
Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador Programme

September – October 2017

Onboard Peace Boat's 95th Global Voyage

The Peace Boat "Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador Programme" was announced at the Ocean Conference in June, 2017. To be held in collaboration with Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the programme will bring youth leaders from states on the front line of climate change and marine degradation to travel onboard Peace Boat's ship, engaging in capacity building and bringing their message to citizens and government representatives through the voyage. The youth will embark in Europe in September 2017. There, they will connect with civil society organizations and government agencies in ports visited, including in Spain, France, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Iceland. Participants will give testimony of their experiences and the impact of climate change and marine degradation on their communities, highlight the outcomes of The Ocean Conference and make a Youth Call for Action. Their voyage will end as Peace Boat docks in New York in October 2017, where the youth ambassadors will report on their efforts to both the United Nations community and the broader public.



Participants

Participants are invited from small island states visited during Peace Boat's global voyages, including from countries in the three geographic regions of the Pacific, Indian Ocean and Caribbean*. The ambassadors will be youth already active in their own communities on issues relating to ocean welfare and/or climate action, who can share their message through various means of expression. Peace Boat hopes to work closely with representatives of related government and international agencies for nomination of youth to join this programme, including the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

**Proposed countries: including but not limited to Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, the Maldives, Mauritius, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica*

From the Ocean Conference Towards COP23

The programme will take place in September – October 2017, following on from the Ocean Conference at the United Nations in June and directly before COP 23 in November 2017. Participants will take the messages and outcomes of the Ocean Conference with them as they travel, and their experiences and a Youth Call to Action will be documented and shared widely at COP 23 and beyond.



Youth Capacity Training and Education

Onboard the ship, the youth will engage in capacity building and education programmes, on topics including media skills, campaigning and negotiation. The time onboard will also be an opportunity to share experiences amongst each other, building alliance with youth from other islands facing similar issues and therefore building greater capacity for empowerment and action.

Peace Boat is honoured to offer its ship as a venue for such capacity training, building upon past experiences. For example, in an ongoing collaboration with the UNISDR, disaster risk reduction and resiliency training programmes for youth from Japan and many other countries are organized regularly onboard the ship. Peace Boat also collaborates with various academic institutions around the world for its Global University programme, offering intensive peace education and sustainability studies.

Awareness Raising for Action – The Power of Personal Testimony

In ports of call visited in Europe and the United States, the youth from SIDS will give testimony regarding their experiences of the devastating effects of ocean degradation and climate change. This will form a powerful call to action. These experiences will be shared with both government and civil society representatives, as well as disseminated widely via social and traditional media.

Peace Boat believes in the power of personal experiences and testimony as a call to action. Those who have first-hand experience are best able to educate, raise awareness and mobilise. Peace Boat regularly uses its ship as a venue to share such first-hand experiences, for example through inviting youth from tsunami and nuclear disaster affected regions of northeast Japan to share their experiences from the aftermath of the March 11, 2011 triple disaster. Peace Boat has also organized ten voyages for atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki to travel around the world sharing their experiences calling for a ban on nuclear weapons. The voices of personal experience, shared directly through the Peace Boat voyage, have a great power and potential to inspire concrete action for change.