

OCEAN DECADE

5th FOUNDATIONS DIALOGUE

海は命の母 / *The ocean is the mother of life*

3-5 SEPTEMBER 2025

TOKYO, JAPAN

What is it?

This year marks the midway point of the [UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030](#) ('Ocean Decade') and a pivotal moment for global ocean action with the [2025 United Nations Ocean Conference](#).

Asia, with nearly 2 billion people living along its coasts, has a deep and longstanding connection to the ocean. More than just an economic resource, the ocean is revered across the region as the "Mother of Life", nurturing societies culturally, spiritually, and ecologically. As a nation embraced by the ocean, Japan leads in marine governance, ecosystem protection and restoration, and capacity building for a sustainable ocean future.

From 3 to 5 September 2025, Tokyo will host the Ocean Decade Fifth Foundations Dialogue, convened by the [Sasakawa Peace Foundation](#) (SPF). Building on the Foundations Dialogue [2024 Rio Action Statement](#), and following 10 weeks after the landmark 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference, the event will bring together philanthropic organisations to reflect on achievements, prioritise next steps, and refine their contribution and influence on the crucial second half of the Ocean Decade.

Highlighting the contributions of Asia and the Pacific, the Fifth Foundation Dialogue aims to establish strong partnerships and develop funding models in support of the Ocean Decade's goals, with a focus on:

- The region's **rich cultural diversity and vision** grounded in the deep connection between its people and the ocean.
- **National leadership and innovative approaches** in ocean governance, sustainable ocean economy, and marine science.
- Mobilising **private foundations** and increasing **cross-sector collaboration** to scale up investment in the generation and use of ocean science.

The meeting will be structured around a high-level opening, daily plenaries and working group sessions with networking opportunities, and a closing segment. The main outcome of the event, the [2025 Tokyo Statement](#), will lay out a strategic roadmap for philanthropy for resource mobilisation, outreach, advocacy, and partnerships in support of Ocean Decade initiatives.

About the Ocean Decade Foundation Dialogue

The [Ocean Decade Foundations Dialogue](#) is a voluntary and informal network of more than 30 committed philanthropic funding organisations who are working with UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in the context of the Ocean Decade.

The Foundations Dialogue seeks to:

- **Develop joint initiatives** to support and raise awareness of the central role of ocean science to underpin sustainable development solutions.
- **Use their role as influencers and risk takers** to support the co-design and co-delivery of innovative ocean science initiatives.
- **Create new networks and partnerships** across philanthropy and increase the diversity of philanthropic partners supporting the Ocean Decade.

Get involved

The group is open to all philanthropic funding organisations interested in supporting the Ocean Decade. It is loosely organised in a series of thematic and geographic working groups.

We look forward to engaging with new partners to work together in addressing various challenges for the ocean!

Get in touch

For more information on the Foundations Dialogue, including the upcoming 2025 meeting, please contact:

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