# Ocean Challenge 2025 Applicant Handbook

## Program Overview

Ocean Challenge 2025 invites applicants worldwide to utilize marine elements and innovative ideas to address crises and challenges facing the ocean. Since its launch in 2019, Ocean Challenge has engaged nearly 800 participants from 24 countries in efforts to protect the ocean. We are eager to involve more young individuals from both local and global communities to propose, initiate, and realize ideas that promote sustainable ocean development and work together to enhance ocean resilience.

## Eligibility

- The program includes 2 categories as follows:

  **A. Teen Category**: Applicants aged 12-18.

  **B. Youth Category**: Applicants aged 19-35.

- Each team should consist of 2 to 8 team members of any nationality. Cross-school or cross-category teams are permitted. Cross-category team will be classified by the majority of applicants' age (teen or youth) to determine which category the team belongs to. If it is fifty-fifty, the team can decide which category you would like to participate in.

## Theme

The theme for 2025 is "Youth in Action, Team Ocean." We are calling on participants to concentrate on three crucial aspects: Clean Ocean, Safe Ocean, and Smart Utilization of the Ocean. Bring forth your innovative solutions to address the pressing ocean crises and make a powerful impact.

*Please refer to Attachment 1 for further information.

## Important Dates

| Application Deadline | May 25, 2025 |
|---|---|
| Finalists Announced | July 31, 2025 |
| Finalists' presentations/Winners Announced | Early September, 2025 (Date TBA) |

Please note: the OAC and the AIT/K reserve the right to amend the regulations of this handbook at any time.

- **Deadline**
  - ✧ Applications are due by **11:59 pm CST (UTC+8) Sunday, May 25, 2025. <u>Please note</u>** that the OAC and the AIT/K reserve the right to extend the application deadline.
  - ✧ Please email your application form and the links of your application materials to <u>oceanchallenge01@gmail.com</u>

| | |
|---|---|
| **Written Proposal** | 1. Proposals may be submitted in any language. (If not written in English, please provide an English translation.)<br>2. The proposal should include an explanation of current situations, analysis of the problem, implementation strategies, and expected outcomes.<br>3. PDF or Word document with a maximum of 6 pages, including both text and images.<br>4. Must include a proposal summary (max. 500 words).<br>5. Upload to a Google Drive folder and provide the link. |
| **Pitch Video** | 1. Participants should produce a pitch video for the innovative solution with creativity. The video should include English subtitles or a transcript provided within 3 minutes.<br>2. Video resolution: 1920×1080 or higher; file format: MP4. Please upload the video to YouTube and provide the video link.<br>3. The video should have a title sequence with the Team's Name, the Title of the Proposal, and "Ocean Challenge 2025" |

- **Ocean wishes:** Every proposal is eligible for a chance to make an ocean-related wish, such as serving as a one-day Coast Guard patrol officer, meeting with marine scientists, or engaging in dialogues with international guests. Please refer to Attachment 3 for examples. Finalists will receive further support from the organizers to turn their wishes into reality. The outcomes of this part will also be included in the final presentation.

## Selection Process

The selection process will consist of two stages. A panel of judges, consisting of experts in the field of ocean science and marine affairs, will review all submitted proposals and accompanying pitch videos.

- **Nomination**

  All submissions will be evaluated by the judges based on effectiveness (25%), innovation(25%), feasibility(25%), as well as educational and social impact (25%). Six teams from each category will be nominated for the finals.

- **Final (presentation round)**

  Every team will showcase their proposal concepts (all languages are welcome). Judges will offer feedback and ask questions. The team will subsequently address the judges' queries. The time distribution is as detailed below:

  1. Presentation: 6 minutes
  2. Feedback and questions from judges: 6 minutes
  3. Team's response: 8 minutes

  **Please note:** International participants are allowed to join final presentations through a virtual meeting platform. A link to the platform will be provided prior to the event.

## Awards

- **Implementation Grant**: Each finalist team will receive a participation grant of NT$10,000 to be used for the implementation of their proposal. This grant will be disbursed in the form of a cash prize to the team.
- **Awards for Each Category**
  1. **First Place**: NT$120,000 and an award certificate.
  2. **Second Place**: NT$80,000 and an award certificate.
  3. **Third Place**: NT$5,000 and an award certificate.
- **Corporate Recognition Awards (prizes to be announced later)**

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**Website**
https://ocean-challenges.com
**Youtube**
https://www.youtube.com/@OceanChallenge01
**Points of Contact**
  1. Ocean Affairs Council
     Phone: +886-7-3381810 ext. 261324 / Email: oceanchallenge01@gmail.com
  2. American Institute in Taiwan Kaohsiung Branch
     Phone: +886-7-3355006 ext. 6007 / Email: LeeDJY@state.gov

## Attachment 1: Ocean Proposal Challenge

Are you ready to showcase your creativity and passion? Let's take on these three major themes together and create a sustainable, safe, and hopeful future for our oceans! Whether you're a tech genius, an environmental hero, or a creative design expert, there are endless opportunities waiting for you here!

