

Gender: Male

First Name: Christopher

Surname: Chin

Where are you based: United States

Email: info@coare.org

Languages you speak: English, German, French

Organisation Representative: Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education (COARE)

Website of organization (or social media account): www.coare.org

Where is your organization based?: United States

Do you have permission from your organization to serve as a facilitator, knowing that it could occupy 20-30% of your time over the next 2 years?: yes

What kind of additional support you will receive if you became the next Co-Facilitator: I do not expect any additional financial support from my organization for taking on this role. I do imagine that I will receive advice and other non-financial support from numerous colleagues in other organizations.

What is your background in NGOs and Civil Society work on the ground?: In 2006, I founded The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education (COARE), and continue to serve as its Executive Director. A number of our programs have an international scope, particularly those in Marine Spatial Planning, Shark Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries, and Plastic Pollution. In addition to my duties as Executive Director, I serve as Chief Policy Analyst and represent the organisation in official fora. To date, COARE has engaged stakeholders and supported members through multiple fora, including The UN Ocean Conference (2017), the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), the 2018 Intergovernmental Review of the GPA (IGR), The Our Ocean Conference, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), all meetings of the Ad-hoc Open Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastic (AHEG), and the UN Environment Assembly. COARE is accredited to the UN Environment Programme, is associated with the UN Department of Global Communication, and has consultative status through ECOSOC.

Why do you want to be a Co-Facilitator of the UNEP NGO MG?: Growing up in New York, it is very common for schools to tour the UN Headquarters. I had forgotten what that was like until decades later when I was sitting in Conference Room 4 about to take the floor for the first time. I suddenly flashed back to my childhood, where I held the headphone to my ear and switch between the different languages as the speaker was simultaneously translated. I suddenly realized I was now about to be the voice on the other end. From my very first international meeting, and with each and every engagement, I become more enthusiastic about international collaboration and inclusive processes. Anyone who has worked with me can attest to my jovial and optimistic nature, and I am eager to continue to get more involved in the NGO Major Group, and to serve as a leader and guide to help foster and encourage participation and equity. I am patient, compassionate, and understanding, and I believe my experience with the UN System and in international fora would serve me well in this role.

Have you served as a Co-Facilitator for the NGO MG before?: no

If so, when and what were the accomplishments for the NGO MG then?: N/A

What is your vision for how CSOs can better inform environmental governance at the global level including UNEP?:

Civil Society involvement is an extraordinarily important component of global environmental governance. CSOs often provide the research, data, expertise, and interpretation that are required to inform and influence governmental decisions. However, it is important that CSOs and State delegations understand each other to work in a cohesive manner. At the last UNEA, for example, at the request of certain Members, all CSOs were excluded from a number of meetings which they would normally attend. This exclusion was sparked by a few CSO delegates speaking out of turn and not respecting protocol. I believe that a more collaborative situation would have persisted if the involved CSO members were properly informed of their roles and expected protocol. I also feel that Major Group statements, and especially joint MG statements, can be extremely powerful, but are under-utilized in many meetings.

What is your goals for the UNEP NGO MG over the course of the next two years, and how would you make these goals a reality?:

As I mentioned, I believe that CSOs can and should be involved to inform global environmental governance, and the NGO Major Group is one of the most important, if not only the largest, of the nine. With the vast and diverse number of accredited organizations within the NGO MG, it is especially important that they all have the resources they need to participate respectfully, yet confidently and effectively, in meetings and fora. I also suggested that more NGO MG statements and joint MG statements would be welcome and helpful to inform governance decisions. During the next two years, I propose to address these needs by continuing to build upon work by Griffins and Khawla to develop a robust communication infrastructure necessary to communicate with and to NGO leaders as well as delegates to various meetings. I hope to ensure that newly accredited organizations, as well as newly appointed delegates from previously existing NGOs have access to and have reviewed relevant helpful information to ensure their success. Different communication needs and expectations are required for different purposes, and effective communication is essential to develop MG and joint statements in a timely and useful manner. To that end, I also expect to work closely with and develop effective working relationships with MGFC members from other Major Groups.

