



CAN-042-International Reef Symposium- World's Oceans

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Experts from 97 Nations Gather in Hawaii for 13th International Coral Reef Symposium

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The way coral reefs are dying around the world, experts have alarmed about the urgent need to save these diverse underwater ecosystems. With an aim to halt the death of reefs, experts from different regions of the globe are gathering in Hawaii this week to attend the 13th International Coral Reef Symposium. The meeting is held every four years.

About 2,500 experts taking part in the event are policymakers, coral reef researchers and stakeholders. The

attendees are from 97 countries. They will discuss coral science and how dying reefs around the world could be saved.

During the week-long event, which is being hosted in Hawaii for the first time, the attendees will have discussions on climate change, current status of coral reefs, coastal pollution, community-based management and Marine Protected Areas.

The expert group includes Robert Richmond, director of UH Manoa's Kewalo Marine Laboratory. Richmond said people understand the importance of coral reefs, but they don't know what is happening to these ecosystems. It happens because they don't get into water every day and don't see these things daily, Richmond added.



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"We've got to do better at retaining water on land and do better action on land because that's really where coral protection start", Richmond said in a statement.

The main objective of 13th International Coral Reef Symposium is to come up with policies that could be used to make unified coral reef conservation plan. Ruth Gates of Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology said it is important to translate the urgency. Gates, president of the International Society for Reef Studies, has helped in organizing this year's event. According to Gates, experts have to understand that there's an urgent need of making plan to save reefs and how human activities are affecting health of these reefs.

"We all should realize that there is a problem with our oceans and should be addressed globally, it's our ocean to save.....Executive Director WFCRC

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The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing"....Edmund Burke