

## **Why should journalists care?**

By Aghan Daniel, Secretary, MESHHA

I am here to pay tribute to journalists who work under very difficult conditions to report scientific issues under very difficult circumstances.

Journalists can help in the cause of disseminating knowledge generated to find solutions that benefit marine ecosystems and people. This is because these issues are inter connected. It is that interconnectedness that concern us.

The current type of reporting in Kenya has largely grown/improved towards reporting issues that help the cause of mankind, to report about things which impact positively in the lives of the people.

When we talk about Blue Economy – why the discussion in the first place? What are the politics surrounding these issues?

Perhaps we have seen too many vision statements, but do they work? Are they just corporate in nature? What is the interest of the WB in all these?

Blue economy: For whose benefit? Aspects touching on exploitation of the marine ecosystem also touch on issues of conflict and its resolutions. As journalists therefore, our interest will be to avert likely conflicts and misunderstanding, resource misuse, allocation which should result in a win-win situation.

So the journalists are interested in policy matters at a time that nutrition is being given the visibility it deserves and interrogation of blue economy in the context of nutrition should not be given a back seat. This moves in tandem and in sync with issues of food security.

To warn the people of the consequences of their actions? To draw the attention of the government of what ought to be done in dire and specific situations. To expose neglect, to influence the allocation of resources to support blue economy to touch people's lives.

Editors and journalists neglect this area. So we need an inspired team of journalists who could give visibility – continuously for that matter on these issues. Perhaps the ocean is very vast hence in the minds of those who relate daily with the marine resources, they are inexhaustible – is it because of the neglect by the local/county governments and the central government that might be invoked to this apathy about the blue economy?

I once worked for persons with disabilities and guess what, when I joined we used to battle with the tag of the invisible people. Are issues of blue economy invisible/neglected issues/matters?

As I end, I hereby challenge organisations such as World Bank and others who work on blue economy issues to set aside adequate funding to support journalists field visits to file stories on marine life etc.