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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
A MALTE

**Le Service de Coopération et
d'Action Culturelle**

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La Valette, Thursday 22 October 2009

Scientific encounter – Tara Oceans in Malta

On the occasion of the stopover of **TARA OCEANS** expedition in Malta, the French Embassy to Malta and Tara Oceans with the support of the IOI – Malta Operational Centre of the University of Malta and the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST), are organising a scientific encounter, which will be held on the **30th October 2009** between 11:00hrs and 13:00hrs at the **Malta Council for Science and Technology in Kalkara**.

During this event, the French and International team of researchers of the Tara Oceans Expedition will present their work, while **local researchers** will have the possibility to ask questions and exchange their direct experiences.



source: <http://oceans.taraexpeditions.org>

Short summary of the scientific expedition: This expedition will last three years and will explore the oceans in order to study their plankton and understand the latter's impact on the climate of the planet. TARA OCEANS will analyse plankton ecosystems in relation to physicochemical conditions throughout the world's oceans, assessing their adaptation to and feedback on a rapidly changing earth system. Large scale genomics and metagenomics projects coupled to newly developed high-resolution and high-throughput imaging methods will allow quantitative studies of plankton ecosystems and identification of the plankton composition within these ecosystems. Integrative bio-informatics analyses of the imaging, genomes, physicochemical and climate data generated in the project, will be used to assess plankton biodiversity and activity in the diverse ocean ecosystems sampled. All of the data generated through the project will go to form an open-source multidimensional bio-oceanographic database that will allow generating predictive models of the spatio-temporal evolution of plankton ecosystems. The results of this project will have outstanding implications for our understanding of early life evolution, global biogeochemical cycles and spatio-temporal evolution of the earth climate.

Participants will be invited to pass by to see the scientific vessel of Tara Océans, which will be berthed at Pinto Wharf, Valletta. **Please note that no visits are possible on the vessel.**

Those interested in attending should send their details to Mr Ellsworth Camilleri by Wednesday 26th October 2009: ellsworth.camilleri@diplomatie.gouv.fr

More information on Tara Oceans expedition: http://oceans.taraexpeditions.org/en/home-tara.php?id_page=1
One can also follow TARA OCEANS expedition here: <http://taraexpeditions.geovoile.org/?lang=fr>



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