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A global network for energy-efficient shipping



MTCC AFRICA
Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre

THE IMO-GMN II/MTCC AFRICA

1ST NATIONAL WORKSHOP



Project funded by
the European Union



INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME
ORGANIZATION



GMN II / MTCC Africa National Workshop – Ethiopia

Venue: Skylight Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Date: 23–24 October 2025

Organized by: MTCC Africa, International Maritime Organization (IMO) funded by European Union (EU), and hosted by Ethiopia Maritime Authority

Executive Summary: Advancing Green Shipping in Ethiopia

The Ethiopia National Workshop on Green Shipping was convened under the **Global Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre Network Phase II (GMN II)**, a project implemented by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and funded by the European Union. Hosted by the **Ethiopia Maritime Authority** and organized by **MTCC Africa**, the workshop brought together over 50 stakeholders from government, academia, the private sector, and international organizations. The Theme of the National Workshop titled **Green Shipping in Ethiopia: Energy Efficiency, Innovation, and Partnerships as Decarbonization Solutions anchored on the GMNII Project objectives**.

The Ethiopia National Workshop focused on the following GMN II objectives:

- 1. Uptake of Energy-Efficient Technologies:** Promote the adoption of energy-efficient and low carbon technologies in ports and on ships, with a case study on Ethiopia.
- 2. Capacity Building:** Strengthen the capacities of maritime and port authorities, shipping industries, and government representatives for the implementation of energy efficiency measures aligned with the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy.
- 3. Public-Private Partnerships:** Facilitate partnerships that encourage investment and uptake of energy-efficient technologies including access to climate finance and sustainable development funding.
- 4. Gender Inclusivity:** Advance the inclusion of women in the maritime sector, particularly in leadership and technical roles related to energy efficiency and climate action.

The two-day event focused on deepening the collective understanding of energy-efficient technologies, exploring innovative financing mechanisms, and strengthening commitments toward gender inclusivity (SDG 5). Key outcomes included the identification of viable pilot projects, critical capacity-building needs, and a consensus on forming a unified national coordination mechanism to drive Ethiopia's maritime decarbonization agenda in alignment with the **IMO 2023 GHG Strategy**.

Strategic Objectives and Key Insights

The workshop aimed to localize global decarbonization initiatives within Ethiopia's unique maritime context. Given Ethiopia's strategic dependence on maritime transport for over 95% of its trade, the transition to sustainable and climate-resilient logistics is a national priority.

1. Technology and Innovation

Participants explored suitable low-carbon technologies, including:

- **Solarized Port Infrastructure:** Integration of renewable energy to reduce the carbon footprint of port operations.
- **Hybrid Propulsion and Alternative Fuels:** Transitioning ship operations from fossil fuels to green energy sources.
- **Digital Energy Tracking:** Implementing systems for real-time fuel monitoring and emissions data collection.

2. Capacity Building and Seafarer Empowerment

The workshop identified a need for specialized "green skills" among maritime professionals.

- **Curriculum Reform:** Integrating alternative fuel modules and simulation-based training into maritime education.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Establishing a Regional Training Consortium to share expertise across the East African corridor.
- **Seafarer Advocacy:** Recognizing seafarers as the primary ambassadors and technical enablers of the green transition.

3. Financing the Transition

The high initial costs of green technology require innovative financial models.

- **Blended Finance:** Leveraging public-private partnerships and international climate funds (e.g., GCF and EU funds) to de-risk investments.
- **Policy Integration:** Including maritime decarbonization in the **National Climate Action Plan** to unlock access to global environmental financing.

4. Gender Inclusivity (SDG 5)

Gender equality was recognized as a fundamental pillar of sustainable development.

- **Inclusive Logistics:** Creating technical and leadership roles for women in green energy and maritime management.
- **Mentorship:** Launching dedicated scholarship and mentorship platforms for women pursuing careers in maritime engineering and technology.

Actionable Roadmap

The following matrix outlines the strategic next steps agreed upon during the workshop:

Main Outcome	Immediate Next Step	Responsible Parties
National Coordination	Establish a National Maritime Decarbonization Task Force to address institutional fragmentation.	Ethiopia Maritime Authority, MTCC Africa, and IMO.
Pilot Project Implementation	Develop a framework for Digital Energy Tracking and Green Port Retrofits .	Private Sector and MTCC Africa.
Institutional Capacity	Expand Maritime Education and Training (MET) to include simulation-based green technology learning.	Ethiopia Maritime Authority and MTCC Africa.
Climate Financing	Integrate the maritime sector into the National Climate Action Plan.	Ethiopia Maritime Authority and IMO.

Main Outcome	Immediate Next Step	Responsible Parties
Gender Action	Develop a Gender Inclusivity Action Plan and mentorship programs.	Ethiopia Maritime Authority and MTCC Africa.

Conclusion

Ethiopia National Workshop on Green Shipping convened under the **Global Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre Network Phase II (GMN II)**, project implemented by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and funded by the European Union. Hosted by the **Ethiopia Maritime Authority** and organized by **MTCC Africa**, underscored that technological innovation and human capacity development must progress together. By fostering international cooperation and local institutional alignment, Ethiopia is positioning itself as a regional leader in the sustainable blue economy. The formalization of a national coordination mechanism will be the vital first step in ensuring these outcomes translate into long-term environmental and economic resilience.

