



Amir A. Dossal,
Executive Director , UN Office for Partnerships
Co-Chair, BioMarine

Welcome,

The oceans with their implication for human survival are of enormous importance. The need to address issues such as climate change, marine biodiversity, energy, nutrition or transport is of special relevance to the future of the oceans. Therefore, *BioMarine's* goal to unite various actors to take joint action to conserve and protect the marine environment is a very valuable approach.

With its chosen topics, *BioMarine* affirms its proactive leadership role in stimulating the appropriate contribution of marine research to deal with global issues such as climate change. Experience has shown that working together is not only the best solution, but often the only way to make real difference. *BioMarine's* unique three-dimensional approach of mobilizing society at large, science and industry with the aim of fostering open debate and exchange is a fine example of creative solutions - which the Office for Partnerships strongly promotes.

The UN Office for Partnerships welcomes the innovative themes of *BioMarine* and looks forward to be involved as a strategic partner in the programme elaboration of *The World Oceans Forum* and to further assist *BioMarine* in partnership building.

About Amir A. Dossal, Executive Director, UN Office for Partnerships

Amir Dossal is the United Nations representative for public/private partnerships. He creates strategic alliances with corporations, foundations and philanthropists to achieve the goals of the UN.

Amir is the UN's Chief Liaison for Ted Turner's donation to UN causes. Working closely with the UN Foundation, he has facilitated over 450 programmes in the areas of child health, population and women, climate change and biodiversity. This portfolio of over \$1 billion also includes "investments" of over \$550 million from other donors.

Amir also oversees the UN Democracy Fund, established in 2005, to strengthen democratic institutions and enhance democratic governance in new or restored democracies.