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## Korea Maritime Institute Succeeds in Attracting the Asia Secretariat of GEO Blue Planet

Korea Maritime Institute (KMI, President Chang Young-Tae) has hosted the Asia Secretariat of the ocean program of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO Blue Planet).

GEO Blue Planet is an international program which was established with the aim of improving the capacity of ocean management as well as to “link ocean and coastal information with societal and economic needs.”

Following its establishment of regional offices in the EU and North America, the third regional office will create information hubs, develop indicators, discover and share best practices, identify the needs for ocean observation, operate working groups, promote the participation and cooperation of stakeholders, capacity-building and build/operate a network.

Since April this year, Dr. Choi Hee-Jung of KMI (Director of the Marine Spatial Planning Research Division) has endeavored to host the Asia Secretariat while working as a member of the Steering Committee of GEO Blue Planet.

President Chang Young-Tae of KMI said that “Bolstered by our effort for

attracting the Asia Secretariat of GEO Blue Planet, South Korea will take a leading role in addressing global ocean issues including climate change, carbon neutrality, marine debris and coastal disasters, while contributing to strengthening the global network of ocean management.” Moreover, he added that “KMI will seek measures to support the Asia Secretariat of GEO Blue Planet in order to advance data information-based ocean and fisheries policies and boost ocean diplomacy such as the New Southern Policy”

One relevant official from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said that “KMI’s success in hosting the Asia Secretariat of GEO Blue Planet is expected to serve as momentum for South Korea towards enhancing its national status as a maritime power along with the US representing North, Central and South America and France representing the EU.”

※ 이 보도자료와 관련하여 보다 자세한 내용이나 취재를 원하시면 해양연구본부 해양공간연구실 조성진 전문연구원(051-797-4748, sjcho@kmi.re.kr)에게 연락주시기 바랍니다.

<붙임1> GEO Blue Planet 개요

□ GEO Blue Planet Overview

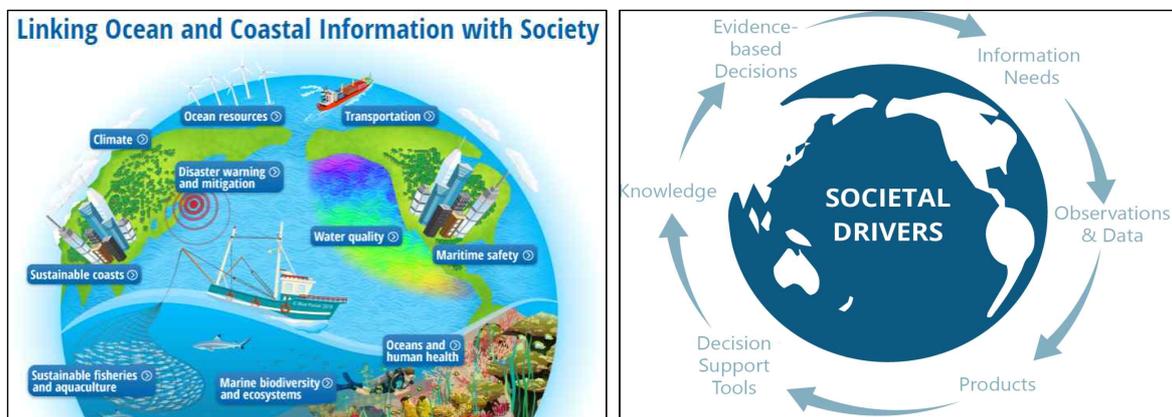
- Officially introduced in 2012, GEO Blue Planet is the ocean and coastal program of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)\*.
- \* GEO is an intergovernmental organization established in 2005 with 113 participating member countries. South Korea's national focal point is the Ministry of Science and ICT.
- (Purpose) To advance synergy by linking observational programs devoted to ocean and coastal waters; to support the participation and cooperation of stakeholders; and to raise awareness of the societal benefits of ocean observations at the public and policy levels.
- (Participants) Around 90 ocean-related government organizations such as NOAA, JAMSTEC, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, EC, UNESCO-IOC, WWF, and POGO, international organizations as well as its affiliated organizations and NGOs.

