

Editorial

Ocean Governance: Key to Sustainable Wellbeing

The ocean is the home for nearly 95% of life, forms on Earth. Scientists estimated that 50-80% of the oxygen production on Earth comes from marine photosynthesis. The ocean regulates our climate and affects our weather. Healthy oceans provide jobs and food, sustain economic growth, and support the wellbeing of coastal communities. The oceans are vital to the world's economy, and it is estimated that ocean-based economic activity is worth trillions of dollars. Considering these facts, it goes without saying that we need to conserve, protect and restore our ocean for the survival of mankind. Oceans' conditions are gradually deteriorating, and this is not getting the proper attention it deserves. Hence, it is a must to conceptualize Ocean Governance to its fullest extent. This issue of PAAL is a tiny contribution, like how trivial we are compared to the vast oceans in that direction.

There is a growing understanding that the world's oceans need more intensive care and concerted action. Ocean resources are commonly seen to be overly exploited. Unplanned coastal development, land-based and ship-borne marine pollution, IUU fishing, and other human activities all contribute to the progressive decline in ocean health. Ocean governance is the integrated management of the ocean's policy, actions, and affairs to reduce the danger of permanent harm to our marine ecosystems. However, only a few developing nations have recently begun implementing sustainable economic growth strategies for the ocean. Decision-making and adaptive management are the processes within the larger domain of ocean governance. It entails a more inclusive integration of multidisciplinary knowledge, diverse values, participatory decision-making, and negotiation.

In that regard, the theme of the present issue is titled "Ocean Governance: Key to Sustainable Wellbeing". This issue has been outlined with the existing laws related to ocean governance and the importance of ocean governance in the present context of Bangladesh. It has accumulated all the aspects related to the theory and concept of ocean governance. This issue contains various articles on Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Protected Areas, Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure, IUU Fishing, Maritime Shipping, Marine Minerals Management, etc. The magazine is also designed with other regular exciting sections like Geopolitics, BIMRAD Feats, and Marine News. The interview of a prominent researcher & maritime security analyst, Dr. David Brewster, whose work specializes in Indo-Pacific maritime security matters, has added another dimension to the current edition. The coastal window on coastal lives and livelihood has been included as a regular awareness-building section for the readers.

We hope that this issue of PAAL will fulfil the urge of the readers regarding contemporary maritime issues. It will likely attract all maritime stakeholders and relevant readers to develop awareness with factual information on ocean governance.

Thanking you
Editorial Board