

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)**  
**ESSAY COMPETITION 2024**

**PART ONE: GENERAL**

1. **The IONS Essay Competition** is conducted annually.
2. **Eligibility:** The competition is open to all uniformed and civilian members of IONS member and observer Navies, regardless of rank/seniority. For member and observer countries to IONS that do not have a formally constituted ‘Navy’, the term ‘Navy’ means the principal agency responsible for maritime security.
3. **Conducting Authority:** The Conducting Authority for the 2024 Competition will be the chairman of IONS, Admiral ADOONG PAN-IAM, the Commander in Chief of the Royal Thai Navy.

**Guidelines and Rules**

4. **Security Classification:** The content of each essay is to be **UNCLASSIFIED**.
5. **Pseudonym:**
  - a. In order to preclude any apprehension of bias, the competitor’s name, rank and nationality are **not** to appear on their essay; instead, a pseudonym of the author’s choice is to be used.
  - b. The essay is **not** to contain any reference or indication of the author’s name, rank or nationality.
  - c. **Only** the pseudonym is to appear on the top of the first page of the essay.
6. **Author’s Certificate.** A signed Author’s Certificate is to be submitted with each essay (proforma enclosed).
7. **Language.** Essays are to be submitted in **ENGLISH**.
8. **Format/Length.** Each essay is to be prepared on A4 or letter sized paper with a line spacing of 1.5, using Microsoft Word in Times New Roman font 12; and is to be between 5,000 – 6,000 words.
9. **Acknowledgements and References.** Entrants are to ensure that full acknowledgement to source material is provided by way of footnotes and a comprehensive bibliography, using accepted layout and standard referencing systems, which cite the authors, title, publishers, locations, dates and pages of any books, articles or other texts from which the material is derived.

**Judging of Entries**

10. **Judging Authorities.** The Royal Thai Navy IONS Secretariat (Agenda Committee) reserves absolute authority in regard to the judgment of this essay competition. The Secretariat will form an independent panel consisting of scholars and professionals to assess the papers.
11. **Judging Criteria.** Essays will be judged against the following criteria:
  - a. Originality 10%
  - b. Logical structuring 20%
  - c. Grammar and Linguistics 20%
  - d. Task Response 40%
  - e. Quotation, References and Bibliography 10%

**Penalties**

12. **Plagiarism.** Detection of any level of plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification from the competition and will be advised to the appropriate authority.
13. **Length.** A penalty of 10% will be applied to essays not conforming to the specified lengths.

### **Prizes**

14. The Conducting Authority reserves the right not to award prizes if essays are assessed as not being to a suitable standard. For papers satisfying the rules of the competition, the following prizes will be awarded to the three best essays, provided there are at least three entries; otherwise, the quantum of the prize will be reduced according to the following information:

<b>Number of Entries</b>	<b>First Prize</b>	<b>Second Prize</b>	<b>Third Prize</b>
1	USD 200		
2	USD 300	USD 150	
3	USD 350	USD 200	USD 50
4	USD 400	USD 250	USD 100
5 (or more)	USD 500	USD 300	USD 150

### **Copyright**

15. Once submitted, essay copyright will automatically transfer to the Conducting Authority.

16. **Prize-winning Essays.** The copyright of all prize-winning essays will remain with the Conducting Authority.

17. **Non Prize-winning Essays.** Once Conducting Authority has announced/promulgated the list of prize-winning essays, the copyright of essays not selected for prizes will automatically transfer back to the respective authors.

### **Dissemination of Prize-winning Essays**

18. The Conducting Authority will circulate the prize-winning essays to all IONS members and observers, by email and by posting them on the IONS website.

19. Any journal or magazine - other than those produced and/or published by the IONS Secretariat - that wishes to publish any given prize-winning essay is to seek written permission from the Conducting Authority.

## **PART TWO: GUIDELINES SPECIFIC FOR IONS ESSAY COMPETITION 2023**

### **Topic**

20. The topic for the 2024 Essay Competition is: “Blue Economy: Ways Forward for Sustainable Development of IONS Member states”. The Essay should address “Cooperation on HADR: Providing Assistance, Protection and Preservation of Maritime Environment in IOR”

### **Submission of Essays**

21. Entries to the 2024 competition should be submitted electronically in both PDF and Word document versions along with the Author’s Certificate and are to be emailed to the Royal Thai Navy IONS Secretariat via these two email address ([ions.thailand@gmail.com](mailto:ions.thailand@gmail.com) and [ions2023th@navy.mi.th](mailto:ions2023th@navy.mi.th)), with ‘IONS Essay Competition 2024’ in the email subject line.

### **Last Date for Submission**

22. Entries must be received by the IONS Secretariat by 31 July 2025. Essays received after this date will not be considered for the competition.

### **Results**

23. The winners would be announced and awarded at IONS Symposium.

**AUTHOR'S TESTIMONY**

**I hereby testify:**

.....✓.... I have never used any confidential information and resources in the writing process.

.....✓.... I have studied the rules of the competitions and understood them; and I am well aware of them.

.....✓.... I accept that the verdict of the IONS Secretariat should be considered as the final decision and there is no discussion in this regard.

**Sign:**

**Name and Rank:**

**Navy:**

**Pen Name:**

**Postal Address:**

**Contact Details:**

**E-mail Address:**

## AUTHOR/AUTHORS' PERSONAL PROFILE FORM

### Author 1:

**Name:**

**Surname:**

**Rank:**

**Degree:**

**Cell phone number:**

**Telephone:**

**E-mail:**

**Summary of the service records:**

### Author 2:

**Name:**

**Surname:**

**Rank:**

**Degree:**

**Cell phone number:**

**Telephone:**

**E-mail:**

**Summary of the service records:**