□ GEO Blue Planet Activities

- (Characteristics) Whereas GEO focuses on the scientific investigation that operates the Global Earth Observation System, GEO Blue Planet concentrates on activities for utilizing ocean observations to actively address\* societal problems.

\* Advocating 'Linking Ocean and Coastal Information with Society'

< Blue Planet Initiative >



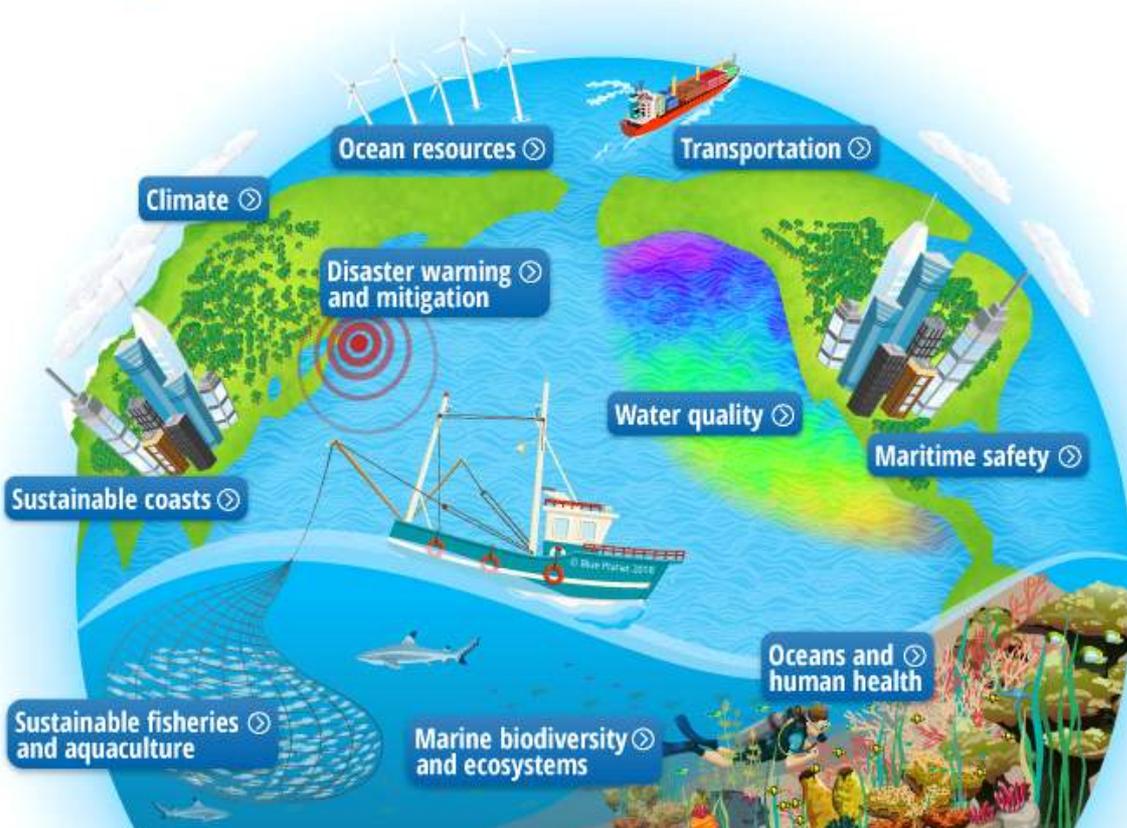
\* source : <https://geoblueplanet.org/>

- (Function) Create information hubs, Develop indicators, Discover and share best practices, Identify the needs for ocean observation, Operate working groups, Promote the participation and cooperation of stakeholders, Capacity-building and Build/Operate a network
- (Organization) Consists of the Secretariat\*, the Management Committee, the Steering Committee, the Advisory board and 7 Working Groups (Fisheries, Coastal Flooding, Marine Litter, Eutrophication, Water-borne Diseases, Sargassum, and Oil Spill)

\* The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat is located in Europe (France) and North America (US).

## 〈붙임 2〉 GEO Blue Planet Vision

# Linking Ocean and Coastal Information with Society



\* source : <https://geoblueplanet.org/>