

GMN GLOBAL EVENT REPORT

“DECARBONISING TOGETHER: GLOBAL MTCC NETWORK (GMN) WORKSHOP ON INCLUSIVE MARITIME DECARBONISATION”

6-8 MAY 2026

WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY, MALMÖ, SWEDEN



[The Global MTCC Network \(GMN\) Phase II project](#), funded by European Union and implemented by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), supports developing countries, in particular Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through technical cooperation, capacity building and pilot demonstrations to advance energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from maritime transport.

The GMN Global Event, hosted at the World Maritime University, from 6 to 8 May 2026, brought together more than 80 participants from 33 organisations, including Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres (MTCCs), maritime administrations, global stakeholders and academia to strengthen collaboration under GMN Phase II in support of the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy. The Event also provided opportunities for postgraduate students at the WMU to engage directly with practitioners and industry representatives.

The IMO media page featured the following article, providing a brief overview of the Event and key outcomes: <https://www.imo.org/en/mediacentre/pages/whatsnew-2453.aspx>. This media coverage contributed to the visibility of the event and of the GMN II project and supports ongoing efforts to disseminate the outcomes of capacity-building and knowledge sharing initiatives.

Additionally, all presentations are available here: [GMN Global Event presentations](#)

Event Structure and Objectives

The Event offered an opportunity to reflect on the Project's progress made thus far, further strengthen strategic alignment and coordinate implementation across different stakeholders. Through a combination of strategic dialogues, technical discussions and academic exchanges, participants explored approaches to enhance regional delivery to further maritime decarbonisation. Discussions reinforced a shared commitment to accelerating maritime decarbonisation through regional cooperation, practical implementation, and alignment with evolving IMO regulations. Regional exchanges highlighted that solutions already exist and are being actively deployed, with a strong emphasis on capacity building, technology transfer, and public-private partnerships.

Providing a platform to review progress, align strategic priorities and exchange views on regional delivery, financing, capacity building, technology transfer and inclusive maritime decarbonisation, the workshop highlighted ongoing efforts and collaboration. Discussions reaffirmed that solutions already exist and are being implemented, with strong emphasis on regional cooperation, public-private partnerships and support for developing countries.

The Event was designed over three days. Day one focused on internal meetings revolving around enhanced coordination and aligning MTCC activities with the IMO 2023 GHG Strategy and the thematic priority of Support for Climate Action and Clean Air, underpinned by a shared understanding for future implementation and long-term sustainability. Participants had the benefit to join the Potent X presentation and roundtable organised by WMU, which provided a valuable forum for exchanging practical experience and expertise on port energy transition and exploring innovative decarbonisation solutions.

On the margins of the event, the meeting also provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen coordination among all MTCCs, the European Commission, and IMO. These discussions helped facilitate exchange on ongoing activities, emerging priorities, and opportunities for improved collaboration across the global MTCC network. They also supported alignment on future work related to maritime decarbonisation, capacity building, and coordinated support to developing countries, particularly SIDS and LDCs.



Day two and three of the Event centred on thematic panel discussions and technical exchanges covering maritime decarbonisation, financing, industry engagement, gender integration and workforce development. Particular focus also placed on breakout group discussions to inform the GMN Roadmap and identify regional priorities, challenges and opportunities for future implementation.

KEYNOTE SESSION: NAVIGATING THE MARITIME DECARBONISATION

The keynote session revealed a strong convergence of views among panellists on the path forward to maritime decarbonisation. Global cooperation and inclusiveness were underscored as essential to ensure



that no country is left behind in the transition to maritime decarbonisation, while the IMO framework was reaffirmed as global anchor of international efforts, with regional mechanisms expected to complement and support it.

Panellists also emphasised the importance of compromise and consensus-building, particularly in light of differing national circumstances, and called for greater focus on comprehensive needs assessments

and the development of National Action Plans as a basis for understanding overarching priorities and ensuring an inclusive transition.

Climate justice and an equitable transition was also topical, paying particular attention to the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Developing Countries (DCs). Capacity building was listed as critical, not only in setting objectives but in supporting countries to effectively meet them.

In addition, the keynote session highlighted the important role of financing and bankable, investment-ready projects to accelerate implementation and contribute meaningfully to the 2023 IMO GHG strategy.

THE GMN EXPERIENCE – OVERVIEW AND REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Regional discussions underlined that maritime decarbonisation is both urgent and achievable, with existing technologies already being implemented. Across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America, priorities centred on capacity building, technology transfer, green shipping solutions, and stronger regional cooperation, along with empowering women and advancing knowledge sharing platforms.

