



**Hong Kong**

**Press Release**

**2024 International Shipping Forum  
brings together industry leaders to pursue green shipping**

**28 May 2024, Hong Kong** ---- The Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA)'s 2024 International Shipping Forum, held in Hong Kong, brought together industry leaders, regulators and stakeholders under the theme "**Asia Shipping, Greener Together**" to discuss critical issues in the shipping industry and seek collaboration on sustainable practices, including seafarer protection, green fuels, new technologies, training and development, and regulatory compliance.

The event was hosted by the Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) and sponsored by the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board.

The forum's programme featured welcome and keynote speeches from distinguished guests, including **Mr. Lam Sai-hung, GBS, JP**, Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Hong Kong SAR, **Mr. Arsenio Dominguez**, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, and **Mr. Guy Platten**, Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Shipping. Their addresses highlighted the global significance of greener shipping and the critical role of international cooperation in achieving sustainable practices.

In his welcome speech, **Mr. Lam Sai-hung, GBS, JP**, welcomed the ASA delegates and participants to this mega event in Hong Kong. In his welcome remarks, he said, "over the past decade, we have seen a significant shift in the centre of gravity of shipping towards Asia. From fleet ownership and cargo shipment to shipbuilding and maritime services, Asia is playing an indispensable role in the creation of a sustainable maritime industry and the world is watching. Hong Kong, Asia's World City, is already charting new waters for our current and future generations."

**Mr. Angad Banga**, president of the ASA and chairman of the HKSOA, emphasised in his opening speech the importance of collaboration, collective effort and innovative thinking to achieve their shared commitment to sustainability. Reducing greenhouse emissions requires a multifaceted approach, involving alternative fuels, energy-efficient technologies and innovative operational practices,” he said.

“By sharing knowledge, resources, and best practices, we can drive collective progress and innovation. Initiatives such as joint research and development projects, industry-wide collaboration, and cross-border partnerships will enable us to pool our expertise and accelerate the adoption of sustainable solutions,” said Mr Banga.

“Our focus must remain on embracing innovative solutions and pragmatic approaches,” he added. “The development of advanced, zero-emission vessels and the integration of digital technologies to optimize maritime operations are critical steps forward. We must also continue to support research and development in alternative fuels, such as hydrogen and ammonia, which hold great promise for our industry's future.”

In his keynote speech, **Mr. Arsenio Dominguez**, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, said, “Shipping is undergoing a major transformation to meet the decarbonisation goals established in the 2023 IMO greenhouse gas reduction strategy. For an industry that transports more than 80% of global trade to people all over the world, it is imperative that we focus on global regulations for a global industry.”

“Participating at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Asian Shipowners’ Association AGM here in Hong Kong, a well-established and renowned world maritime hub, provides an opportunity to exchange views on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the maritime sector at the regional and global level,” added Mr. Dominguez.

In his keynote speech, **Mr Guy Platten**, Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Shipping emphasised the importance of governments around the world denouncing attacks on seafarers and taking action to protect them against attacks on shipping. “We need to re-define the social contract between seafarers and employers. Seafarers must not be seen as commodities; we must work with them to create a work environment that is safe, equitable and understanding. This will help shipping recruit and retain its workforce,” he added.

Mr Platten pointed out that that meeting the decarbonisation target of net zero by 2050 would require three key elements: (1) wide availability of low and zero carbon fuels at competitive prices, (2) infrastructure at ports to handle these fuels, and (3), a workforce trained to use them.

He commended the Hong Kong SAR Government for its 'Action Plan on Modern Logistics Development', unveiled in December 2023, for its "strategies to build a green and smart port, its strengthening of high value-added maritime services and its encouragement of the industry to adopt more sustainable shipping practices" and for its commitment to study "the feasibility of providing green methanol and other clean energy refuelling facilities for both local and ocean-going vessels."

The programme also included engaging panel discussions that delved into key focus areas. Panellists included industry leaders and experts who explored the topics "**Asia Shipping, Greener Together in Fuels, Technologies, Training and Development**" and "**Asia Shipping, Greener Together in Regulation and Compliance**".

During the panel discussions, Prof. Christine Loh, Director of the Global Maritime Forum and Ms. Tabitha Logan, Founder of the Young Professionals in Shipping Network, served as moderators and facilitated insightful conversations among the panellists. The discussions highlighted the importance of collaboration, innovation, and the adoption of sustainable solutions to address environmental challenges in the maritime industry.

In the first panel discussion, "Asia Shipping, Greener Together in Fuels, Technologies, Training & Development", panel members included **Mr Tim Huxley**, Chairman, Mandarin Shipping Ltd, **Capt Lothair Lam**, Deputy General Manager, HK Ming Wah Shipping Co Ltd, **Mr Xie Yu**, Council Member, Active Shipbuilding Experts' Federation, and **Mr Zhou Lu**, Senior Surveyor, China Classification Society.

In the second panel discussion, "Asia Shipping, Greener Together in Regulation and Compliance", panel members included **Mr Martin Cresswell**, Former Chairman, Marine Committee, International Chamber of Shipping, **Mr Arun Sharma**, Executive Chairman, Indian Register of Shipping, **Mr Keiji Tsuchiya**, Vice President, Japanese Shipowners' Association, and **Mr Wei Zhuang**, Head of Asia-Pacific, BIMCO.

Throughout the forum, the participants actively exchanged ideas, shared best practices, and explored opportunities for future collaboration. The event served as a platform to foster partnerships and drive collective progress towards a greener and more sustainable maritime industry in Asia and beyond.

Concluding the successful forum was a gala dinner, titled 'Night Vibes Hong Kong', attended by over 600 ASA delegates, HKSOA members and guests from around the world.

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