

Global Maritime Forum

Shared seas, shifting horizons

Annual Summit 2026–Shanghai

The programme is still under development and subject to change. Last updated on 28 September 2026.

Wednesday, 21 October:

12:00-14:00	Arrival lunch and registration
14:00-15:15	<i>Plenary session</i> Shared seas, shifting horizons The Annual Summit takes place at a pivotal moment for global trade. The maritime sector is grappling with the far-reaching, often violent implications of a shifting geopolitical landscape and macroeconomic uncertainty that challenge its ability to safely maintain the lifelines that deliver food, energy, and essential goods to the global market. Welcome remarks • Jan Dieleman, President, Cargill Ocean Transportation Opening session • Representative, Shanghai Municipal Government • Representative, Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China • Beiping Chu, President, Shanghai Maritime University Introduction to the process and way of working by the Annual Summit Moderator • Chen Wu, Former Managing Director, The Economist Business Review
15:15-16:00	<i>Plenary session</i> The state of the sector with IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez Few are as qualified to speak about the state of the shipping sector in times of rupture as International Maritime Organization Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez. In a wide-ranging session, Dominguez will touch on the IMO's efforts to address the risks with false and fraudulent flags that currently jeopardise safety at sea, with the pending decision on the IMO's Net-Zero Framework, and on how to equip the maritime workforce for the future. • Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization • Johannah Christensen, Chief Executive Officer, Global Maritime Forum
16:00-16:30	Coffee and tea break
16:30-17:30	<i>Breakout groups</i> Learning sessions

Parallel sessions exploring urgent questions and new ideas

Topics include:

- **Trading in conflicted waters:** Examine how the Strait of Hormuz closure and threats of attack in the Red Sea are disrupting supply chains and threatening seafarer safety, and discuss how to improve maritime resilience in conflict zones.
 - **Farid Belbouab**, Chief Executive Officer, GulfTainer Group
- **Lessons from the energy shock:** Explore how learnings from the energy security vulnerabilities exposed by the Hormuz crisis and the Ukraine war can improve future resilience through fuel diversification and policy frameworks.
 - **Adair Turner**, Co-Chair, Energy Transitions Commission
- **Addressing gaps in maritime governance:** Join the new maritime governance task force to discuss critical gaps in existing international frameworks. Learn how the industry can address freedom of navigation, deceptive practices, and substandard shipping.
 - **Michael Parker**, Chairman of Global Shipping & Logistics, Citi
 - **John Rowley**, Chief Executive Officer, Wallem Group
- **Advances in battery technology:** Discover the latest breakthroughs in marine battery technology and explore the potential and limits of battery-electric propulsion in the sector's energy transition.
 - **Shane Lyu**, Overseas General Manager, Electric Vessel division (CAEV), CATL
- **Fuel production in China*:** Learn how China is winning the global green fuel race by becoming the world's biggest developer of green methanol and one of the top developers of green ammonia. What lessons can be drawn from China's initial wave of projects, and what are the remaining bottlenecks?
- **China's five-year plan and what it means for shipping:** Understand China's 15th five-year plan and its direct implications on global seaborne trade, from reduced commodity imports and manufactured exports to the impacts of China's minerals and rare earths strategy.
 - **Kejun Jiang**, Professor, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- **Leading the workforce of tomorrow:** How can maritime companies establish trust, foster motivation, and help younger workers build their careers? Explore which leadership practices will need to evolve for the sector to attract the next generation of talent and thrive well into the future.
 - **Ray Chow**, Managing Partner, Adaptive Leaders
- **Governing artificial intelligence in a changing world:** Artificial intelligence is developing at an extraordinary pace, with far-reaching implications that raise serious questions for leaders across industries. Discuss how governments, businesses, and international institutions can approach AI amid rapid innovation and growing geopolitical complexity.
 - **Qian Xiao**, Vice Dean, Institute for AI International Governance (I-AIG), Tsinghua University

17:30-18:30	<i>Plenary session</i> Green shipping corridors: How China is re-energising the global movement In conjunction with the release of a Global Maritime Forum report on green shipping corridors in China, participants will learn how China's actions are helping to spur first-mover initiatives both domestically and internationally. The session will also look at the current state of the global green corridor movement and how these dedicated trading routes can lead where regulation has yet to follow. • Gonzalo Muñoz, Co-founder, Ambition Loop • Xiaodong Song, President, Shanghai International Port (Group) Co., Ltd.
18:30-21:30	Summit Dinner
21:30-23:00	Nightcap

Thursday, 22 October:

