

International Year of the Reef 2008 Coral Reef Event - 9th Global RS Meeting

Dear Participant,

I would like to inform you that at the upcoming 9th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in Jeddah, time has been allocated to hold a small event on the International Year of the Reef 2008 (IYOR 2008) in the margins of the meeting.

This session will seek to inform participants about the IYOR 2008 initiative, compile and exchange information on relevant activities carried out under the auspices of RS Conventions and Action Plans, and to coordinate, as appropriate, a collective input and contribution to IYOR 2008.

The discussion in this session will be centred, inter alia, on the following suggested topics:

- Ongoing or planned activities within each region which (could) relate to IYOR 2008;
- Methods of engaging private industry, government, communities;
- Plans on how to effectively co-ordinate regional efforts;
- Ways to maximise resources and impact.

We envisage a productive and interactive session that should gather IYOR 2008 related activities and projects, stimulate further thought and explore collaboration between and within regions, and provide a forum for distributing IYOR 2008 materials. In this context, please be so kind to bring to the meeting any relevant information from your regions on coral reef awareness and outreach (including current needs), as well as on any tentative plans or ideas you may already have for IYOR 2008.

Stefan Hain (Head, UNEP Coral Reef Unit) and Nelson Andrade Colmenares (Director, UNEP CAR/RCU) will be facilitating this session in Jeddah.

Best Regards,

Rossana Silva