



For Immediate Release

**Launch of the Maritime Talent Cultivation Alliance:
A New Era in Maritime Education and Industry Integration**

(19 November, 2025, Hong Kong) Today, the Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) is proud to announce the official launch of the Maritime Talent Cultivation Alliance (the Alliance), a groundbreaking initiative aimed at advancing the integration of maritime education and industry. The launch took place on 19 November 2025, during the Greater Bay Maritime Forum, also hosted by the HKSOA, as part of Hong Kong Maritime Week.

The Alliance represents a collaborative effort between the HKSOA, various tertiary institutions, and industry stakeholders to strengthen connections between academic learning and practical industry needs. This initiative aims to cultivate a new generation of maritime professionals equipped with the skills necessary to navigate the evolving challenges of sustainability, digitalisation and global collaboration.

“The Alliance is a bold step forward in building a resilient, future-ready workforce,” said HKSOA Chairman Mr Angad Banga, JP. “By connecting education with industry, and theory with practice, the Alliance aims to equip the next generation with the skills needed in sustainability, digitalisation and collaboration across the entire maritime value chain. Hong Kong’s unique ability to convene partners from academia, industry and the research sector makes it the ideal launchpad for this initiative.”

Together with many key shipping guests from the global and national arenas, Secretary for Transport and Logistics Ms Mable Chan, JP witnessed the formation of the Alliance and congratulated the HKSOA and all the participating Founding members on the establishment of the Maritime Talent Cultivation Alliance, which is a significant endeavour to strengthen collaboration between academic education and industry practices, thereby jointly nurturing applied talent for supporting the long-term and sustainable growth of the maritime industry.

The initiative addresses critical manpower planning and talent development concerns in China's maritime industry, particularly against the backdrop of global trends towards green and smart shipping. With its extensive networks and strong reputation, the HKSOA is well-positioned to lead this important effort.

"I believe that the Alliance will serve as a vital ecosystem that connects the maritime industry, academia and related research institutions," said HKSOA China Subcommittee Chairman Mr. Yang Xianxiang. "Our mission is to create an open and interactive platform that cultivates maritime talent and supports the sustainable growth of the industry for both our Country and the global community. We are excited to embark on this journey with our founding partners."

The Alliance will facilitate collaboration among various stakeholders and consolidates resources for advancing maritime education and research. Activities may include CEO mentorship programmes, site visits, research ventures, overseas exchange programmes, student internships and community-building projects designed to enhance young people's exposure to the maritime industry.

The Alliance's vision is to be a responsive and responsible alliance of organisations that adds value to maritime talent cultivation and supports the long-term, sustainable growth of the industry for the benefit of both China and the global community.

Its mission is to create an open and interactive platform that integrates and connects industry, academia, research and applications, equipping the next generation of maritime professionals in China with a global perspective of the business world and practical insights into industry operations.

The Alliance logo (attached) embodies the concept of maritime collaboration and the intertwining of resources. It features the image of the "monkey's fist knot", which is traditionally used to throw lines efficiently between ships and from ship to shore. This knot symbolises friendship and solidarity among sailors and in this logo, it represents unity among the maritime, academic and research sectors. The circular shape emphasises collaboration and shared goals, and the blue gradient reflects the ocean's waves.

The Alliance has garnered positive responses from many stakeholder organisations. [16] universities and maritime organisations (list attached) have joined the Alliance as Founding members.

The launch event took place at the Greater Bay Maritime Forum on 19 November 2025 in the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, during Hong Kong Maritime Week.

Notes for Editors

The Hong Kong Shipowners Association, incorporated in 1957, is a major industry association with about 200 corporate members, including ship owners, ship managers and maritime service providers in various sectors. Throughout the years, it has been a key driver in many new initiatives, including green shipping and smart shipping, and a strong advocate for free trade and a global rules-based regulatory regime. As the “Voice of Asia”, the Association commands the respect of the maritime community at all levels – local, national and international.

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Maritime Talent Cultivation Alliance - Founding Members

1. Hong Kong Shipowners Association (Convenor)
2. BIMCO
3. International Chamber of Shipping (China) Liaison Office
4. China Shipowners' Association
5. Dalian Maritime University
6. Guangzhou Maritime University
7. Maritime Culture Foundation Limited (to be established by Equator Fund Limited)
8. Shanghai Maritime University
9. Advanced Institute for Ocean Research, Southern University of Science and Technology
10. Wuhan University of Technology
11. Hong Kong Maritime Museum
12. Our Hong Kong Foundation
13. Shipping Research Centre, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
14. Division of Environment and Sustainability, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
15. School of Innovation, The University of Hong Kong
16. Maritime Services Training Institute, Vocational Training Council