8:30-09:00	Arrival and networking
09:00-10:15	<i>Plenary session</i> Welcome and special session Reflections on leadership.
10:15-10:45	Networking break
10:45-12:15	<i>Breakout groups</i> Setting the course toward a resilient maritime sector (Round I) Parallel sessions will dive into the key challenges and opportunities facing the maritime industry and seek potential ways to address them through collective action and leadership. The themes are: Trade in a time of rupture The rules-based order that shipping has long depended on is under extreme pressure, while the same geopolitical forces reshaping the global order have also reached the IMO. Regional wars are directly impacting shipping, closing key trade lanes and putting vessels and crew in the line of fire, and disrupting energy markets. An expanding segment of substandard shipping is exposing gaps in existing governance structures, while trade wars and tariffs have created an undercurrent of market uncertainty. Moderated by Alex Gregg-Smith , President, Marine & Offshore, Bureau Veritas Panellists: • Dan Wang, Director, China, Eurasia Group • Paul Jennings, Managing Director, NorthStandard Topics: • AI, accountability, and competitive advantage ◦ Pontus Berg, Chief Operating Officer, Vitol International Shipping*

*Speaker to be confirmed

- Multilateralism under pressure
 - **Hing Chao**, Executive Chairman, Wah Kwong Maritime Transport
- Energy security and shipping's energy transition
 - **Julian Proctor**, Co-founder, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member, Purus
- Operating through chronic conflict
 - **Line Dahle**, Executive Vice President, Industry Impact, Gard
- Governance gaps and a parallel fleet
 - **Brian Adrian Wessel**, Director General, Danish Maritime Authority
- Seafarers on the frontline of rupture
 - **Jan de Beurme**, Chief of Staff, CMB.TECH

Leading by example

In a time of political uncertainty and inertia, leading by example is essential to drive change and put the maritime sector on a path to resilience, prosperity, and sustainability. Industry leadership, as well as public-private collaborations, individual states, and coalitions of the willing must help fill the void and forge progress.

Moderated by **Ingrid Irigoyen**, Managing Director, Center for Green Market Activation

Panellists:

- **Changhua Wu**, President, Global Climate Academy
- **Eugenio Figueiredo**, Chief Executive Officer, Port of Açú
- **Päivi Antikainen**, Maritime Director, Deputy Director General, Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications

Topics:

- From knowing more to doing better
 - **Paul Taylor**, Global Head of Maritimes Industries, Societe Generale
- Scaling zero-emission shipping
 - **Morten Pilnov**, Executive Director, Shipping, Exmar
- The power of collective action
 - **Peter Lye**, Executive Head of Shipping, Anglo American
- Taking the long view: Investing through uncertainty
 - **Alisa Kreynes**, Director Ports and Shipping, C40 Cities
- The race to build new fuel markets*
- AI at sea: Enhancing capability, preserving expertise
 - **Anshul Tuteja**, Vice President, Energy Strategy and Decarbonization, Norwegian Cruise Line

Equipping the sector for the future

Maritime trade faces a convergence of pressures, including technological disruption from zero-emission fuels and AI, an evolving policy landscape, and growing tensions between freedom of navigation and coastal states' need to protect their environments and populations. Preparing for this future means planning across multiple scenarios, identifying and managing risks, upgrading infrastructure, and upskilling maritime professionals while ensuring safe working conditions.

Moderated by **Christine Loh**, Chief Development Strategist, Institute for the Environment, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

	Panellists: • Jeremy Sutton, Chief Executive Officer, Swire Shipping • Michał Kurtyka, Distinguished fellow, Atlantic Council Global Energy Center Topics: • Pathways forward for shipping decarbonisation regulation ◦ Kamal-Deen Ali, Director General, Ghana Maritime Authority • AI-enabled transition ◦ Lora Jakobsen, Chief Sustainability Officer, ZeroNorth • The future of maritime governance ◦ Andrea Olivi, Global Head of Shipping, Trafigura • Places of refuge: contingency planning for ships in distress ◦ Randy Chen, Vice Chairman, Wan Hai Lines • Assessing the commercial, societal, and market readiness of technologies ◦ Nick Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Lloyd's Register • Scaling up the fuels: Lessons from China and the implications of regional differences in the scale and speed of the transition ◦ Ting Li, Managing Director China, RMI
12:15-13:15	Lunch
13:30-14:15	<i>Plenary session</i> How to lead in an age of disruption How can the sector's leaders remain focused on the big picture at a moment of profound geopolitical and economic change? • Isabelle Rickmers, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Turtle • Randy Chen, Vice Chairman, Wan Hai Lines
14:15-15:30	<i>Breakout groups</i> Setting the course toward a resilient maritime sector (Round II)
15:30-16:00	Networking break
16:00-17:00	<i>Plenary session</i> Closing plenary: Moving forward, together Cover the concrete outcomes of the previous two days and chart a clear course forward for global seaborne trade.
17:00	Closing reception

*Speaker to be confirmed