### (1) Clean Ocean

Imagine harnessing ocean data from Taiwan and other countries to identify the hotspots of ocean pollution. You have the power to create innovative solutions that can clean up ocean waste, protect our precious marine species, and even encourage eco-friendly tourism. Together, let's join forces to restore our beautiful blue oceans and bring renewed hope to our planet.

### (2) Safe Ocean

Ocean activities can be a lot of fun, but let's always remember that safety comes first! By harnessing the power of AI, big data, and strong international cooperation, we can create smarter ocean safety systems. Whether through early warning mechanisms, engaging educational campaigns, or developing legal tools to address maritime disasters, we can work together to ensure that everyone can safely experience the ocean's beauty.

### (3) Smart Utilization of the Ocean

The ocean is more than just a stunning blue landscape; it's teeming with endless possibilities! Let's harness our creativity to connect the ocean with culture, utilizing tools like innovative design, community revitalization, AI, and big data to find ways to make the ocean industry smarter and more vibrant! Together, we can thrive alongside the ocean, embracing creativity and the wisdom it brings to shine.

## Open Data Platforms

Are you curious about additional resources to spark your creativity? These fantastic open data platforms are here to help you:

- NODASS: https://nodass.namr.gov.tw/
- iOcean: https://iocean.oca.gov.tw/
- Environmental Data Open Platform: https://data.moenv.gov.tw/
- Taiwan Marine Vessel Dynamic Information System: https://reurl.cc/p9ERxQ
- Marine Traffic: https://reurl.cc/eGYo5b
- Global Fishing Watch: https://reurl.cc/1XRWZm

*\* These are merely a few examples of open data platforms. You can also check out other government open data!*

# Attachment 2: Application Form

| 1. General Information | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Categories** | | □Teen  □Youth | | **Team's Name** | | | | |
| **Title of Proposal** | | | | | | | | |
| | Name | Gender | Nationality | Ethnicity (skip it if not applicable) | Date of Birth | Mobile | Email | Organization/ School |
| Captain | | | | □Indigenous Tribe: | | | | |
| Member | | | | □Indigenous Tribe: | | | | |
| Member | | | | □Indigenous Tribe: | | | | |
| Member | | | | □Indigenous Tribe: | | | | |
| Member | | | | □Indigenous Tribe: | | | | |
| Member | | | | □Indigenous Tribe: | | | | |
| Member | | | | □Indigenous Tribe: | | | | |
| Member | | | | □Indigenous Tribe: | | | | |
| **2. Coach's Contact (if applicable)** | | | | | | | | |
| Name | | | Gender | | Organization | | | |
| Email | | | | Mobile | | | | |
| **3. Ocean Wishes** | | | | | | | | |
| Make an ocean wish | | | | | | | | |
| What can we do to make your wish come true | | | | | | | | |

# Attachment 3 : Make an Ocean Wish Examples

🌀 **Creative Idea Suggestions**

1. **One-Day Ocean Action Patrol Experience** 🚢

   Engage in the daily duties of the Coast Guard or Marine Conservation Administration. Acquire hands-on experience while working alongside coast guards and marine patrol officers on rescue and conservation projects.

2. **Explore the Ocean with Scientists** 🔬

   Become an ocean explorer by participating in marine research projects with the National Academy of Marine Research. Learn the latest marine ecological monitoring techniques and dive deep into the mysteries of the sea. Who knows? You could be the next ocean scientist.

3. **Youth Marine Ambassador Program** 🌍

   Become a "Youth Marine Ambassador" for Taiwan and represent the country at international forums. Engage with top global marine experts, speak up for Taiwan, and share our ocean stories with the world.

4. **Ocean Story Interview Experience** 🎮

   Become part of an interview team and engage with marine experts face-to-face. Contribute to the creation and publication of a dedicated marine edition while gaining insights into ocean conservation and the art of storytelling.

5. **Recycling and Plastic Reduction Experience** ✒️

   Partner with the Marine Waste Recycling Alliance to learn how top companies in Taiwan transform ocean waste into valuable resources. Discover the magic of the circular economy as we turn ocean trash into treasure.

6. **Global Cross-Cultural Youth Exchange** 🏝️

   Join young people from around the world in discussions on ocean challenges and solutions. Connect with an international network, share Taiwan's experiences, and create opportunities for global cooperation.

7. **Experience World Cultures**

   Enjoy international cuisine with foreign embassy staff in Taiwan, and immerse yourself in the diversity of cultures from around the world. Embark on a delicious, cross-cultural journey that will enrich your life with flavors and stories from every corner of the globe.

*These are just examples to inspire you! Feel free to dream big, and we're excited to work hard to help make it come true!*