



Call for Expression of Interest to host the Twelfth WIOMSA Scientific Symposium in 2022

The Twelfth Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) Scientific Symposium will be held in the second half of 2022, preferably in October or November 2022. In this regard, WIOMSA is inviting expressions of interest to host the Twelfth WIOMSA Scientific Symposium from all the countries in the region including those that have hosted the symposium before.

WIOMSA symposia are traditionally organized - in close collaboration with national institutions of the region. In all the previous symposia, the collaborating institutions as the host of the symposium have played a key role in the organization of the- event 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. The host - is responsible for all local arrangements, including venue selection, local transport, catering arrangements, promotion and marketing, social events, fundraising within the country and assisting delegates with visa or travel questions.

WIOMSA symposia, which in recent past have been attended by over 550 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 can 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 to host the symposium should be submitted to the WIOMSA Executive Secretary (secretary@wiomsa.org) by **31st March 2020**. The host can be one institution or a consortium of institutions.

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.

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: the bid should include an estimation of the expected level of financial and other support for the symposium;

b. Ability to provide assistance with visa processing.

4. The venue

The venue should have at least:

- Main Conference Hall (to accommodate between 500-600 people) and at least five rooms for parallel sessions
- Adequate spaces for registration, posters and exhibition
- 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.

c. Enough good hotels nearby for accommodating participants

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