

## IOC Regional Training Centre for the OceanTeacher Global Academy

Ong'anda Harrison

Kenya Marine and Fisheries Institute (KMFRI), Mombasa, Kenya

E-mail: [hochieng2003@yahoo.com](mailto:hochieng2003@yahoo.com)

KMFRI has been assessed and qualified to host a Regional Training Centre (RTC) for the OceanTeacher Global Academy Project. The project is aiming to develop a global training centre network and utilize this network to increase national capacity in coastal and marine knowledge and management. It does so by promoting the establishment of Regional Training Centres (RTCs) as well as their close collaboration through advanced information technology. The project will also develop further the OceanTeacher Learning System. The OceanTeacher Global Academy (OTGA) Project is an extension of the achievements of the OceanTeacher Academy (OTA) project which, between 2009–2013, developed a Learning Management System and teaching programme that has successfully organized 42 courses on ocean data and information management, involving over 1800 participants, at the IOC Project Office for IODE in Oostende, Belgium. The Enhancements in this second phase include (i) OceanTeacher Global Classroom, which will involve the establishment, by Member States, of regional training centres (of Excellence) and their interconnection through advanced video conferencing services; and (ii) the development of a wide range of courses responding the needs in ocean science, ocean observation, tsunami warning and mitigation, integrated coastal area management, marine spatial planning, etc. Special attention will be given also to North–South as well as South–South interaction of students, as well as to gender balance in terms of students and resource persons (lecturers and teaching assistants). The project is in fulfilment of the IOC–UNESCO partnership with the Global Ocean Forum on a commitment at the Rio+20 conference on ‘Building Global Capacity for Marine Sciences, Observation and Transfer of Marine Technology’. As a result a needs assessment was conducted for capacity development in the field of marine scientific research and ocean observation especially in developing nations and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), leading to the formulation and implementation of a global strategy to implement these needs, through partnership with countries, donors, UN Agencies, global financial institutions and the private sector. The commitment is based on the proposal contained in the UN Blueprint Report on Ocean and Coastal Sustainability and will be implemented in close cooperation with Global Ocean Forum led Voluntary Commitment on building global capacity for integrated ocean governance. The Project will target the following trainees/groups: staff of marine research institutions and related facilities, staff of Government departments involved with marine science and services, marine related practitioners (Government and Private Sector), university students (marine science and related disciplines).