Seafood Legacy and Indonesia Ocean Justice Initiative Sign MOU to Advance Responsible Seafood Supply Chains and Protect Fishery Workers' Rights

Partnership will connect expertise in Indonesia and Japan through research, knowledge exchange, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement



Tokyo/Jakarta — Oct 23rd, 2026 — Seafood Legacy Co., Ltd. ("Seafood Legacy") and Indonesia Ocean Justice Initiative ("IOJI") have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen cooperation on responsible seafood supply chains and the protection of human rights at sea, with a particular focus on Indonesian fishery workers.

Through the partnership, the two organizations will combine their expertise and networks in Japan and Indonesia to advance joint research and legal analysis, knowledge exchange, capacity building, policy dialogue, and engagement with companies, governments, civil society organizations, workers, and other seafood sector stakeholders.

Connecting Indonesian Expertise with the Japanese Seafood Market

Seafood supply chains extend across national borders. Ensuring their sustainability therefore requires attention not only to marine ecosystems and fisheries resources, but also to workers' rights throughout those supply chains.

Indonesian migrant fishers play an important role in seafood production and processing both domestically and internationally. They also face systemic exploitation in the global fishing industry, driven by multi-layered recruitment practices, weak workers' representation throughout their migration, fragmented governance and ineffective cross-border cooperation, and opaque seafood supply chains that drive non-compliance with international human rights standards.

Strengthening their protection requires greater cross-market understanding of recruitment and employment systems, applicable laws and policies, working conditions, and businesses' responsibilities throughout global seafood supply chains.

The partnership between Seafood Legacy and IOJI will connect IOJI's expertise in Indonesian ocean policy, law, and human rights with Seafood Legacy's networks and experience engaging seafood companies, financial institutions, governments, and civil society in Japan.

Areas of Cooperation

Under the MOU, Seafood Legacy and IOJI intend to cooperate in four main areas:

1. Research and legal analysis
The organizations will explore joint research and legal analysis of international and national policy and regulatory frameworks related to responsible seafood supply chains and the protection of Indonesian fishery workers.

2. Knowledge exchange and market engagement
The partnership will facilitate engagement with actors in the Japanese seafood market to strengthen understanding of Indonesian recruitment systems, relevant legal and policy frameworks, and challenges and gaps affecting the protection of Indonesian migrant fishers in global seafood supply chains.

3. Capacity building
The organizations will develop capacity-building opportunities involving government representatives, workers, civil society organizations, companies, and other seafood industry stakeholders.

4. Dialogue and awareness raising
Seafood Legacy and IOJI will work together to organize seminars and policy dialogues to

deepen discussion and awareness of human rights and responsible business conduct in global seafood supply chains.

Other forms of cooperation may include joint research projects, legal briefs and policy-oriented studies, dissemination of research findings and advocacy materials, and exchanges of relevant data, research, and documentation.

Comment from Aiko Yamauchi, COO, Seafood Legacy

“Seafood connects oceans, people, and markets across borders. If seafood supply chains are to be truly sustainable, protecting marine ecosystems and fisheries resources must go hand in hand with protecting the rights of the people who work throughout those supply chains.

By connecting IOJI’s deep expertise in Indonesian law, policy, and the challenges facing fishery workers with Seafood Legacy’s networks in the Japanese seafood market, we hope to help companies and other stakeholders better understand these issues and translate that understanding into concrete actions, and ultimately resolve issues.”

Comment from Jeremia Humolong Prasetya, Program Director, Indonesia Ocean Justice Initiative

“As the world's second-largest fish producer and one of the largest countries of origin of migrant fishers globally, Indonesia is uniquely positioned to drive systemic reform for migrant fishers’ protection throughout the supply chain.”

“IOJI’s work with Seafood Legacy is in line with our commitment to promoting national regulations that close existing protection gaps and negotiate bilateral labor migration agreements that bind flag states to enforceable labor commitments.”

About the Memorandum of Understanding

Parties: Seafood Legacy Co., Ltd. and Indonesia Ocean Justice Initiative
Date signed: Oct, 23rd, 2026
Areas of cooperation: Research and legal analysis; knowledge exchange and market engagement; capacity building; policy dialogue; seminars, roundtables and other events; and dissemination of research and policy findings.

About Indonesia Ocean Justice Initiative

Indonesia Ocean Justice Initiative (IOJI) is a think tank and policy advocacy group that promotes sound, sustainable, and equitable ocean governance. We aim to support Indonesia, as a large ocean nation with valuable marine and fisheries assets and ecosystem

services, by influencing policies and advocating issues related to the ocean's sustainability and justice.

Website: https://oceanjusticeinitiative.org

About Seafood Legacy Co., Ltd.

Seafood Legacy is a social enterprise with the aim of passing on an abundance of seafood, a symbol of the connections between marine ecosystems, economy, and society, to the next generation (legacy).
As a pioneer in the sustainability of Japan's fisheries sector, we are working to drive 'market transformation' in East Asia through collaboration with fisheries distribution companies, financial institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), and government bodies, utilizing our extensive global network and specialist expertise.

Company: Seafood Legacy Co., Ltd.
Founder / CEO: Wakao Hanaoka
Established: July 7, 2015
Head Office: CIRCLES Shiodome 7F, 2-9-1 Higashi-Shimbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0021, Japan
Website: https://seafoodlegacy.com/

Contact Information

Indonesia Ocean Justice Initiative
Communications Manager

Waraney Rawung: waraneyhr@oceanjusticeinitiative.org

Seafood Legacy Co., Ltd.
Communication & Branding Team
Yukino Tomizuka: yukino.tomizuka@seafoodlegacy.com
Mariko Arikawa: mariko.arikawa@seafoodlegacy.com