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28 March 2024

Subject: Invitation to deliver the IOC Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture 2024 during the 57th session of the IOC Executive Council, UNESCO, Paris, 27 June 2024

Dear Professor Okal,

I have the great pleasure, on behalf of the Commission, to officially invite you to deliver the IOC Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture 2024 on the occasion of the 57th Session of the IOC Executive Council, taking place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, on 25–28 June 2024. The Roger Revelle Lecture series was established by the IOC in 1991 to recognize outstanding contributions to climate related ocean sciences by inspired researchers, who communicate their knowledge and global vision of the challenges facing our planet in order to shape a better future for humankind. The lecture is dedicated to Roger Revelle (1909–1991) who was among the early scientists to study anthropogenic global warming and his work on heat flow anomalies, together with magnetic observations and other data, served to the conception of sea floor spreading and plate tectonic theory. He was also one of the founding fathers of the IOC.

Your significant work and background are well known to the tsunami community and beyond, which makes you the ideal candidate for this years' Roger Levelle Memorial Lecture, providing us also with a humble opportunity to honor your almost half century long contributions in the field of tsunami science. As mentioned in our correspondance, the lecture is invited to focus on the topic "20 Years Since Sumatra: Advances in Tsunami Science and Mitigation".

As you very well know, the IOC through its Tsunami Programme, coordination of regional meetings, capacity building activities and the support of national and regional projects is a key stakeholder for tsunami risk reduction at global level, providing also technical and governance support to the four Intergovernmental Coordination Groups (ICGs) corresponding to the regions Pacific, Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Northeastern Atlantic, Mediterranean and its Connected Seas. With a Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture by a leading scientist as you, we wish to emphasize not only the achievements in the tsunami science during the last 20 years but also remaining challenges in ensuring that no one is left behind.

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The lecture is scheduled on Thursday 27 June in room XI at UNESCO Headquarters, from 15:00 to 16:30. In order to meet your participation expenses, Ms Hyeonjeong Jeong (h.jeong@unesco.org), will contact you shortly to assist you with the administrative arrangements for your travel to Paris.

The IOC Publication Officer, Mr Patrice Boned (p.boned@unesco.org), will liaise with you on the technical arrangements. Please kindly note that your presentation is limited to 45 minutes and will be followed by a 30-minute question-and-answer period. The Roger Revelle 2024 medal ceremony will close the event.

I would greatly appreciate receiving the final version of your abstract at your earliest convenience with a short bio and a photo for the purpose of preparing the programme of the event. Finally, if you could provide us with the full text/presentation of your lecture by the 20th June 2024 (a week before the lecture) this would greatly facilitate the work of the interpreters.

Let me reiterate once again my gratitude for your participation in this important event. I look very much forward to meeting you in Paris.

Yours sincerely,



Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary

Enclosures: IOC/EC-57/21.Doc Add.: Provisional timetable for the fifty-seventh session of the IOC Executive Council.

A brief introduction to the IOC Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture