Organized by: With the Support of:

MSP regional training workshop for East Asian Seas

20-22 July 2026

Bangkok, Thailand

DETAILED AGENDA

Date: 20-22 July 2026
Location: Bangkok, Thailand
Venue: Centara Grand and Bangkok Convention Centre, Central World

BACKGROUND

The Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) in East Asian Seas host some of the world's richest marine biodiversity and most productive waters. At the same time, the region is densely populated, fast-growing, and highly vulnerable. Many coastal nations rely heavily on the ocean for food security, employment, economic development, and cultural identity. Yet competition among various sectors for ocean space is escalating.

The identified challenges underscore the urgency of advancing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) efforts across the region. MSP is increasingly recognized as an effective approach for managing growing pressures on marine and maritime areas while safeguarding ocean ecosystems. In 2021, a review of the marine and coastal spatial planning policies in the East Asian Seas was conducted to advance marine and coastal spatial planning in the region which identified key recommended actions towards an enabling policy environment for marine and coastal spatial planning, ecosystem-based management and sustainable blue economy approaches. In 2022, a United Nations Ocean Decade Action 21: Accelerating Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific was launched to promote MSP in the region. A Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework in the East Asian Seas was adopted in 2023 with marine and coastal spatial planning as one of its thematic focus areas. More recently, an Action Framework for Accelerating Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas (2025-2030) was adopted in 2025, setting out a suite of enabling actions to accelerate MSP implementation, support ecosystem-based management, a sustainable blue economy, and progress toward national and global ocean commitments.

GEF IW:LEARN contributes to knowledge exchange among International Waters (IW) projects by organizing targeted in-person learning activities at global and regional scales. These events enhance the skills of project teams and stakeholders while fostering long-term networking and experience sharing. Two trainings on MSP, co-organized by IW:LEARN, took place in 2025; the first one on 18–19 February 2025 in Panama for Latin American and Caribbean participants, followed by a virtual regional workshop for the Atlantic coast of West, Central, and Southern Africa region on 27–28 May 2025. Following on these trainings co-organized notably with the MSPglobal programme[1], in collaboration with regional GEF-funded IW projects and partners, the forthcoming MSP training workshop in Asia will mark the third event in this series.

[1] The MSPglobal programme is executed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO with the support of the European Commission (https://www.mspglobal2030.org/)

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ORGANIZING PARTNERS

This training workshop is co-organized by IW:LEARN, MSPglobal and South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand Strategic Action Programme (SCS-SAP) Project, in collaboration with the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC).

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING

The face-to-face regional training workshop in Southeast Asia aims to:

- Strengthen the understanding and capacities on MSP concepts, processes, and practical implementation approaches, as a way to help accelerate the implementation of MSP in the region;
- Enhance awareness on existing national and regional MSP mechanisms and their linkages to global frameworks
- Train participants on the application of the newly developed practical approach to integrate MSP and sustainable blue economy into the TDA/SAP process implemented at the scale of the LMEs.

STRUCTURE OF THE TRAINING

The training workshop will be divided into three parts:

1. The first part will cover the fundamentals of MSP, including interactive sessions using the MSP Challenge board game adapted to specific regional needs. Other resources such as the Blue Planning in Practice materials (developed by GIZ and UNEP) and the relation to topics such as biodiversity, climate change etc., will also be included. This material will complement the self-paced MSPglobal online training course available on the Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA) platform.
2. The second part will go deeper into practical ways to integrate MSP and sustainable blue economy into the transboundary diagnostic analysis/strategic action programme (TDA/SAP) process that is specific to LME programmes. This will be based on the new practical approach developed with the support of GRID Arendal.
3. The third part will explore how MSP links to global and regional frameworks. Countries will also have the opportunity to share their experiences and approaches at national level, followed by examples of technical support provided to countries.

The training workshop agenda will be tailored to the specific needs and challenges of the region, drawing on lessons learned and reflections from the previous two workshops in the series, the Regional MSPforum for Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas (2022) and two regional MSP workshops for the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas jointly organized by WESTPAC and MSPglobal in 2023 and 2025. It will be co-designed with key projects and partners to ensure that it effectively responds to the regional priorities and framework, supports ongoing MSP efforts, and strengthens the capacity of participating projects, countries and stakeholders.

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DRAFT DETAILED AGENDA

DAY 1: Monday 20 July 2026			
Time	**Section**	**Host**	**Description**
08.30 - 08.55	Registration + Security briefing		
09.00 - 09.15	**Session 1:** Opening & welcome		Welcome participants
Part 1: MSP fundamentals, tools and resources			
09.15 - 10.00	**Session 2:** Introduction to MSP basics	MSPglobal	Introduction to the basic principles of MSP (30 mins ppt + 15 mins Q&A)
10.00 - 10.45	**Session 3:** Transboundary MSP	MSPglobal	Introduction to transboundary MSP (30 mins ppt + 15 mins Q&A)
10.45 - 11.15	*Coffee break & group photo*		
11.15 - 12.30	**HANDS ON:** Regional Ocean Vision	MSPglobal	Interactive session to develop a regional ocean vision
12.30 - 13.30	*Lunch break*		
13.30 - 14.30	**HANDS ON:** National MSP Vision	MSPglobal	Interactive session to develop a national MSP vision
14:30 - 15:15	**Session 4:** Data and Assessments for MSP	MSPglobal	Introduction to the basic concepts of data and assessments for MSP (30 mins ppt + 15 mins Q&A)
15.15 - 15.30	*Coffee break*		
15:30 - 17:00	**HANDS ON:** National MSP Plan	MSPglobal	Interactive session on basic concepts of MSP through the MSPchallenge game
End of Day 1			

DAY 2: Tuesday 21 July 2026			
Time	**Session**	**Host**	**Description**
09:00 - 09:45	**HANDS ON:** National MSP Plan	MSPglobal	Reporting back activity
09.45 - 10.15	**Session 5:** Q&A on the OTGA MSPglobal training modules	MSPglobal	
Part 2: Integrating MSP and SBE into the TDA/SAP			
10.15 - 10.45	**Session 6:** MSP & Sustainable Blue Economy	GRID-A	MSP as vehicle for Sustainable Blue Economy
10.45 - 11.05	*Coffee break*		
11.05 - 11.30	**Session 6:** MSP & Sustainable Blue Economy (cont.)	GRID-A	MSP as vehicle for Sustainable Blue Economy
11.30 - 12.30	**HANDS ON:** MSP & Sustainable Blue Economy	GRID-A	Interactive session on MSP & Sustainable Blue Economy
12.30 - 13.30	*Lunch Break*		
13.30 - 14.30	**Session 7:** Enhancement of the TDA/SAP with MSP and sustainable blue economy	GRID-A	Apply newly developed practical approach to integrate MSP and sustainable blue economy into the TDA/SAP process implemented at the scale of the LMEs
Part 3: Global, regional and national MSP frameworks, tools and experiences			
14.30 - 16.00	**Session 8:** Global and regional actions and frameworks	MSPglobal WESTPAC COBSEA	• MSPglobal: The MSPglobal programme, the international MSP guide and its additional volumes on Biodiversity- Inclusive and Climate-Smart MSP; Regional support to MSP expert groups and regional MSPforums (30 mins ppt + 10 mins Q&A) • WESTPAC: Regional action framework for MSP; MSP-focused Ocean Decade actions (20 mins ppt + 10 mins Q&A) • COBSEA: Marine and Coastal framework with MSP as key thematic area (20 mins ppt + 10 mins Q&A)

16.00 - 16.30	*Coffee break*		
16.30 - 17.30	**Session 8:** Global and regional actions and frameworks (cont.)	SCS-SAP, ATSEA II GotFish Projects	• *How has the TDA/SAP impacted on MSP?* • *Have the national MSP plans impacted the TDA/SAP?* (15 mins ppt + 5 mins Q&A)
End of Day 2			

DAY 3: Wednesday 22 July 2026			
Time	**Session**	**Host**	**Description**
Part 3: Global, regional and national frameworks, tools and experiences (cont.)			
09.00 - 11.00	**Session 9:** National experiences and approaches	Country representatives	Share national experiences, perspectives and challenges on the application of MSP approaches. Interactive discussion on global, regional and national linkages.
11.00 - 11.30	*Coffee break*		
11.30 - 12.30	**Session 9:** National experiences and approaches (cont.)	Group discussions + reporting back	Group discussion • *Building on existing efforts, how can MSP contribute to the TDA process & vice versa?* • *How can the MSP-enhanced TDA/SAP guidance be applied to your country?* • *What are the opportunities and challenges in bringing MSP and TDA/SAP process together?*
12.30 - 13.30	*Lunch Break*		
13.30 - 15.00	**Session 10:** Technical support to countries	MSPglobal; WESTPAC/FIO; SwAM	Examples of tools and approaches, as part of technical support to countries: • MSPglobal: the MSPglobal Rapid Assessment Methodology (RAM), and examples of application (20 mins ppt + 10 mins Q&A) • WESTPAC/FIO; region tailored data and toolbox (20 mins ppt + 10 mins Q&A) • SwAM: Capacities for strategic cumulative environmental assessment in maritime spatial planning (15 mins - recorded ppt)
15.00 - 16.00	Discussion & Q&A		
16.00 - 16.30	*Coffee break*		
16.30 - 17.00	Closing session		
End of Day 3			

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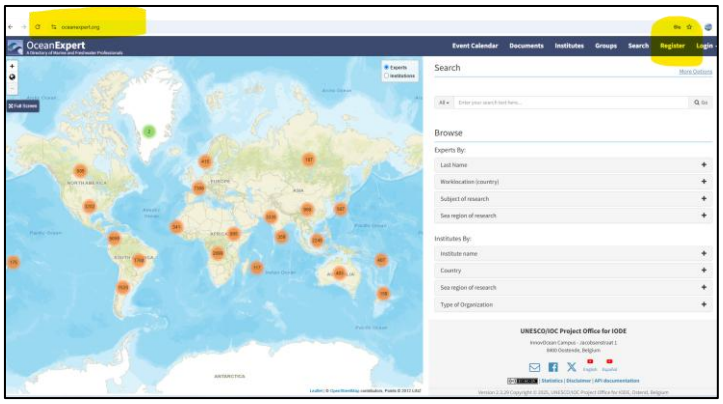
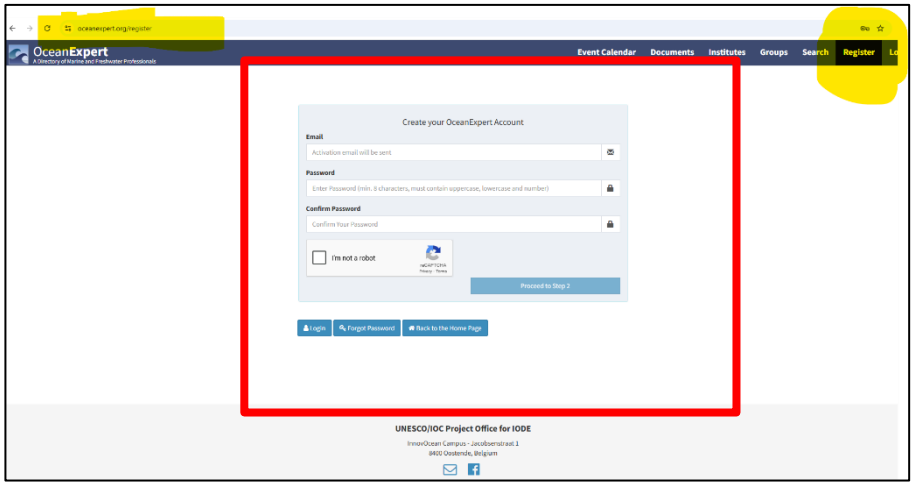
ANNEX: Step-by-step guide to register for the online MSPglobal training course at OTGA

➢ *IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN OCEAN EXPERT PROFILE*

1. If you do not have an Ocean Expert profile - you must **register first** on the website https://oceanexpert.org/ . Click on register



2. Once you are on the registration page you must fill in the fields with your data. Once the profile is completed administrators of OceanExpert/OTGA will validate your data and approve your profile. **Approval is NOT immediate and may take some time.**



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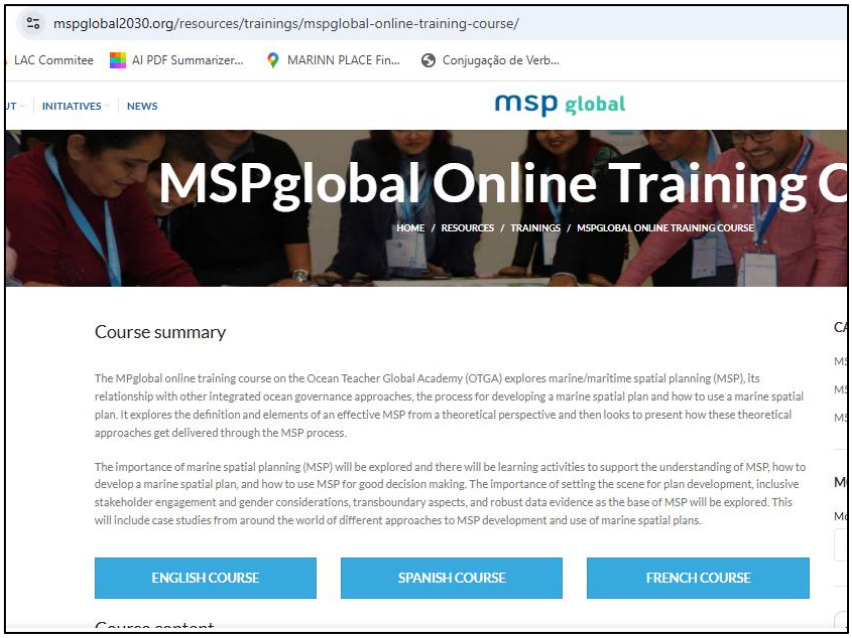
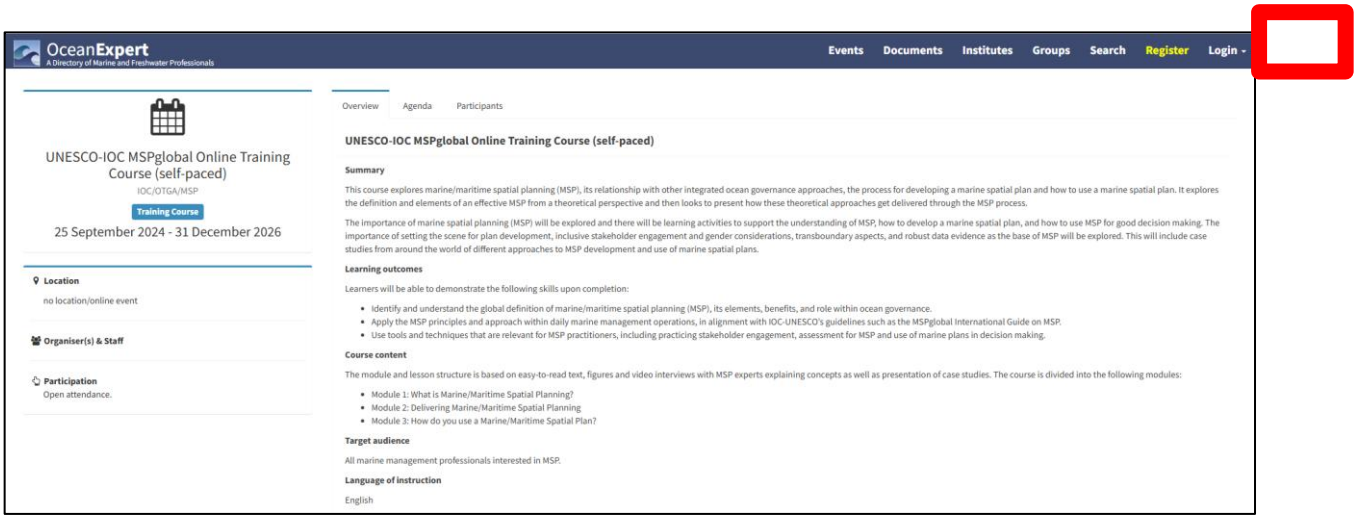
➢ ***If you have a profile or have already approved the OCEAN EXPERT profile:***

1. Go to the website: https://www.mspglobal2030.org/resources/trainings/mspglobal-online-training-course/

2. Select the language of preference

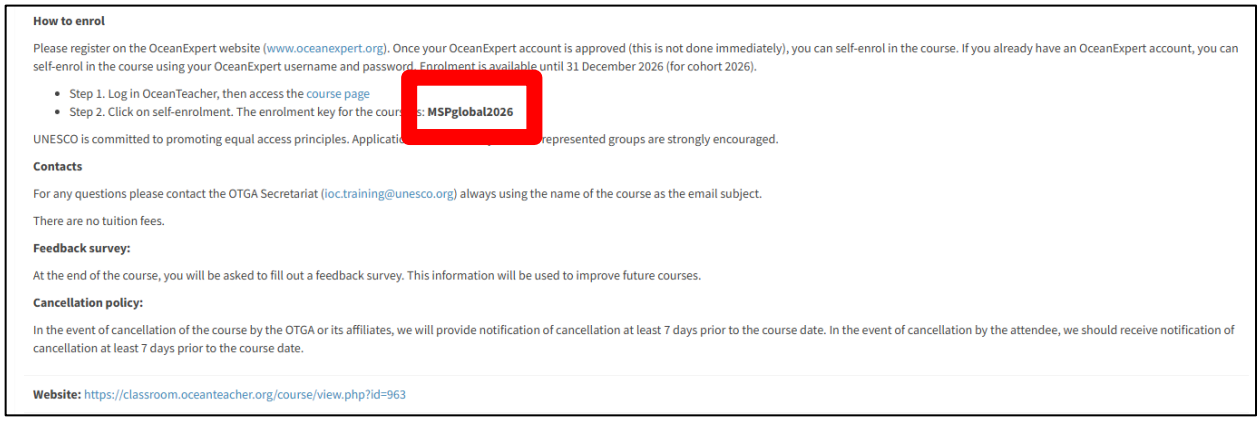


3. You will then be redirected to the Ocean Expert page. There you either have to **log in.**

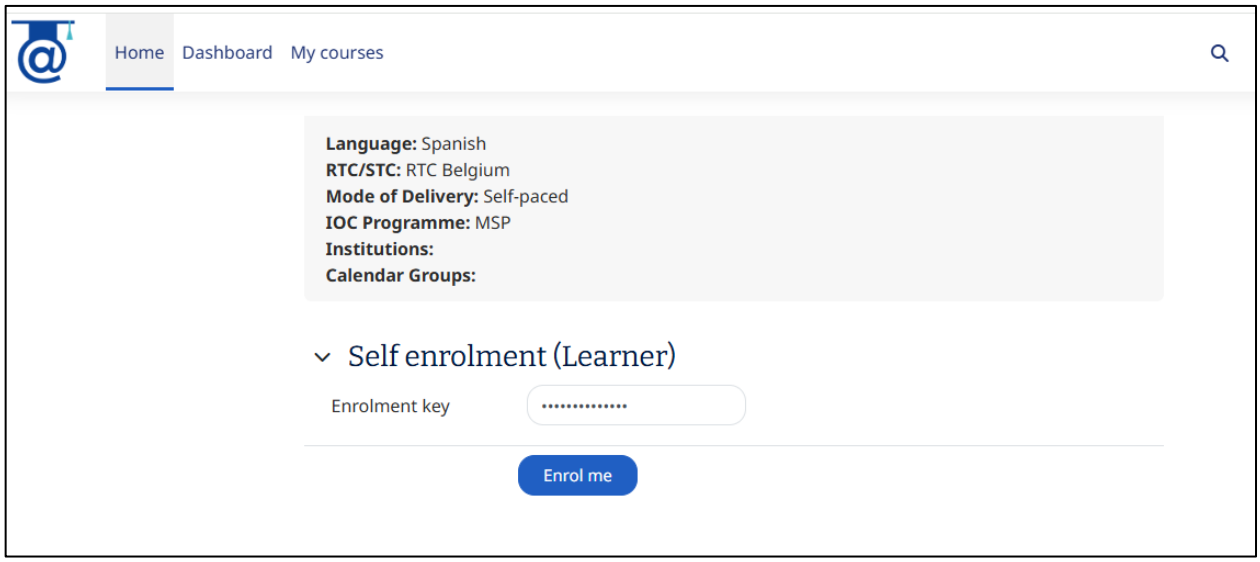


4. Press log-in and look for the MSPglobal course on the list (see photo).

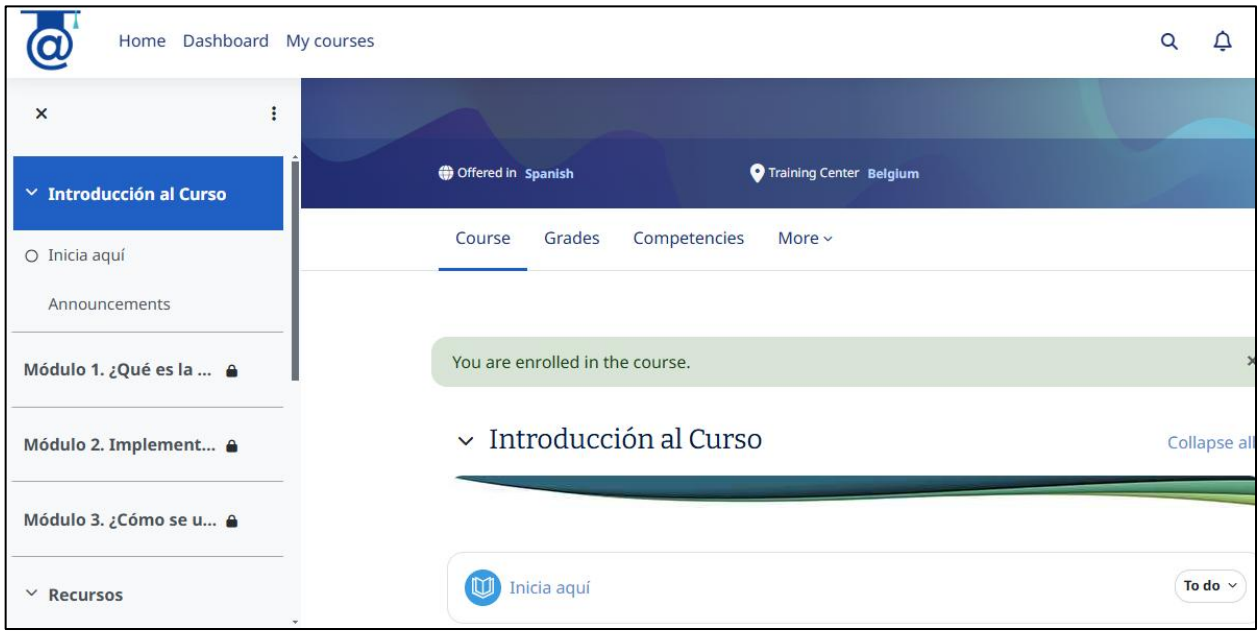
5. Click on the link for the language of your choice and scroll down to the following information



6. Click on the link where it says website and another page will pop up where you have to go down and where it says ¨Enrolment key¨ you have to put the key of the course that is in step 2 of the previous picture.



7. Once this is done, they will finally have access to the course as such.



8. When entering the course go to where it says START HERE appears an arrow on the **right side** (see photo highlighted in yellow), this arrow will take you to see the following content that you must see completely to be able to enter the modules.

- Course Summary
- Learning objective
- Course outline
- Minimum Technology Requirements
- Course Survey
- Certificate
- How long can I access the course content/resources online?
- Student Support Resources
- Acknowledgements

9. Once you have reached the acknowledgements you will jump to the announcements, and will be marked in green, indicating that you have completed the first part of the course, which will allow you to continue with Module 1.