Is there anything else you wish to share about yourself or your organization which you think would be helpful for members of the NGO MG to know?:

CV and letter of Approval from the organization

Christopher Chin

Post Office Box 1945 Orinda, California 94563-6345 • Tel: 510-495-7875 • e-mail: cchin@coare.org

EDUCATION

University of California at Berkeley

B.S., Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

A.B., German

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

COARE, Oakland, California, United States
(The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education)

May 2006 -
present

Executive Director

Founded organization and developed mission and vision. Drafted incorporation papers and developed tax-exempt (501(c)(3)) paperwork. Responsible for general operations of organization, with direct and supervisory experience of development, budgeting, and marketing. Organize and conduct board meetings, supervise staff and volunteer efforts. Serve as organization's policy expert and consult with other organizations and colleagues. Provide expert testimony regarding conservation policy to various governing bodies.

THE NETWORK EXORCIST®, Orinda, California

February 2004 -
present

Independent Consultant

Provide Information Technology consultation services to home, office, business, and corporate clients. Design and install wired and wireless networks. Document, troubleshoot, analyze, and optimize existing networks, and provide network configuration recommendations and services. Conduct PCI/SOX compliance and security assessments, and perform attack and intrusion mitigation and analysis.

INVITED TALKS

- Assembly Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Select Committee on Waste Reduction and Recycling Joint Hearing*, Sacramento, California
16 Nov 2020 **Testimonial Witness for Plastic in California: Impacts on Communities and the Environment**
- Sharktoberfest*, San Francisco, California / Virtual
26 Sep 2020 **Conservation Expert Panel** (panelist)
- Ocean Geographic Forum 2020*, Virtual
13 Jun 2020 **Embracing the New Normal** (panelist)
- United Nations Ocean Conference Preparatory Meeting*, New York, New York
05 Feb 2020 **Address to the General Plenary**
- Senate Standing Committee on Environmental Quality*, Sacramento, California
20 Mar 2019 **Testimonial Witness for Senate Bill 54 and Assembly Bill 1080, Plastic Reduction Act**
- United Nations Environment Assembly*, Nairobi, Kenya
11 Mar 2019 **Fisheries Challenges and Impacts: Environmental and Socio-economic aspects** (panelist)
- UN Environment Assembly Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum*, Nairobi, Kenya
07 Mar 2019 **UNEA-4 Themes and Draft Resolutions** (panelist)
- Workday Europe*, Dublin, Ireland
30 Nov 2018 **Conservation Trajectories**
- United Nations Environment Programme Intergovernmental Review*, Bali, Indonesia
31 Oct 2018 **Address on behalf of NGO Major Group and Women's Major Group**

- 29 May 2018 *UNEP AH Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics*, Nairobi, Kenya
Address on behalf of seven major groups
- 23 Mar 2018 *Beneath the Sea Marine Careers*, Secaucus, New Jersey
The Once and Future Conservationist
- 20 Mar 2018 *Chabot Space and Science Center*, Oakland, California
The Once and Future Conservationist
- 14 Mar 2018 *International Marine Debris Conference*, San Diego, California
Local Pollution Ordinances and State Preemption
- 09 Jun 2017 *Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations*, New York, New York
Citizen Engagement in Conservation Policy
- 07 Jun 2017 *United Nations Ocean Conference*, New York, New York
Address to the General Assembly
- 17 May 2017 *Workday Green Team Local Leaders*, Pleasanton, California
COARE Highlights: A Year in Review
- 09 May 2017 *Blue Vision Summit*, Washington, District of Columbia
Local Pollution Ordinances and State Preemption
- 16 Feb 2017 *United Nations Ocean Conference Preparatory Meeting*, New York, New York
Address to the General Plenary
- 07 Nov 2016 *Girl Scouts Of America*, Pleasanton, California
Our Ocean Connection
- 08 Jun 2016 *Workday Headquarters*, Pleasanton, California
Our Ocean Connection
- 19 May 2016 *Seafood Summit Recap*, Oakland, California
Our Sustainable Seafood: Creating Solutions
- 04 May 2016 *Workday Green Team Local Leaders*, Pleasanton, California
Ocean Day Primer
- 28 Feb 2016 *Our World-Underwater*, Chicago, Illinois
Sustainable Seafood: Saving the Ocean With Your Fork
- 27 Feb 2016 *Our World-Underwater*, Chicago, Illinois
Paper or Plastic? Demystifying Chicago's Bag Ban
- 08 Aug 2015 *Greater Farrallones National Marine Sanctuary*, San Francisco, California
Shark Conservation: Approaches and Practice
- 12 Feb 2014 *Roosevelt University*, Chicago, Illinois
Conservation Policy: Tips from the Trenches
- 04 May 2013 *Northern California Dive and Travel Expo*, Santa Clara, California
Shark Fin Bans: Policy Approach to Shark Conservation
- 17 Feb 2013 *Our World-Underwater*, Chicago, Illinois
Shark Fin Bans: Policy Approach to Shark Conservation

