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Norwegian perspectives for marine science contribution to Sustainable Development Goals

by Christina Abildgaard, Director, Ph. D, Ocean Department, The Research Council of Norway

What will your country do achieve the SDG 14 and move forward with the 2030 Sustainability Agenda?

- Increased knowledge about the oceans and International collaboration are of vital importance to achieve the SDGs.
- In 2018 The Norwegian prime Minister Erna Solberg established a high-level panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. The panel consists of world leaders from coastal states who are joining forces to work towards sustainable use of the oceans. The panel is working to Leverage the implementation of SDG 14 and all SDGs.
- Norway has established a development programme to combat marine litter.
 - In 2018, the Norwegian government launched a new development program to combat marine litter and microplastics and will spend 1,6 billion NOK in the period 2019 to 2022.
- The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs will host Our OCEAN conference in Oslo October 2019. The conference will bring together leaders from governments, businesses, civil society and research institutions to share their experience, identify solutions and commit to action for clean, healthy and productive oceans.

How do you see the contribution of research and innovation in this Agenda in your own country?

- In august 2017 the Research Council of Norway (RCN) launched its sustainability strategy: *Research for sustainable societal and industrial development*
The Research Council will promote knowledge and solutions that will:
 - resolve national and global challenges relating to sustainability in society
 - facilitate industrial development that enhances sustainability and increases green competitiveness.
- RCN gives priority to sustainability when funding R&D. In fact, we are now developing assessment criteria as an element for granting proposals in relevant areas.
- RCN has several funding instruments targeted towards sustainability challenges. For instance:
 - The research programme *Aquaculture* will generate knowledge and solutions for socially, economically and environmentally sustainable growth in the Norwegian aquaculture industry.
 - The primary objective of the research programme *Marine resources and the environment* is to generate knowledge about marine ecosystems and the impact of anthropogenic pressures as well as knowledge for sound, effective management processes.
 - There are research programmes funding research within Arctic and Antarctic and Climate. These programs funds by and large climate research, but also research generating more knowledge about marine ecosystems and also knowledge promoting development of a sustainable blue economy.
 - RCN also funds centres of excellence, national centres of research-based innovation, research infrastructures which generate scientific knowledge of the ocean and are important for development of sustainable ocean-based industries.

- RCN do have mechanisms to fund development transfer of ocean technology and knowledge across sectors and disciplines.
- On a national level: Norway has recently upgraded the national infrastructure with two research vessels that will be important for years to come.
 - Kronprins Haakon – a new ice breaker made for the Arctic.
 - Dr. Fridtjof Nansen – mostly running outside south Africa.

This is the third consecutive Norwegian research vessel dedicated to surveys in developing countries. The vessel is an integral part of the Nansen Programme, executed by FAO in close collaboration with the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) of Bergen, Norway, and funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). The programme has been the flagship of Norwegian development cooperation in fisheries for more than 40 years.

And at a European and International level?

- JPI Oceans is a European partnership of high priority for Norway. Norway is one of the founding countries and we have been hosting the secretariat in Brussels until the establishment of JPI Oceans as an international non-profit association under Belgian law (AISBL). We participate in several actions e.g. within ecological aspects of microplastics and deep-sea mining.
- Norway participate in other JPI's and partnerships, ERA-net cofunds, Horizon 2020 and we are ready to participate in Horizon Europe.
- International collaboration at the global level is also of great significance e.g. through Belmont forum, IOC etc

Ocean – an area of high priority in Norway

The significance of ocean research is reflected in several white papers and strategies in Norway e.g. in the revised versions of the *Long-term plan for research and higher education* as well as in the Governmental *Ocean strategy – Blue opportunities*, emphasizes the considerably need for increased knowledge. In this respect we would like to congratulate Marine Board with the *Navigating Future V-* report, an excellent report. We agree with the knowledge gaps identified. We also welcome the *Decade of Ocean Science* which will be of great importance not only for the research communities, but also because we expect that the outcomes will have great impact on the societal and economic development. Our ambition is to increase our research capacity and investment in ocean research in order to contribute to a sustainable development. The statement "The Ocean we need for the Future we want", entails "The Science we need for the Ocean we want".

Yesterday, it was mentioned that science must give courage to politics. I would also like to add – that science must give hope to politics and the society. And we can demonstrate that science and international collaboration can really contribute to a sustainable development. I think the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer* is a very good example. Only 14 years lapsed between a basic scientific research discovery and international agreements were signed. The effect of the treaty is a considerable reduction of the harmful halogenated hydrocarbons. This protocol is considered to be one of the most successful international agreements to date. We need more of these agreements. We need international collaboration. We need increased knowledge of the oceans. Science give hope.