Hong Kong Maritime Week 2026 opens to explore new development opportunities

Hong Kong Maritime Week opens to explore new development opportunities and promote Hong Kong's strengths as preferred destination for maritime business (with photos)



Hong Kong, Hong Kong S.A.R. Nov 23, 2026 (Issuewire.com**)** - The 10th anniversary edition of Hong Kong Maritime Week (HKMW) officially opened today (November 16). Under the theme "Trusted Resilience Powering Global Maritime Trade", the event brings together over 18 000 policymakers, key international maritime organisation leaders, business decision-makers, experts and industry leaders from around the world to jointly explore the latest development opportunities in the global maritime industry and promote Hong Kong's strengths as a preferred destination for maritime business.

Opening Ceremony and World Maritime Merchants Forum

The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, in his welcome address at the HKMW Opening Ceremony and World Maritime Merchants Forum this afternoon, said that the international maritime industry is undergoing an unprecedented period of transformation. Amid shifting geopolitical landscapes and supply chain restructuring, the global shipping sector needs certainty and strategic synergy more than ever before, and Hong Kong stands as a reliable "safe harbour" for the international maritime community.

He stressed that the future of maritime trade depends on keeping shipping lanes open, upholding international maritime law and standards, and promoting unhindered economic co-operation across East and West, North and South. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is working to steer Hong Kong's development into a pre-eminent global maritime hub, with primary emphasis on high value-added maritime services, building closer collaboration with sister cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, nurturing industry talent, contributing to the national "water-to-water transshipment" initiative, enhancing the "rail-sea-land-river" intermodal transport system, and developing a market-driven, globally oriented and diversified green fuel-trading platform.

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, Mr Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco, pointed out in his video address that Hong Kong is one of the world's key international maritime centres, supported by its advantages in port, ship registry, finance, insurance and legal services, among others. With the Hong Kong flag ranked among the top five globally by tonnage and backed by the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong's contributions and commitments to the future of the global maritime industry are highly relevant.

A series of important deliverables were announced at the Opening Ceremony, with the relevant signing ceremonies witnessed by Mr Lee, together with Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR Mr Zhang Yong and Vice Minister of Transport Mr Li Xinghu, underscoring Hong Kong's crucial dual role as a "super-connector" and "super value-adder" and the HKSAR Government's firm determination to develop Hong Kong into a global maritime capital. The deliverables include:

1. Signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hainan Yangpu Port to establish a partner port relationship for strengthening co-operation in the port and maritime sectors between Hainan and Hong Kong;
2. Signing an MOU with Zhanjiang, Guangdong, to jointly establish Hong Kong's first Green Energy Corridor;
3. Signing an MOU with the Port of Piraeus in Greece to jointly establish Hong Kong's first Green Shipping Corridor and a partner port relationship; and
4. Officially issuing the first protection and indemnity insurance policy of the Hong Kong Shipowners Mutual Assurance Association.

In her concluding remarks, the Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Ms Mable Chan, stated that the important deliverables announced today cover the promotion of international green and regional port and shipping development, as well as the enhancement of Hong Kong's influence in high value-added maritime services. These achievements fully leverage Hong Kong's unique advantages of connecting the Mainland and the world, yielding fruitful results. Guided by the National 15th Five-Year Plan and Hong Kong's First Five-Year Plan, Hong Kong is striving to drive a "volume to value" transformation of the Hong Kong Port and comprehensively developing into a global maritime capital, thereby enhancing Hong Kong's functions and status as an international maritime centre and contributing to the country's development into a maritime powerhouse.

Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Mr C Y Leung; the Chairman of China Merchants Group, Mr Miao Jianmin; Deputy Head of the Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR Mr Lin Jiandong; Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR Mr Li Yongsheng; and Deputy Administrator of the China Meteorological Administration Ms Hao Liping, also attended the Opening Ceremony and forum, at which Mr Leung and Mr Miao delivered speeches, and Mr Li Xinghu and Ms Hao gave keynote addresses.

Prior to the Opening Ceremony, the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB) also signed five MOUs with strategic industry partners at the Hong Kong Maritime Week 2026 X Asian Logistics, Maritime and Aviation Conference 2026 (ALMAC) VIP luncheon, co-hosted by the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Development Board (HKMPDB) and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), stepping up collaboration to foster the development of a market-driven, globally oriented, diversified and open green fuel trading platform.

Taking the opportunity of the HKMW, Ms Chan first met with Mr Li Xinghu this morning to keep him updated of Hong Kong's latest developments in transport and logistics, and accompanied the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, to meet with the delegation led by Mr Yang. In the afternoon, Ms Chan accompanied Mr Lee to meet with the Ambassador of Greece to the People's Republic of China, Dr Evgenios Kalpyris, and met with the Chairman of Shandong Port Group, Mr Gao Liping, to exchange views on issues of mutual concern.

Over 60 events including high-level international conferences and seminars to be held

The seven-day HKMW will present over 60 online and offline events organised by more than 80 local, Chinese Mainland and overseas maritime organisations, featuring an array of high-level international conferences and seminars. Among them, a number of important maritime and aviation-related deliverables will be unveiled tomorrow morning (November 17) at the Special Address Session of ALMAC. In the afternoon, the second HKMPDB Flagship Summit will take centre stage under the theme "Capital Meets Cargo: Financing the Future of Global Trade", bringing together global shipowners, financiers, insurers and legal experts to explore cutting-edge solutions across ship finance, commodity trading and marine insurance.

Furthermore, the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), the world's largest direct-membership organisation for shipping, is participating in HKMW for the first time. In partnership with the International Organization for Mediation, BIMCO will stage a dedicated seminar on Wednesday (November 18) addressing contractual developments in the era of green energy transition and maritime decarbonisation. This aligns with Hong Kong's policy objective to facilitate global maritime green transformation by fully leveraging its comprehensive and well-established high value-added maritime services cluster, particularly in maritime legal, risk management and dispute resolution. Other prominent international events this week include the third Hong Kong Global Maritime Trade Summit organised by the International Chamber of Shipping held this morning and the International Bunker Industry Association Hong Kong Forum on Alternative Marine Fuels to be held Thursday (November 19).

To enhance public understanding of Hong Kong's maritime industry, the TLB has partnered with Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) to produce a 10-episode promotional drama series titled "Navigating to the Future", showcasing the realities of maritime careers as well as industry innovations and dynamics. It demonstrates the Government's efforts, through policy initiatives and collaboration with the trade, to enhance the long-term competitiveness of Hong Kong's maritime sector. The first episode will premiere tonight at 7.25 pm on TVB Jade (Channel 81), with the remaining episodes broadcast on weekdays until November 27 across three TVB channels (Channels 81, 82, and 83).

This year's HKMW is co-ordinated by the TLB, organised by the HKMPDB, and co-organised by the Hong Kong Shipowners Association and the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, with the HKTDC and Invest Hong Kong as partners. The event is also supported by 19 prominent maritime associations and 26 maritime and mainstream media outlets. For activity schedules and further details, please visit the HKMW website (www.hkmw.hk) and the HKMPDB website (www.hkmpdb.gov.hk).








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