govan, using the Pacific as a great example, somebody mentioned we need to take the good case studies and generate guidelines and policy.

But “if local is important, it is not enough”, was the comment made by Sundari Ramakrishna. We do not want to oppose bottom-up and top-down approaches but we must combine them both. How do we bring together these parts? Everyone has mentioned we need to have a strong national government involvement, and of course the example from Kiribati this morning, illustrates a very strong demonstration of this local government involvement.

We must have clear and enforced national policies. We need to have worldwide scientific involvement in those matters, and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) may be a chance to get a few steps further in this understanding and we must make sure that marine biodiversity is specifically considered. This morning we raised this point: marine oceans are not lands; marine biodiversity is not land biodiversity; marine protected areas are not land protected areas. This distinction is very important and we must analyze the difference.

We also need to make progress in international laws. We discussed high seas governance, and even if most of human influence is on Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), we also must make progress regarding high sea laws. We must influence International agreements and, as His Serene Highness mentioned, make those issues public. The mediation and publicity is very important so as to reach a very large and wide audience and influence our national governments.

Now before Bernard will conclude, I would like to answer Donna Petrachenko’s worries that perhaps nothing will be done after the meeting. We mentioned today that dialogue is essential but it is not enough. Dialogue must lead to action. You must not be afraid, Donna, I noticed during the Conference that His serene Highness’s notebook was progressively filling with comments and ideas and I’m sure that tonight, H.E.M. Bernard Fautrier and I will be receiving new instructions. We will work hard and Bernard is going to give you a few hints of our future undertakings in giving the oceans the attention which they deserve.

H.E.M. Bernard Fautrier

Plenipotentiary Minister and CEO of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

Now, the first step for the future is to ask you to be present and become active in the main international events which are on your agenda in the next month. François Simard mentioned most of them and, as he is modest, he did not speak about the IUCN International Congress which will take place here in Korea which is a very important event as you all know.

Obviously, many of you spoke about Rio+20 and the concern we can have at this time about the situation of the chapter on the oceans. Each of you must disseminate the work we have done today in order to make some progress in coming international events. At the end of the year, the thirtieth anniversary of the Montego Bay Convention is planned and many people today, starting with His Highness, have expressed the important need to change the current situation of the high seas.

I believe these different opportunities must be seized to speak about what has to be changed today. I am sure our work today will be of value for all these events, and I would like to think that each of us in our own way will become an ambassador of the Monaco Blue Initiative.

The protection of the seas is indeed a long term commitment requiring each of us to show tenacity and determination, the same tenacity and the same determination that you have shown today, ladies and gentlemen, by agreeing to devote your time to this important issue of responsibility.

For the next step of the Monaco Blue Initiative, we obviously look forward to seeing you next year at the fourth edition, which will take place in Monaco, probably in the spring during the month of June. We hope that we can count on you for this occasion. It will follow on the work done today by highlighting again the usefulness of marine protected areas but also particularly dealing with essential questions that had been debated in our first edition: the deep seas and large marine species.

Once more thank you for your participation today and we hope to see you in the near future.