

Preface: In Deep Blue We Trust
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We, humans, are used to living on land; more often than not, we overlook these facts — around 70% of our body is made of water, nearly 71% of the Earth's surface is covered by seawater, and the earliest life form of this planet came from the primitive ocean 3.5 billion years ago.

In front of the ocean, we are small, immature, helpless and yet arrogant.

Gravity causes tides; temperature difference drives currents, which brings us food, passage and faith. With the mighty power of the ocean, we are allowed to kiss new lands, grasp the shape of the world, and rebuild our understanding of the evolutionary tree. This deep blue shelters myriad forms of life and encompasses immense hidden treasures, tempting monarchs and overlords who regarded conquering the ocean as their highest glory.

It was only 50 years ago that we have first stepped on another planet. While looking at our planet from a new perspective, we realized how vulnerable it is, and how we are connected with this vast piece of blue. Today, half a century later, as we are gloating over our epoch-making achievements in material and technology, we have, whether intentionally or not, ignored all the indelible damage we have made to the ocean.

Take Lingding Channel, the deep-water passage close to my hometown, as an example. In the past 40 years, its sea level has been rising consistently. In their natural state, coastlines both advance and retreat, but in reality, the shorelines, most of which are artificial coastlines (which have also caused the rapid shortening of the mud coast and the organic coast), have been eroding into the sea. All these changes are closely related to our economic related construction projects.

This is only one small example of harm we have done to the ocean.

The once pure ocean blue is now polluted from the surface to its depth, and the living creatures within it are struggling, caused by the greenhouse effect, oil spills, plastic waste, overfishing, etc. The planet we rely on becomes filthy, bleak, and on the verge of breaking.

At this year's Summer Davos Forum, I experienced how powerful the ocean is. A set of interactive programs based on the global warming data reveals when the average global ocean temperature rises by only 2 °C, Shanghai, where this exhibition is held, will be completely submerged into a real Atlantis.

Who can guarantee that this sci-fi-movie like doomsday will never come?

We must make the choice now — keep running wild and blindfolded on this unsustainable path, or stop to think, and regain our faith in the deep blue ocean.

Tara has given us its answer.



Since 2003, Tara, the research schooner, has traveled more than 450,000 kilometers, making stopovers in more than 60 countries during 11 major expeditions. Tara has already been widely recognized in the ocean expedition circle.

Tara's research includes ice floes in the Arctic and the Antarctic, global plankton surveys, the plastic pollution in oceans, and coral's adaptability to climate change, aiming to increase global awareness and concern for the marine ecosystem and to protect this common wealth.

Therefore, through this tribute to Tara, we bring not only the beauty of the ocean in various forms and dimensions, but also global attention to marine ecological issues. In the hopes of giving the audience a fresh perspective on the environment and their surroundings, five talented artists from different cultural backgrounds have shown us their contemplations and explorations of the ocean in various medium and techniques.

Together we dive into the Deep Blue. And in Deep Blue, we trust.