- 25 Sep 2012 *BLUE Ocean Film Festival and Conservation Summit*, Monterey, California
Plastic Pollution Prevention: Legislative Tools (panelist)
- 24 May 2012 *Environmental Protection Agency*, San Francisco, California
Making Waves in Ocean Conservation
- 12 May 2012 *Northern California Dive and Travel Expo*, Santa Clara, California
Shark Fin Bans: Policy Approach to Shark Conservation
- 25 Apr 2012 *Senate Standing Committee on the Environment*, Springfield, Illinois
Testimonial Witness for House Bill 4119, Shark Protection Act
- 28 Feb 2012 *Senate Standing Committee on Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs*, Annapolis, Maryland
Testimonial Witness for Senate Bill 465, Shark Protection Act
- 21 Feb 2012 *House Standing Committee on Consumer Protection*, Springfield, Illinois
Testimonial Witness for House Bill 4119, Shark Protection Act
- 19 Feb 2012 *Our World-Underwater*, Chicago, Illinois
Shark Fin Bans: Policy Approach to Shark Conservation
- 15 Aug 2011 *City of Toronto Licensing and Standards Committee*, Toronto, Ontario
Testimonial Witness for Member Motion 9.3, Shark Fin Ban
- 15 Aug 2011 *Senate Standing Committee on Appropriations*, Sacramento, California
Testimonial Witness for Assembly Bill 1299, Forage Species Act
- 02 Aug 2011 *San Francisco Shark Week/Aquarium of the Bay*, San Francisco, California
Shark Conservation and Public Policy
- 31 Mar 2011 *Head-Royce School*, Oakland, California
Sharks: See Monsters?
- 12 Mar 2011 *San Francisco Ocean Film Festival/Aquarium of the Bay*, San Francisco, California
Sharks, Fins, and Sustainability: A Panel Discussion (moderator)
- 20 Feb 2010 *Our World-Underwater*, Chicago, Illinois
Recycling: From an Ocean perspective
- 13 Oct 2009 *University of California, Berkeley*, Berkeley, California
Recycling: From an Ocean perspective
- 27 Aug 2009 *Green Forum - Oceans*, Miami, Florida
The Politics of the Least Protected Resource (panelist)
- 27 Aug 2009 *Green Forum - Oceans*, Miami, Florida
California's Marine Life Protection Act: a network approach to preservation
- 27 Aug 2009 *Green Forum - Oceans*, Miami, Florida
The Ocean Economy (panelist)
- 24 Nov 2008 *French Polynesian Ministerial Visit*, Berkeley, California
NRENs: a collaborative approach to connectivity
- 19 Oct 2005 *Mesh Networking Forum*, San Jose, California
Security Challenges for Wireless Mesh Networks

08 Aug 2005 *University of California Computing Services Conference (UCCSC), San Francisco, California*
Wireless Networking Security

10 Feb 2004 *North American Network Operators Group (NANOG), Miami, Florida*
Airborne Contagion: Effects of a Worm on Wireless Networking

OTHER EXPERIENCE

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

Member of the Regional Stakeholder Group responsible for developing the new array of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) recently adopted for California's North Central Coast, in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Marine Life Protection Act signed into California law in 1999.



coare

The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, & Education

30 December 2020

via web (<https://indico.un.org/event/35545/>)

Christopher Chin
Executive Director

Jilian Epstein
Director

Clemente Jiménez
Director

Richard Nelson
Director

Sylvia Earle
Advisory Board

Sonja Fordham
Advisory Board

Francesca Koe
Advisory Board

Johann Mourier
Advisory Board

Marty Snyderman
Advisory Board

Tim Taylor
Advisory Board

Jim Toomey
Advisory Board

Rex Weyler
Advisory Board

Stephan Whelan
Advisory Board

United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
Post Office Box 30552
00100 Nairobi
K E N Y A

Re: NGO Major Group Nominations to MGFC

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education (COARE) is honored to nominate the following individual as a candidate for facilitator of the UN Environment Programme NGO Major Group and member of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC):

Christopher CHIN

If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone (at the number listed below), or by e-mail at secretariat@coare.org.

Sincerely,

Christopher CHIN
Executive Director