



The Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary: A Call for Our Collective Survival with the Largest Marine Protected Area in History

*A conference on ‘The Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary’ will be conducted by SAMDeS India on 4th February 2022 from 5:00 to 6:15 PM. It will be addressed by **Dr. Karen Ho & Dr. Rina Barouch-Bentov, PhD.** of Parvati Foundation.*

A snapshot of the conference:

There are 7.8 billion people and 8.7 million species which need a peaceful, healthy world—one where we can live in safety and access the food and resources we need to survive. But all of that depends on the Arctic Ocean. For millions of years, the Arctic Ocean has been our planet's air conditioning system. It regulates the atmospheric currents, ocean currents, and weather patterns that sustain our lives. But it has changed drastically in the past decades. Today, there is 75% less Arctic sea ice in the summer than there was just 50 years ago. As a result, the world's weather patterns have become unstable with greater floods, fires, droughts, and other natural disasters—leading to displacement, unrest, and water and hunger crises. At the same time, military and commercial interests are taking advantage of the Arctic Ocean in its vulnerable state and doing even more damage. This is an under-reported global emergency.

In this virtual presentation, attendees will learn about the current dire state of Arctic Ocean exploitation and militarization, and the global consequences—as well as the singular opportunity presented by the Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary (MAPS). As the largest marine preserve in history, MAPS is a critical and urgently needed response. Through evocative visuals, this presentation tells the story of the origin of MAPS, its vision for a peaceful Arctic Ocean and a healthy planet, and our human capacity to change.

The audience is encouraged to engage enthusiastically through discussions, Q&A rounds, and a strong call to action to protect the Arctic Ocean as our shared heritage.

About the Speakers:

Karen Ho, is the Alliance Coordinator Co-Lead for Parvati Foundation. Karen obtained her medical degree and completed residency training in neurology at Queen's University School of Medicine in Canada where she was recognized for service to neurology resident education. She is in private practice, while still taking an active role in teaching and mentorship with medical residents. She brings her strong intellectual insight, deep understanding of the human condition and dedication to serve the health of humanity to her role as Parvati Foundation's Alliance Coordinator and Treaty Lead. She draws upon experience in advocacy for patient wellbeing to advocating for the health of our planet. She has served on the Canadian Board of Directors for the Foundation and was previously a member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. From mentoring youth volunteers to engaging policymakers at the United Nations, she is deeply committed to activating all sectors to champion the realization of MAPS.

Rina Barouch-Bentov is the Alliance Coordinator Co-Lead for Parvati Foundation. Rina obtained degrees in Biology with Psychology and a PhD degree in Immunology from Bar Ilan University (Israel). Over the last 20 years she has worked in academic and research institutions in Israel and the US, and currently serves as a consultant scientist. Her core values in education, scientific research, and community service are focused on interconnectivity. She pursues this approach in her scientific work that includes exploring the interconnection among systems within the human body. Her love and appreciation for the harmony of humans and nature on our planet combined with her commitment to finding solutions motivated Rina to volunteer for Parvati Foundation. She brings her passion and Experience as a scientist in support of the Foundation and in particular, to scientific research for MAPS and increasing awareness throughout the larger community.