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**SEA LEVELS ARE RISING—WHAT ARE PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD DOING TO PREPARE? AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC FEATURES EXHIBITION AND PROGRAMS THAT EXAMINE READINESS AND ADAPTABILITY**

**Photography Exhibition *Sink or Swim: Designing for a Sea Change*  
Open Now Through September 15, 2015**

**Long Beach, CA**—As part of its commitment to communicate ocean and climate science to diverse audiences, the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California, is featuring *Sink or Swim: Designing for a Sea Change*, an exhibition organized by the Annenberg Space for Photography in Los Angeles. The exhibition, guest curated for the Photography Space by Frances Anderton, architecture writer and host of KCRW's *DnA: Design and Architecture* program, examines housing and infrastructure responses to rising seas, coastal flooding, and increasingly powerful storm surges tied to global climate change. *Sink or Swim* opened to the public on June 1 at the Aquarium and will be on view in the Great Hall through September 15, 2015.

"We are thrilled to bring *Sink or Swim* to the Aquarium and engage visitors in new ways with the vital issues at the heart of the exhibition and related Aquarium programs," said Dr. Jerry Schubel, Aquarium of the Pacific president. "Climate experts predict that sea levels could rise by 3 feet or more by the end of this century. We must protect people and coastal infrastructure around the world by adapting to and mitigating the impacts of flooding from coastal storms and inundation by higher seas. *Sink or Swim* looks at real world examples of how this can be done."

The exhibition includes images from renowned photographers around the world examining the ways people are responding to sea level rise, from building complex systems of sea walls and dikes in the Netherlands to constructing floating schoolhouses in Nigeria. Other featured projects include housing and school facilities built out of paper tubes and shipping containers in Japan after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and flood-resistant housing in New Orleans built after Hurricane Katrina. Contributing photojournalists and fine art photographers include Iwan Baan, Stephen Wilkes, Jonas Bendiksen, and Paula Bronstein. The primary focus of the exhibit is the architectural and urban planning innovations being used to adapt to higher seas, as well as the human stories behind these solutions.

"*Sink or Swim* looks at climate change and architecture through the lives of those directly impacted by coastal flooding. The images' stories of devastation and resilience engage viewers and help foster dialogue about a crucial environmental issue," said Patricia Lanza, Director of Talent & Content for the Annenberg Space for Photography. "We look forward to the continuation of this dialogue through the exhibition's presentation at the Aquarium."

The Aquarium's presentation of *Sink or Swim* will be complemented by sea level rise and extreme weather programming, including daily showings of the Aquarium's *Rising Sea* and *Extreme Weather* shows for NOAA's Science on a Sphere®, and a series of lectures by sea level rise experts Dan Cayan on June 24 and Reinhart Flick on July 1.

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### **About the Aquarium**

The Aquarium of the Pacific, a nonprofit institution, is dedicated to conserving nature and its resources by building interactions among people and is home to more than 11,000 animals. Beyond its exhibits, the Aquarium offers educational programs for people of all ages, from hands-on activities to lectures by leading scientists. It is a community gathering place where diverse cultures and the arts are celebrated and important topics facing our planet and our ocean are explored by scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders in the search for sustainable solutions. For more information, visit [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org) or call 562-590-3100.



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### **About the Annenberg Space for Photography**

The Annenberg Space for Photography is a cultural destination dedicated to exhibiting photography. The intimate environment features state-of-the-art, high-definition digital technology as well as traditional prints by both world-renowned and emerging photographers. It is the first solely photographic cultural destination in the Los Angeles area. The Photography Space serves as an expression of the philanthropic work of the Annenberg Foundation and its Directors.