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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2025 Forum for Asia-Pacific Maritime Culture Successfully Concluded Held Simultaneously Online and Offline Discussing Issues Surrounding Maritime Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development of the Marine Environment

Hong Kong, September 25, 2025 – The inaugural Forum for Asia-Pacific Maritime Culture (the Forum), co-hosted by the Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) and the China Maritime Museum, in association with the International Congress of Maritime Museums Regional Meeting, concluded successfully on September 23. Despite the impact of the Super Typhoon Ragasa, which required the originally planned two-day forum to be adjusted to a single day, the Museum quickly adapted by expanding the venue from one to three locations running simultaneously. This ensured that all 9 sessions (comprising a total of 28 presentations) were successfully completed before the storm arrived.

The theme of this forum was "Blue Legacy • Green Future," attracted over 3,000 online and 120 in-person participants. During the opening ceremony, several distinguished guests were invited, including Mr. WONG Sai Fat, Director of Marine, Marine Department; Mr. JIN Xiao, Inspector II (Deputy Director General Level), Shanghai Municipal Transportation Commission; Mr. Richard HEXT, Chairman of the HKMM; Mr. Richard KENDALL, Director & Chief Executive of the HKMM; and Mr. ZHAO Feng, Director General, China Maritime Museum, to launch the forum. The forum brought together over 30 speakers from 18 countries and regions, highlighting Hong Kong's role as a hub where Eastern and Western cultures converge.

Six Programme Themes

The Forum featured six programme themes: "The Legacy of Zheng He in a Global Context," "Preservation and Transmission of Maritime Heritage," "Tales from the Deep," "Ports and Society," "Marine Science through a Cross-Cultural Lens" and "The Mission of the Maritime Industry." For session details, you can view the forum booklet [here](#).

Maritime Museums Worldwide: Bridging History and the Future

In the keynote speeches, Ms. Kristen GREENAWAY, President, International Congress of Maritime Museums, President & CEO, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (USA), highlighted that the maritime museums' role as heritage preservers extends far beyond the walls.

She believes that one role of maritime museums is to foster cultural collaborations. Maritime heritage preservation can be complicated, often involving artifacts from many cultures and jurisdictions, like a shipwreck in international waters. Because of this complexity, maritime museums, with its special role, can step in to encourage cultural collaborations like cross-regional researches.

Additionally, Ms. Kristen Greenaway believes that maritime museums have a role as advocates for ocean conservation. By showcasing ancient wind power transportation techniques, traditional

香港海事博物館有限公司 HONG KONG MARITIME MUSEUM LIMITED

香港中環八號碼頭 Central Pier No. 8, Hong Kong

T: +852 3713 2500 | F: +852 2813 8033 | E: info@hkmaritimemuseum.org | www.hkmaritimemuseum.org

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ecological knowledge from indigenous maritime communities, and historical examples of maritime disasters, museums offer lessons for current climate adaptation strategies. Maritime museums are key platforms for raising public environmental awareness.

She also stated that maritime museums can alleviate political tensions, building a platform for international cooperation with mutual understanding. Through co-organised exhibitions, academic collaborations, and exchanges, maritime museums become a "neutral ground" for cultural diplomacy, a special space that governments alone cannot provide.

Ms. Kristen Greenaway concluded by emphasising that maritime museums have a responsibility to navigate the world towards a more sustainable and interconnected future. "Maritime museums are uniquely positioned to foster this cooperation by helping people understand their connection to the sea and their shared responsibility for its protection is our shared responsibility. Our success will be measured not just by our visitor numbers or the size of our collections or the length of our vessels but by our contribution to creating a more connected, understanding and environmentally conscious global community."

The Multiple Values of Maritime Cultural Heritage

The forum also invited Mr. AN Laishun, Chairman, The Asia Pacific Alliance of International Councils of Museums, Vice President, The China Museums Association, Professor, Shanghai University (China), to deliver a keynote speech. He pointed out that maritime cultural heritage has multiple values and plays a special role.

