



Press release
17 September 2026

**Hong Kong Shipowners Association supports
Hong Kong's 1st Five-Year Plan and Chief Executive's 2026 Policy Address**

The Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) supports the implementation of the 1st Five-Year Plan for Hong Kong and the Chief Executive's 2026 Policy Address. We are pleased to see that the Administration attaches great importance to the maritime industry and that many of the HKSOA recommendations have been accepted and incorporated in these two major documents, particularly with respect to the Association advocacy for: (1) the co-development of the finance, maritime and trade sectors, (2) the promotion of shore power and green ports and corridors, (3) the enhancement of the ship registry for dual registration, and (4) the strengthening of industry-academia-research collaboration including the establishment of a maritime academy for talent grooming.

We fully support the national strategic plan to consolidate Hong Kong's position as an international maritime centre. Indeed, Hong Kong's economic success has its origins in shipping and trade, whose combination initiated Hong Kong's growth as a global financial centre and as a gateway where East meets West. Thus, today, Hong Kong is one of the few global cities that has succeeded in all these three key sectors.

Among the HKSOA specific proposals adopted by the government is about support for the industry's plan to set up a green maritime fuel-trading platform. Decarbonization is a global trend, and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has set steep zero-emission targets for the industry. A large volume of green fuels will be required worldwide in future, and Chinese Mainland is a major producer of green fuels. As part of China, with a solid foundation and a good reputation in ship ownership, ship management and related maritime services, Hong Kong can play a leading role in global efforts and be a big contributor to building the platform.

Chairman of the HKSOA, Mr. Richard Hext, said, "The HKSOA was an early advocate to Government for promoting green fuels trading in Hong Kong to fully leverage Hong Kong's strengths to connect global green energy production and demand. With government support, this trading platform would be a good Hong Kong brand showcasing Hong Kong's position as not only a "Super-Connector" but also a "Super-Value Adder", whilst helping the global community streamline the green fuel supply chain through a centralized, trusted institutional party that may offer immediate scale, regulatory clarity and risk mitigation."

Mr. Hext further said, “We are also pleased to see that our proposal to set up a maritime academy will be explored by the Administration. Talent development is always crucial. Given evolving global dynamics, advancements in artificial intelligence and keen competition from other ports. Hong Kong faces a pressing need for a pro-active, multi-pronged approach to consolidate its position as a leading international maritime centre. As the “voice of Asia”, the Association will continue to support government efforts to tell Hong Kong story through global partnership and the advocacy of innovative, visionary initiatives.”

Last November, during the Hong Kong Maritime Week, the HKSOA took the lead in the establishment of the “Maritime Talent Cultivation Alliance” to promote industry-academia-research integration to cultivate a new generation of maritime talent, equipping them with a global perspective of the business world and practical insights into industry operations. Since inception, the Alliance has received a very good response from many prestigious universities and industry organisations at all levels – local, national, and global.

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About the Hong Kong Shipowners Association

The Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) is a major organisation representing the Hong Kong maritime community and a respected voice in the national and global arenas. Founded in 1957, the Association has about 200 corporate members including ship owners and managers and various service providers in ship finance, marine insurance, maritime arbitration, agency and brokerage, equipment and energy supply, ship survey, and maritime training and education.

The HKSOA is a founding member of the Asian Shipowners’ Association. It also hosts the first overseas office of the International Chamber of Shipping.

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