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*"Blue economy through clean seas"*

## **Blue Economy and Coastal Management in The Coming Decade**

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### **Abstract**

The ocean is the life support system for the planet earth and have been playing a key role in the world for spreading civilizations, cultures, religions and affect the climate and weather. Humankind has been using the oceans since the time immemorial for venturing for explorations, navigation, wars, trade, leisure and for obtaining living and non-living resources. The World Bank reiterates the potential of the blue economy in terms of increasing long-term benefits of the sustainable use of marine resources for small island developing states and coastal least developed countries. This paper discusses the fundamentals namely, threats to blue economy, new industries in blue economy, coastal management: and the way forward. The threats of blue economy comprise of offshore oil and gas; commercial and recreational fishing; aquaculture projects; shipping; coastal tourism; and telecommunications. New industries in blue economy refers to the renewable energy; seabed mining; remediation/restoration; blue biotechnology; and blue technology. The main thrust of the United Nation's 2030 agenda for sustainable development is to "conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". The coastal management in the coming decade should be undertaken based on this goal, as it

encompasses the entire world for sustainable development. There is a need for careful planning of coastal and sea areas, and management of ecosystems. There is also a need to understand the ocean and ocean-based resources in a scientific manner and this could mitigate the possible negative consequences from blue economic activities and even external events such as storms, climate change, and environmental changes such as sea level rising. Blue economy is our future and we need to act now and not after some valuable ocean resources are destroyed in the name of development. Many countries are now looking to the oceans to obtain resources. Although the oceans are vast, humankind should not attempt to extract/exploit ocean-based resources in a manner harmful to the ecosystem. The blue economy refers to a sustainable ocean based economic model that is largely dependent on coastal and marine ecosystem and resources

Keywords: Blue Economy, Ocean Exploitation, Sustainable Development Goals, Ocean Resources, Ocean Conservation.