Mr. AN Laishun stated that maritime cultural heritage carries multiple values, from historical records to artistic aesthetics, from scientific research to spiritual beliefs. These almost forgotten legacies are now being given new meaning. He further explained that maritime cultural heritage is not just a carrier of history, but also crucial for developing one's self-identity, promoting the heritage tourism economy, and fostering community cohesion. "Maritime cultural heritage can foster more of what we call 'cultural radiation power.' For example, the institutional framework of urban infrastructure, or the attractiveness of a place for talent and capital – these might not be directly brought by maritime cultural heritage, but it certainly has a radiating effect." Maritime cultural heritage has multiple values; it is not only an echo of the past but also an important fuel for the future.

He continued, pointing out that maritime cultural heritage is playing a special cultural role within the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Maritime museums, as guardians of heritage, are actively participating in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through research, education, and international cooperation, they promote marine culture into the global spotlight. The UN's "Ocean Decade" initiative emphasises the intertwining of humanity and nature, hoping to cultivate a new generation that understands the value of the ocean, and maritime heritage is an accelerant of this concept. "Nothing is sustainable without the consideration of culture," Mr. AN Laishun further explained. "If we look at maritime cultural heritage and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and I have some statistics here, out of 17 goals, maritime museums can contribute to 16 of them, you can tell that the relationship between the two is very close."

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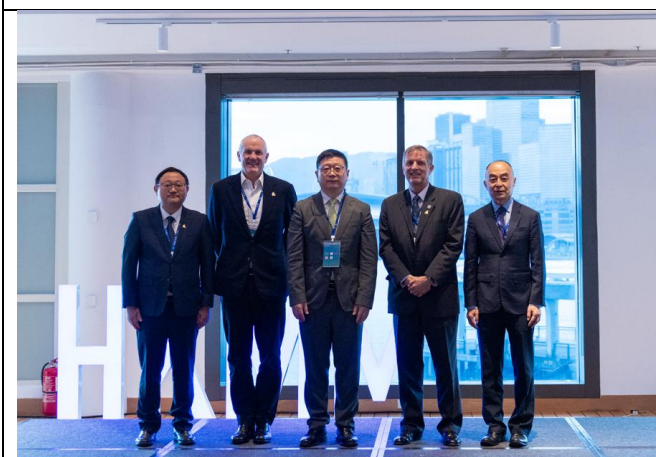
Press images are available for download [here](#).



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Guests and museum representatives to kick off the forum.

(From left to right): Mr. ZHAO Feng, Director General, China Maritime Museum, Mr. Richard HEXT, Chairman of the HKMM, Mr. JIN Xiao, Inspector II (Deputy Director General Level), Shanghai Municipal Transportation Commission, Mr. Richard KENDALL, Director & Chief Executive of the HKMM, Mr. WONG Sai Fat, Director of Marine, Marine Department

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	Mr. AN Laishun, Chairman, The Asia Pacific Alliance of International Councils of Museums, Vice President, The China Museums Association, Professor, Shanghai University (China) pointed out that maritime cultural heritage has multiple values and plays a special role.

NOTES TO EDITOR

About the Hong Kong Maritime Museum

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) is an independent, non-profit registered charity founded by members of the Hong Kong shipping industry, supported by the business community, individuals and the Hong Kong SAR Government. As a cultural institution, we are dedicated to showcasing and preserving the maritime heritage and contemporary marine environment of Hong Kong and the South China Sea. Rooted in China, but looking to the world, we aim to inspire people's appreciation of their relationship with the sea. By connecting East and West, maritime cultural heritage and sustainable ocean development, we delve into the profound ties between people and the sea. Through our rich exhibitions and educational programs, we hope to cultivate public passion and respect for maritime culture and promote the sustainable development of the marine environment. For more information, visit www.hkmaritimemuseum.org.

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Ticketing information

Adults: HK\$30 Seniors (aged 60 or above), full-time students (with valid ID), children (under 18) and people with disabilities (accompanied by a carer): HK\$15

*Discounts are available for group visits of 10 or more.

For the latest update on ticketing, opening hours and social distancing information, please visit www.hkmaritimemuseum.org

Venue

Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central Pier 8

Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/hongkongmaritimemuseum) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/hongkongmaritimemuseum) (@hongkongmaritimemuseum) for the latest updates on the exhibition.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Liz Leung
Head of Marketing
Hong Kong Maritime Museum
+852 3713 2508
lizleung@hkmaritimemuseum.org

Cherry Hung
Assistant Marketing Manager
Hong Kong Maritime Museum
+852 3713 2518
cherryhung@hkmaritimemuseum.org

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