

Blue Ocean Film Festival – Monaco, 7 November 2015
Address by HSH the Prince

Dear President Tong,

Dear Debbie Kinder,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be both your host and your guest this evening, as it gives me an opportunity to thank you twice!

To thank you first, for choosing Monaco for this Blue Ocean Film Festival, and for undertaking a partnership with my Foundation and the Oceanographic Museum – a partnership that I hope will be long-lasting and fruitful. And most importantly, to thank you for honouring me with the prize that you are presenting to me.

The Principality of Monaco has close links with the sea: deep, almost symbiotic links, based on the physical proximity; on our history, which was constantly open towards the sea; and on our future, which we know is closely linked to the future of various aspects of the oceans. These links are based on the commitment shown by my great-grandfather Prince Albert Ist more than a century ago, in his many scientific expeditions, his work, his speeches, his writings and the creation of this unique place that welcomes us today.

This commitment, which I am making every effort to continue in turn, rests on the desire to better understand the sea, and to make it better understood. It is through science and the dissemination of science that we will enable our contemporaries to better understand the importance of the oceans. Above all, this is how we will encourage them to protect the oceans.

As Commander Cousteau, one of the great Directors of this Oceanographic Museum, said, "People protect and respect what they love, and to make them love the sea, they must be amazed as well as informed."

Such is the objective of the Blue Ocean Film Festival. An objective that has largely been achieved, as I was able to note myself in Monterrey, where you welcomed me to a previous edition of this event.

Again this year, with its program, its diversity and its reverberations, this Festival will enable a wide audience to view the sea in a different way, to understand it better, and therefore respect it more.

For too long, our civilisation has regarded these large stretches of salty water as inexhaustible resources, areas of conquest that could be endlessly exploited, large, lifeless stretches of water that could withstand any amount of harsh treatment and all the harmful effects of our activities.

Today, we are beginning to understand our seas better, their fragility, their complexity and their importance. We are beginning to understand the harm that we have inflicted on them.

For the greatest threat of the oceans is no other than ourselves, and humankind's constantly increasing appetite, to which we respond with ever more powerful technical means.

Today, whether it is a question of fish stocks or mineral resources, we are utilizing the seas in an unreasonable and dangerous way. Fish stocks are dwindling, and most ecosystems are overexploited. This is likely to become worse over the coming decades, as we know that people's needs are growing, with regard to both energy and food.

The only way to free ourselves from this downward spiral is to mobilize our contemporaries and raise their awareness of the cause of the seas; because what we must fight against, much more than just an economic system, is people's attitudes.

Economically and technically, we have the means to protect the oceans. We are already able to develop sustainable ways of using their resources.

With regard to overfishing, we can implement quotas to limit the catch, marine protected areas that enable stocks to be rebuilt and aquatic farms that respect the ecosystems.

To combat the dangers of removing oil and gas from the seabed, we are able to develop renewable marine energies, whether they use the power of the currents, tidal power or wind power, energy derived from biomass or, as we are already doing, using the thermal properties of the water via heat pumps.

To limit pollution, we have the means to put in place wastewater treatment systems that will avoid harmful discharges at sea. To limit the use of plastics, which destroy many

species and, most worryingly, enter the food chain in the form of microparticles, with health consequences that are still largely unknown, we need to encourage the development of biodegradable materials.

Finally, we know today how climate change is harming the oceans by upsetting their ecosystems, accelerating the melting of the ice caps, raising the water level and above all, acidifying the waters, which is now causing many problems.

In Paris, at the COP21, we must take bold steps to limit this warming effect and help protect our seas.

For me, all these solutions, all these approaches and all these hopes constitute an action plan that is demanding, but exciting. I have been working with my Government and my Foundation, month after month for many years, to promote their implementation.

By means of the 350 projects undertaken or supported by my Foundation, the partnerships it creates with international institutions and key local players around the world, through the measures taken by the Principality to develop a sustainable, low-carbon economy, and our involvement in multilateral organizations where the future of the Planet is played out, we are still pursuing one objective: to speed up the implementation of solutions that will preserve our environment, in particular the marine environment.

However, although technical and economic solutions exist, they cannot be implemented without the awareness and the will of our contemporaries. They will only triumph through conviction.

And which medium, which art form, is better able than the cinema to bring about this conviction?

That is why I consider the Blue Ocean Film Festival, and therefore delighted that it is now being held alternately in Monaco.

Above all, I am extremely proud that you are honouring me today with this Blue Legacy Award, as it proves that we share the same outlook.

By highlighting our shared aims and convictions, you are giving me confirmation that my actions point in a fruitful, shared direction. It gives me hope that more and more of us will

pursue these objectives - objectives that nobody can achieve alone, but through a collective effort that is as wide and universal as possible.

The universality of the cinema, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, is the most powerful ally that defenders of the environment and of the sea could ever dream of.

As predicted more than a hundred years ago by the great film director Abel Gance, this art, "in the same second can bring tears to the eyes of an Arab and an Eskimo with the same sadness, and (...) teach them, at the same time, the same lesson of courage or kindness."

At a time when a highly important international Conference is due to open in Paris in less than a month, the preservation of the Planet and its oceans will be one of the most important projects of this century. More than ever before, we need the power of the cinema, with its lessons of courage and its ability to move us. More than ever, we need to unite the peoples of the world in a common goal.

Thank you.