



## EDITORIAL



### An active network

Less than a year ago, on July 12 and 13, 2012 an action plan was discussed at the launching of the MITIN network. Its implementation is now well underway. A calendar of international meetings has been defined for 2013. Following on from the International meeting on marine and coastal biodiversity that had been organized in Brest in late 2012 and had been attended by several network members, we are now organizing a symposium on blue growth to be held in Qingdao in October 2013. This symposium will focus on two main themes: knowledge of the marine environment and sustainable exploitation of marine bio-resources. The entire MITIN community will gather to work on these issues of common interest to help create a new maritime economy.

Other events intended to strengthen the network will also take place throughout the year. The American continent will host the Oceans conference and the Forum on Maritime Economy in San Diego, the Ocean Innovation conference in Quebec, a seminar on marine biodiversity in Mexico and a symposium on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Argentina. The Asian continent will of course host the big event of the year: Qingdao's symposium. It will also host other events, for instance in Vietnam to discuss sustainable development, and in Indonesia to discuss Coastal Zone and Maritime Risk Management. All these events will help strengthen the network, develop scientific and economic cooperation and further the actions of the participating territories. Another major asset of our network is being able to work with major international organizations. For instance, Brest is in the process of formalizing a memorandum of understanding on marine biodiversity with the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. All maritime territories interested in entering into a similar agreement are invited to do so.

Furthermore, **the network's website, [www.mitin-network.org](http://www.mitin-network.org)**, has reached the validation phase. This website will help stimulate the network by allowing all partners to communicate on their own actions, news, projects and agenda. It will also serve as a tool for the interest groups we are setting up to work on the themes selected in July 2012.

We are now counting on you to sustain the network with your ideas and joint actions.

Yours faithfully,

Michel Morvan  
Director of Technopôle Brest-Iroise

# NETWORK ACTIVITIES

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## ASIA

### (VIETNAM

#### Territorial cooperation in development projects

#### Franco-Vietnamese Conference on decentralized cooperation

The 9th Franco-Vietnamese Conference on decentralized cooperation will be held in Brest from June 9 to 12, 2013. The event will mainly focus on how the relationships between local territories may develop. Its main theme will be: "Towards a new type of development: what should be the responsibilities of French and Vietnamese local authorities and stakeholders? What opportunities are there?" During these three days, emphasis will be placed on the fundamental role that territorial authorities can play in the implementation of development projects.

Brest and Haiphong will offer concrete evidence of how important such involvement can be by presenting joint actions carried out for integrated management in Haiphong bay. The project's scope has now been extended to

include Ha Long Bay. It will be discussed during the Conference and during the "Jeanne d'Arc" joint mission organized in Vietnam by Brest Métropole Océane from June 16 to 22. A seminar on Integrated Coastal Zone Management will be held in Vietnam on June 19 and 22, 2013. It will bring together some of MITIN's partner territories.



## (CHINA)

### "Innovation and blue growth" Symposium, Qingdao – October 28-30, 2013



The Innovation and blue growth Symposium to be held in Qingdao from October 28 to 30, 2013 will be one of MITIN's first actions at the international level. Organized by Qingdao and Brest with the support and contribution of the other network members, this symposium will bring together the best international experts from the scientific, economic and public

sectors. Through an analysis of the scientific, technical and regulatory conditions required to achieve a balance between preservation and exploitation of the marine environment, experts will shed light on the issues and prospects linked to better knowledge of oceans and better use of marine resources (particularly bio-resources).

We hope you will bring your own expertise to this debate and help define our future areas of focus and joint projects.

**A MITIN meeting will be held after the symposium to discuss the 2013-2014 action plan.**

### Testimonies. Yang Rui and Yang Yi, Ph.D. students from Qingdao

For young Yang Rui, age 26, cooperation between maritime territories has concrete advantages. It made it possible for him to do his Ph.D. at the ENSTA Bretagne under the joint supervision of the university of Western Brittany (UBO, Brest, France) and Ocean University of China (OUC, Qingdao). Yang Rui specializes in underwater robotics and works at the Ocean Sensing and Mapping laboratory which comprises 25 researchers and 16 Ph.D. students. In two years, he will go back to Qingdao to finish his thesis. Meanwhile, he is actively preparing the symposium on Innovation and Blue Growth, and focusing on

the workshop dedicated to underwater robotics.

Yang Yi is also a former OUC student. She came to Brest for a Master's degree in Maritime Law and economics. Now a Ph.D. student, her work is focused on seaweed economy. These marine plants have numerous properties, are key components of food chains and can prove essential for human and animal health. The Innovation and Blue Growth conference will give Yang Yi and other researchers the opportunity to discuss the conditions for the sustainable exploitation of seaweed.

## AMERICA

### (MEXICO)

#### Seminar on marine biodiversity

Following on from the International meeting on marine and coastal biodiversity that was held in Brest on November 13 and 14, 2012, the Tuxpan representatives (State of Veracruz, Mexico) will organize a seminar on marine biodiversity at the end of September 2013. Public authorities as well as scientific and technical experts will be involved in this seminar that will be associated to a congress on biodiversity organized by the university of Veracruz.

Both events will focus on the situation in the Gulf of Mexico and will address the practical means of monitoring, protecting and even restoring marine biodiversity. The contributions of the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (represented by Mexico's CENDO) are especially awaited. This event

will give MITIN partners the opportunity to discuss the implementation of joint actions in particular regarding biodiversity and Coastal Zone Management. The creation of a marine science park in Veracruz will also be discussed. Like Technopôle Brest Iroise in France, the purpose of this science park will be to develop a new maritime policy in Veracruz.



