

## **Call for Expression of Interest to host the Tenth WIOMSA Scientific Symposium in 2017**

The Tenth Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) Scientific Symposium will be held in the second half of 2017, preferably in October or November 2017.

WIOMSA traditionally organizes the Symposiums in close collaboration with national institutions of the region. In all the previous Symposiums, the collaborating institutions as the host of the Symposium have played a key role in the organization of these events ranging from coordinating all local arrangements related to the Symposium, providing secretariat staff, to fund raising to cover some of the costs of the event.

Organization of the Symposium is carried out completely by the host organization, which must be willing to commit the amount of time and level of staff required to plan an event of this magnitude. Applicants may use a Professional Conference Organizer if they so desire to assist with conference logistics. The host for the Symposium is responsible for all local arrangements, including venue selection, local transport, catering arrangements, promotion and marketing, social events, registration, fundraising within the country and assisting delegates with visa or travel questions.

WIOMSA Symposia, which in recent past have been attended by about 500 participants from within and outside the region, generate a wide array of benefits to the host country ranging from generating money from economic activities such as hotel accommodation and conference venue, local transport to raising visibility for tourism opportunities and cultural richness of the country. The host country could use the Symposium as a platform to show case marine and coastal science and bring together policy makers, the private sector and research scientists to discuss issues of national importance.

Expressions of Interest should be submitted to the WIOMSA Executive Secretary ([secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org)) by **31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**.

### **Criteria against which submissions will be considered**

*Interested institutions are advised to provide information on all the criteria.*

#### **1. The host**

- a.** WIOMSA member responsible for the bid and, if successful, is legally and financially able to be contracted by WIOMSA to host the conference and form the Local Organizing Committee.
- b.** The types of support offered by the host and its partners;

## 2. Local and regional professional activity

- a. Professional activity and innovative ideas that would be of interest to delegates;
- b. Proposed dates – the conference is ideally held in October or November. Please advise if there are any local or national events that might conflict with, or enhance the conference. If there may be a conflict or a more beneficial date, please propose alternative dates for the conference;

## 3. Levels of wider support

- a. Capacity of the Local Organizing Committee to secure financial support and sponsorship; estimate expected level of financial and other support for the Symposium;
- b. Visa policy and process, and restrictions on any countries for the issuing of visas;
- c. Ability to provide assistance with visa questions.

## 4. The venue

Main Conference Hall plus four rooms for parallel sessions	+/-400-450 seats
Registration area	
Poster/Exhibition area	with space for +/- 5 tables
Enough good hotels for accommodating participants	
Lounge area for coffee breaks & lunch	

## 5. The location

- a. Accessibility via air travel routes.
- b. Local sites of interest for pre- or post-conference tourism.

Please submit any further supporting documents, such as official letters to provide evidence of any promised support.

In this regard, WIOMSA is inviting expressions of interest to host the upcoming Symposium from all the countries including those that have hosted the Symposiums before. The host could be one institution or a consortium of institutions.