The session highlighted the shift from policy to practice, with MTCCs across regions delivering concrete pilot projects aimed at achieving measurable GHG reductions.

The discussions highlighted the value of the GMN framework, which combines global coordination and knowledge sharing with region-specific implementation.

Financing and the development of bankable projects were identified as key to accelerating progress, with the importance of gender mainstreaming and inclusive transition also highlighted. Capacity constraints, particularly the shortage of trained personnel, remain a challenge. The need to strengthen alignment with the IMO framework and ensure sustainability beyond GMN Phase II through partnerships and regional outputs was discussed during the session.

UPDATES FROM THE IMO

Participants received updates on ongoing regulatory developments, including draft guidelines on GHG fuel intensity, sustainable fuel certification, and wind propulsion systems. Outcomes from MEPC 84 and ISWG-GHG 21 highlighted continuous efforts toward global measures, implementation frameworks, and support mechanisms. In addition, under Technical Cooperation, particular focus was also placed on the recently adopted Capacity Development Strategy (Resolution A.1205(34), and the overview of the IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) for 2026-2027's focus. The biennium programme will focus on targeted capacity-building activities based on identified needs, including workshops on the ratification and implementation of MARPOL Annex VI and the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy, as well as support for developing National Action Plans (NAPs). It will also promote research on the gendered impacts of climate change and enhance coordination with ongoing GHG-related projects to maximise impact.



FINANCING MARITIME DECARBONISATION, INCLUDING INNOVATIVE FINANCING AND PRIVATE SECTOR LEVERAGE

The panel discussion emphasised the importance of linking regional actions to global regulatory frameworks, improving data for impact assessments, and unlocking finance through public-private partnerships. Particular attention was given to supporting SIDS and LDCs, strengthening needs assessments and investment through both traditional and innovative funding streams.



The discussion also underscored the importance of strong national coordination, highlighting the need to bridge gaps between key entities and align maritime priorities with broader policy frameworks. A clear understanding of country specific contexts, including opportunities and constraints related to maritime decarbonization, was identified as essential to inform decision-making and increase financing opportunities.

ROLE OF INDUSTRY ALLIANCES AND COALITIONS IN MARITIME DECARBONISATION

Industry alliances were recognised as essential enablers for implementation, requiring clear objectives, dedicated resources with a defined scope, and strong coordination across diverse stakeholders. The objectives must be focused with realistic goals that can be scaled over time through growth.

Effective alliances depend on adequate resources and their continuity, including human capacity, as well as devoted knowledge sharing across members.

Industry engagement and intelligence were noted as important contributions to inform policy development and strengthen collaboration. Overall, Regional Industry Alliances (RIAs) should complement IMO efforts and ambitions, supporting implementation while avoiding duplication.



INTEGRATING SDG 5 INTO MARITIME DECARBONISATION

The session highlighted the need to address gender disparities in the maritime sector through targeted actions such as gender-responsive planning, improved access to training, and stronger engagement with educational institutions. The importance of sensitising leadership and integrating gender considerations at activity design was also emphasised to ensure effective gender mainstreaming.

Panel inputs reflected varying levels of implementation across regions and acknowledged persistent challenges, including underrepresentation of women and limited access to career or training opportunities.

The role of Gender Action Plans as a tool for incorporating gender across all activity stages was underscored,



along with the importance of engagement with academic bodies to improve gender balance and representation in the maritime sector. The importance of early engagement through education, including the promotion of STEM subjects among girls and young women, was also highlighted. Such efforts were recognised as important long-term measures to strengthen the future talent pipeline and help address the persistent underrepresentation of women across the maritime sector. Inclusion was recognised as fundamental to achieving a just and effective transition.

SKILLS, TRAINING, AND THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

The session identified important training needs linked to emerging technologies, alternative fuels, and safety, underscoring the importance of strengthening maritime training institutes (MTIs), and aligning skills development with technological advancements. Panellists highlighted the need for blended training models – combining online learning with practical, hands-on training – to ensure curricula match the evolving hardware needs.



Panellists also recognised the importance of climate financial awareness, as well as the need for empowerment and capacity-building of MTI in the face of limited resources. In the absence of a Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) framework, interim generic guidelines on training for seafarers working with new technologies and alternative fuels were welcomed.