#### Alejandra Ramirez from Veracruz – food safety and academic cooperation

Owing to academic cooperation between the universities of Brest and Veracruz, Alejandra Ramirez-Martinez, a specialist in food safety, has been carrying out postdoctoral research in Brest since September 2012 and will remain

there for a period of two years. Under the joint supervision of the universities of Western Brittany and Veracruz, she is working on developing a model that will help detect toxins in food products.

## (ARGENTINA)

### Conference on Integrated Coastal Zone Management

The province of Chubut is an active member within MITIN. Within the framework of its Blue development plan, intended to diversify its economic strategy, it organized a conference on Integrated Coastal Zone Management with the help of Technopôle Brest-Iroise. The event was held on March 18 and 19, 2013 in Puerto Madryn.



The event reinforced the involvement of the relevant actors in an initial program: the creation of a network of data management centers to share oceanographic data. Work groups have been formed to implement the program. It will be closely linked to the creation in the province of Chubut of a marine science park modeled on Technopôle Brest-Iroise.

Cooperation between both maritime communities will therefore continue, owing also to a new decentralized cooperation project recently approved by the Ministry of foreign affairs. Its goal is to strengthen the ties between Brest and the province of Chubut and to contribute to the implementation of a new maritime economy in the province.

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## (SAN DIEGO)

### "Oceans 2013", September 23-27, 2013 and "Sea Week", November 2- 10, 2013



The Oceans 2013 conference committee and San Diego's maritime cluster invite you to participate in this international conference on oceans to be held from September 23 to 27. This conference is jointly sponsored by the IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society (IEEE/OES) and the Marine Technology Society (MTS).

Telecom Bretagne, SCRIPS and other prestigious institutes within our network will contribute to the event. For scientists, engineers, companies and public authorities, the Oceans conference is one of the most important forums on the future of oceans.

The maritime cluster representing San Diego within MITIN is looking forward to welcoming you for this event as well as for the South California Sea Week to be held from November 2 to 10, 2013. The themes

addressed during the various events will be related to the network's areas of focus: marine science and technology, economy, training and the environment.

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## (QUEBEC

**Ocean Innovation / Safer Seas in Rimouski, October 21- 23, 2013**



OCEAN SMART



Monitoring, Data Management and Decision-Making

The 2013 edition of the Ocean Innovation annual event will be held in Rimouski in October 2013. Its theme will be "OCEAN SMART: Monitoring, Data Management and Decision-Making". The event will bring together Canadian and French companies, academic institutions, research centers and government representatives.

This year, Safer Seas and Ocean Innovation have joined hands within the framework of the cooperation between Brest and Rimouski

to create an event addressing the entire applications spectrum of information systems from the knowledge and protection of oceans to maritime security.

Ocean Innovation is an event organized by the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University and Quebec's marine science park, in collaboration with Technopôle Brest-Iroise and Brest Métropole Océane, within the framework of bilateral cooperation project "Ocean2".

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### (Atlantic Forum: an action plan for the future

The Atlantic forum workshops are supported by the DG MARE and bring together the five countries of the Atlantic area. The 5th and last workshop was held at the beginning of March in Cork, Ireland. This event followed on from four previous events consecutively organized in Horta, Brest, Bilbao and Cardiff. More than 200 participants attended all five events. The aim was to define a maritime strategy for the Atlantic region and identify joint actions. Investment and research priorities were defined in Cork and an action plan was drafted with four priorities:

- promote entrepreneurship and innovation;
- protect, secure and promote the marine and coastal environment
- improve accessibility and networking
- create a sustainable and inclusive regional development model.

The proposals were made based on the input of local stakeholders and MITIN partners (Southampton, Porto and Plymouth in particular).

### (France

#### A shared commitment to preserve marine biodiversity

Following on from the International meeting on marine biodiversity that was held in late 2012, Brest Métropole Océane is affirming its commitment to the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Indeed, marine biodiversity is one of the key issues which the international community aims to address, according to the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 adopted by the States. However, to implement any action, involvement of the

maritime communities is essential. With the current memorandum, Brest Métropole Océane is committing to step up its efforts as regards the protection of coastal and marine biodiversity by sharing the scientific expertise and its local and international networks. In light of this, the other MITIN maritime territories are encouraged to share this commitment through an agreement with the Convention on Biological Diversity.



### Great success for the Thetis exhibition – strengthening R&D in the field of MREs in Brest

Thetis, the international exhibition dedicated to renewable marine energy, was held in Brest on April 10 and 11. For its second edition, the exhibition welcomed 170 exhibitors comprising French and European MRE<sup>1</sup> stakeholders. There were over 1,500 attendees at the conferences and substantial input was provided by the participants. The industrial sector is getting organized and Thetis provided stakeholders with a platform to discuss the development of projects along the coasts of the Channel and the Atlantic Ocean. With France Energies Marines (Institute of Excellence) and the implementation of an ambitious port development plan, Brest proved its leader position for the development of the French MRE sector.

## 2013 CALENDAR

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June 9-12	9th Franco-Vietnamese Conference on decentralized cooperation	Brest (France)
June 19-22	Seminar on Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Vietnam
September 23-27	Oceans 2013	San Diego (USA)
Late September	Seminar on marine biodiversity	Tuxpan (Mexico)
October 21-23	OI/Safer Seas Conference	Rimouski (Canada)
October 28-30	Symposium on Innovation and Blue Growth	Qingdao (China)
November 2-10	South California Sea Week	San Diego (USA)

We are counting on you to promote your events, actions and proposals and thereby sustain our network.

Contact: [contact@mitin-network.org](mailto:contact@mitin-network.org)

[www.mitin-network.org](http://www.mitin-network.org)

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<sup>1</sup> MRE : Marine renewable Energies