

2026 Marine Foresight Conference

22nd September

Indigo Ningbo Riverside Hotel

Ningbo



DAY 1: 22nd September

9:00	Introduction and Welcome Remarks 1. Admin Authority 2. IMarEST Representative 3. Ningbo Municipal Government Representative
09:20	Ocean Decade Vision and Global Marine Challenges This opening session establishes the strategic context for the Conference by examining the global challenges and opportunities facing the marine sector. Bridging the vision of the United Nations Ocean Decade with IMarEST's perspectives on marine industry challenges beyond 2030, participants will explore the scientific, environmental and technological drivers shaping the future transformation of marine industries. 1. Ocean Decade Recognition Moment 2. Speech – Inter-Government Organisation 3. Challenges in the Marine Industry: People, Environment & Technology 4. Ningbo's Commitment: Revealing of Ningbo International Port & Shipping Talent Innovation Hub
10:00	Understanding the Future: Science Shaping Marine Horizons Chair: Name
	The session aims to leverage forward-looking insights from the scientific community to help industry better understand the key shifts and potential technological breakthroughs that may shape the marine sector over the next 10 to 20 years. It seeks to foster deeper integration between scientific research and industrial needs, providing a foundation of knowledge and a source of innovation for the sustainable development of the marine industry. Ocean Science and Climate Reality Speaker: Professor Minhan Dai (TBC), <i>Fellow of China Academy of Sciences</i>, Xiamen University, China Marine Energy Solutions for Net Zero Speaker: Professor Deborah Greaves, FIMarEST, <i>Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering</i>, Oxford University, UK Intelligent Maritime Systems

	Speaker: VACANT
11:00	Break
Inventing the Future: Technology Response and the Marine Economy 2040 Chair: Name	
11:20	This session brings together 6 to 8 representatives from leading global companies and industry organizations to share insights on future development trends and innovative practices across key areas including smart oceans, renewable energy, intelligent ships, information security, green ports and shipping, and sustainable marine fisheries. Future Opportunity Statements from Industrial Leaders • Speaker 1: Shell Shipping & Maritime Technologies • Speaker 2: E.g. Kongsberg Group • Speaker 3: AI in Marine Domain Sector • Speaker 4: Lloyds Registration • Speaker 5: Maritime transport & maritime ports Sector • Speaker 6: Marine Fisheries Sector Blue Economy 2040 Outlook panel session
13:00	Lunch
Empowering the Future: Skills, Talent and Workforce for Marine Transformation Chair: Name	
14:00	This session explores the evolving skills landscape, talent development models, and career pathways needed to support the future marine industry. Representatives from accredited universities and professional learning providers will present insights into current approaches to education and training. The session will also highlight innovative initiatives, including marine professional reading clubs and European submarine competitions, that extend beyond traditional education pathways. Bringing together academia, industry organisations, and enterprises, it aims to foster a collaborative, forward-looking talent ecosystem to support the sector's long-term growth and transformation. Engineering Talent for the Age of Automation and AI Speaker: Redefining Marine Education: Learning and Assessment Beyond the Classroom • Marine Professional Reading Club • Submarine Racing Competition Lifelong Learning

	Speaker: Future Maritime Leadership Speaker: Launch of Future Maritime Talent Development Alliance (IMarEST & Chinese University Reps.)
	Marine Economy 2040: Opportunities for Ningbo Closed-Door Executive Dialogue (Invitation Only)
1400	This invitation-only executive roundtable is designed to provide a high-level and action-oriented platform for dialogue between international industry leaders and representatives from Ningbo's marine industries. Bringing together keynote speakers from the Technology Session and representatives of leading local enterprises and innovative SMEs, the roundtable will explore how global expertise, innovation resources and industry networks can be better connected with the development needs of Ningbo's marine economy. Participants will exchange insights on strengthening international partnerships, enhancing innovation capabilities, expanding global market access and improving industrial competitiveness. Speakers mainly from the technology session.
15:30	Break
Scaling the Future: Marine Innovation Hubs & Ecosystems Chair: Name	
16:00	This session brings together representatives from major marine innovation hubs and industry clusters across Europe, Asia, and China to share their experiences and approaches in advancing marine science, technology innovation, and industrial development. Round table format discussions will focus on key themes such as innovation platform development, international cooperation mechanisms, talent attraction, and industrial ecosystem building, with particular attention to how marine cities and port cities can develop internationally competitive innovation ecosystems. Proposed Hubs & Delegates • Turku - Consulate General of Finland in Shanghai • Hong Kong - HKJB/PolyU/TBS • Singapore - PIER71/TBS • Hamburg - Hamburg Liaison Office China • Shanghai - CSSC/Changxing • London - DBT/ UK Maritime Innovation Hub Talk About • What is your ocean economy strength? • What is your innovation model?

	What partnerships are you seeking?
17:15	Launch of Global Maritime Innovation Partnership Network
17:20	Closing Remarks:
17:30-	Break
1900	Network Reception
09:00 -17:00	Day 2: 23rd September Visiting Trip: Ningbo Port and Ningbo Marine Economy Development Demonstration Zone