The session concluded that technology development and skills advancement are closely interconnected. Technological innovation drives

new competency requirements, while a well-trained workforce is essential for the safe and effective adoption of new technologies across the maritime sector.

BREAKOUT GROUPS

A highlight of the Event was the breakout group sessions on the GMN Roadmap, which proved highly productive. These interactive discussions generated substantial insights on future strategic priorities, contributing concrete inputs.

Common themes across breakout groups included the need for stronger collaboration and public-private partnerships, increased capacity building, and improved access to sustainable financing. Shared barriers included institutional fragmentation, limited coordination among stakeholders, and data gaps, alongside the importance of political support and alignment with IMO frameworks. External risks, including geopolitical and regulatory uncertainties, were also consistently noted.

Below an outline of region-specific priorities and considerations discussed:

- Africa: Discussions focused on investment in green ports, data systems, and institutional capacity. Key enablers identified included stronger government coordination and political support, while main challenges related to weak governance, fragmentation, and limited financing. Opportunities were identified in climate finance and private sector engagement.
- Asia: The group prioritised strengthening public-private partnerships, collaboration with academia, and improving resource mobilisation to support MTCC sustainability. Key challenges included communication gaps, workforce limitations, and funding constraints, alongside risks linked to geopolitical and regulatory developments. Funding prospects were identified through the private sector, financial institutions, and PPP models.
- Caribbean: Discussions focused on advancing the Caribbean Maritime Decarbonisation Roadmap (CMDR), with emphasis on capacity building, technology uptake, and gender inclusivity. Key challenges included fragmented coordination and limited access to finance, while opportunities centred on climate finance and partnerships with development institutions.
- Latin America: The group highlighted the need to strengthen maritime education and training, promote new technologies, and support workforce development. Key challenges included limited

coordination and capacity constraints, while enablers included regional collaboration, partnerships, and replication of pilot initiatives.

These inputs collectively provided a strong foundation to inform the future direction of GMN Phase II and will be taken into due consideration for future work at IMO under the support for climate action and clean air implementation.

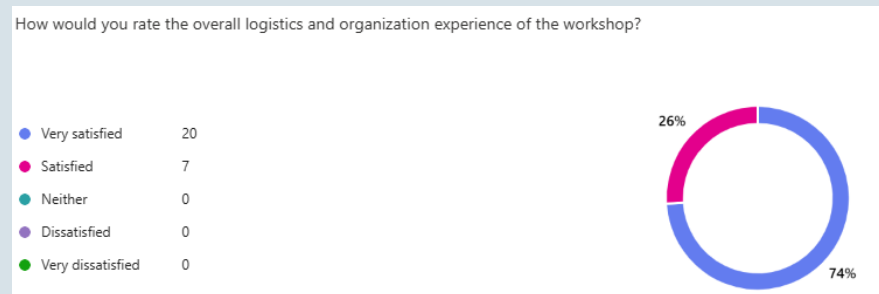
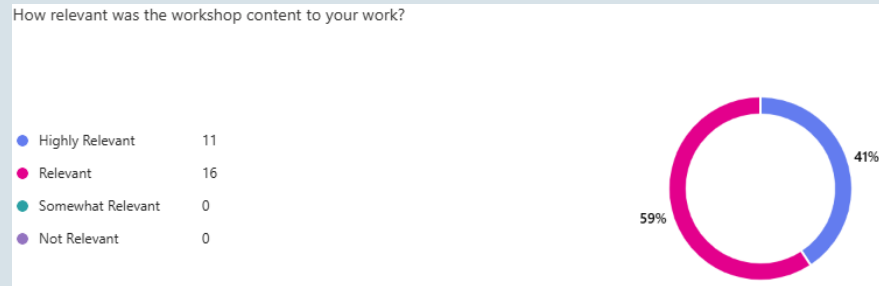


The Event resulted in strengthened coordination across MTCC regions, enhanced alignment with the IMO 2023 GHG Strategy, and reinforced partnerships at both regional and global levels. It also contributed to improving the consistency and effectiveness of project delivery through shared learning and harmonised approaches.

Annexes

1. Feedback

The following pie charts present participants' ratings of (1) the relevance of the Event in their work, and (2) the overall logistics, using a five-point scale. In both cases, responses were concentrated on the upper end of the scale, indicating that participants considered the Event was highly relevant and were highly satisfied with the logistics arrangements.



2. Photos

All GMN Global Event photos can be accessed through the following link: [GMN Global Event photos](#)