



The Webinar on Seawater Desalination and Multipurpose Utilization in the Indian Ocean Region

(Planning Proposal)

Foreword

Water scarcity is a growing challenge across the Indian Ocean Region, driven by climate change, population growth, and increasing demand from agriculture, industry, and urbanization. Seawater desalination has emerged as a strategic solution, but challenges such as high energy consumption, environmental risks of brine disposal, and limited regional cooperation remain critical.

The **Webinar on Seawater Desalination and Multipurpose Utilization**, will be organized by the **IORA RCSTT** Coordination Center for Desalination Technologies headquarter in ISDMU, Ministry of Natural Resources, China, in close cooperation with IORA RCSTT Organizing Committee of the project on the "Comprehensive Study on Dual Purpose Desalination (Simultaneous Desalination and Salt Production) run by IORA RCSTT. This webinar will bring together experts, policymakers, researchers, and industry leaders to explore innovative desalination technologies, discuss sustainable brine management and resource recovery, and strengthen regional collaboration. The outcomes will support the development of shared guidelines, pilot projects, and partnerships, contributing to IORA's agenda on sustainable water management and the blue economy.

Objectives

- Share best practices and innovative technologies for energy-efficient desalination.
- Discuss strategies for sustainable brine management and resource recovery.
- Explore policy frameworks, financing models, and regional partnerships.
- Strengthen networks of experts and institutions across IORA Member States.
- Provide actionable recommendations for IORA's sustainable development agenda.

Expected Outcomes

- Greater regional understanding of technological, environmental, and policy aspects of desalination.
- Draft recommendations for regional standards and guidelines on sustainable desalination and brine management.
- Identification of opportunities for joint research, pilot initiatives, and technology transfer.
- Strengthened cooperation between policymakers, researchers, and the private sector.

Structure

The half-day webinar will include:

- **Keynote Speeches** on regional and global desalination trends.
- **Thematic Sessions** on technology, environmental management, and policy frameworks.
- **Panel Discussions and Case Studies** showcasing Member State experiences.
- **Interactive Breakout Sessions** for active participant engagement.
- **Concluding Session** to consolidate recommendations and next steps.

Participants

Approx. 50–70 participants:

- Government officials and policymakers from IORA Member States.
- Experts and researchers in desalination and water management.
- Representatives from regional and international organizations.
- Private sector actors and technology providers.

Organizers and Partners

The seminar will be organized by the **IORA RCSTT** Coordination Center for Desalination Technologies headquarter in ISDMU, Ministry of Natural Resources, China, in close cooperation with IORA RCSTT Organizing Committee of the project on the "Comprehensive Study on Dual Purpose Desalination (Simultaneous Desalination and Salt Production) run by IORA RCSTT, and kind collaboration of **IORA Secretariat** and contribution by IORA Member States, partner institutions, and relevant international organizations.

Date and Time

Date: 26 November 2025

Time: 14:00 – 17:00, GMT+5:30; subject to adjustment according to IORA Member States' time zones

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening Session & Keynote Address
2. Session I – Technological Advances in Seawater Desalination
3. Session II – Environmental Management: Brine Disposal & Resource Recovery
4. Session III – Policy, Financing & Regional Cooperation
5. Panel Discussion – Member States' Experiences and Lessons Learned
6. Concluding Session – Recommendations & Way Forward

Webinar Platform

The webinar will be held **entirely in an online format** to enable the broadest participation from across IORA Member States. The event will be hosted and managed by **IORA RCSTT / ISDMU** through Google Meet or Microsoft Teams and the link and the other administrative details will be announced in due time.