



IAMU

International Association of Maritime Universities



The global leader in maritime capacity building
through networking and excellence
in maritime Education and Training





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Message from the Chair



The maritime industry serves as the backbone of global trade and economic development. And its future is inextricably linked to expertise and dedication of well-trained professionals. In light of the rapid globalization of the international shipping sector, the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) was established in 1999 and forged ahead with a shared understanding of the vital role of maritime education and training. Owing to the generous support of The Nippon Foundation, IAMU has witnessed a remarkable expansion in its membership from seven founding members to a global alliance of 82 members across 44 countries.

As we navigate the ever-changing landscape of maritime education and training, our association stands as a beacon of collaboration, innovation, and excellence. IAMU plays a pivotal role in fostering a global community of maritime universities and institutions, and maintains committed to nurturing the next generation of maritime leaders. Through our concerted and collaborative endeavors, we strive to advance maritime education, promote Global Maritime Professional (GMP) Initiative, and address the pressing challenges facing our industry today.

It is essential to recognize that such historic achievements were made possible only by the foresight and enduring support of our benefactor, The Nippon Foundation and its Chair, Dr. **Yohei Sasakawa**. Dr. Sasakawa’s vision for a truly global organization has been instrumental in ensuring high standards of maritime education and training, which, in turn, has facilitated the rapid expansion and globalization of international shipping.

IAMU is grounded in the principles of collaboration and knowledge-sharing. By uniting institutions worldwide, we have created a platform where ideas can flourish, and solutions can be jointly devised. From cutting-edge research to pedagogical innovations, IAMU members are leading the way in pushing maritime education to new heights.

Looking ahead, IAMU remains steadfast in its mission to advance high-quality maritime education and training. We will persist in advocating for the adoption of international standards, supporting our members in their quest of excellence, and working tirelessly to equip the next generation of maritime professionals to navigate an ever-evolving industry. Through our collective efforts, IAMU will reach new heights, drive the future of maritime education, and contribute to the sustainable development of the maritime industry.

Last but not least, as President of Dalian Maritime University, I take pride in DMU’s longstanding partnership with IAMU. Embracing an open development strategy, DMU will continue our commitment to fostering stronger partnerships, sharing knowledge and enhancing collaboration among member universities to shape the promising future of maritime education.

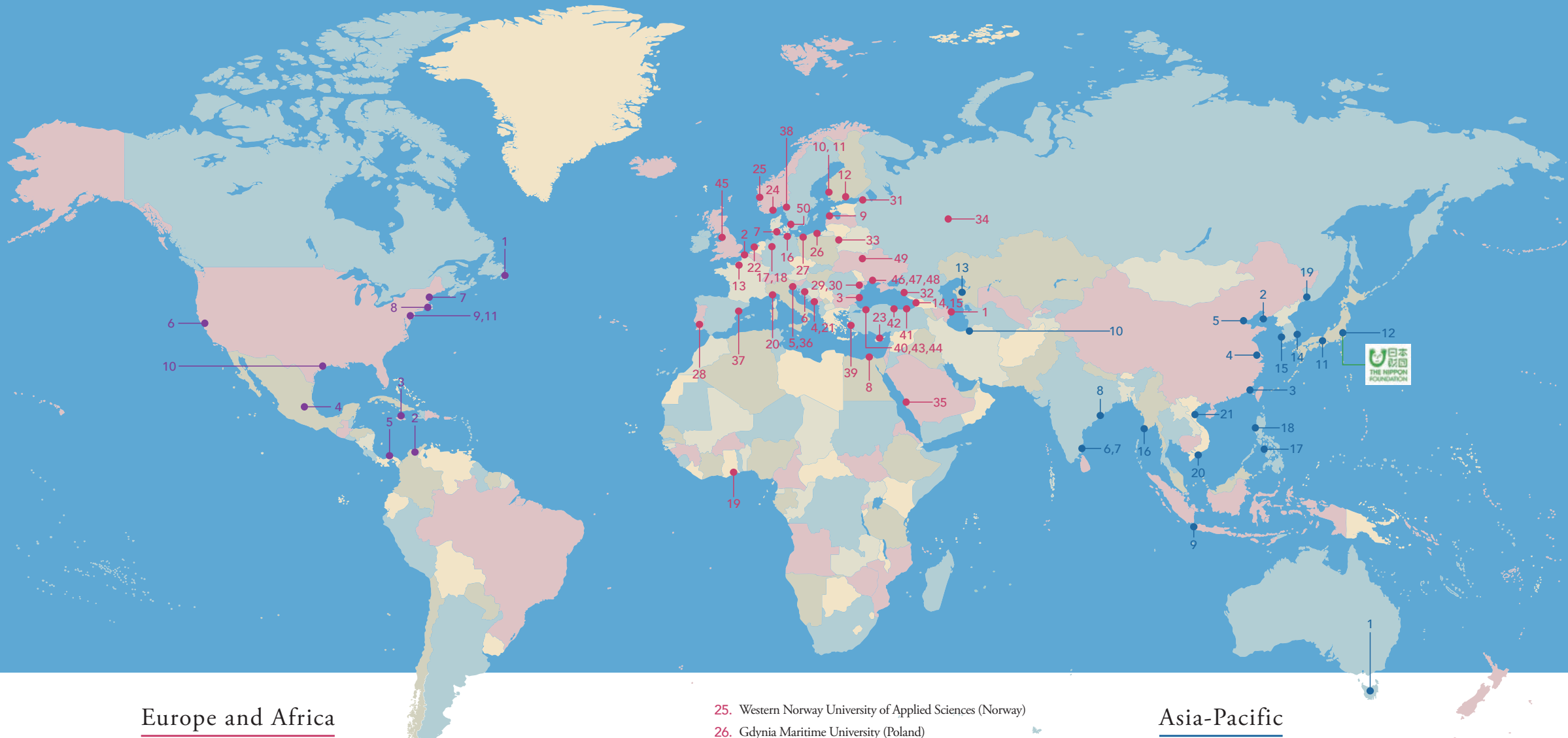
Sincerely,

SHAN Hongjun

Chair of IAMU
Professor, PhD
President of Dalian Maritime University

IAMU's Worldwide Network

Since IAMU was founded with 7 universities, it has grown to include 82 maritime universities, academy and colleges around the world. Along with its permanent special member, The Nippon Foundation, IAMU now boasts a grand total of 83 members as of April 2026.



Americas

- 1. Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland (Canada)
- 2. Escuela Naval de Cadetes "Almirante Padilla" (Colombia)
- 3. Caribbean Maritime University (Jamaica)
- 4. Escuela Nautica Mercante de Veracruz "Cap. Alt. Fernando Siliceo y Torres"(Mexico)
- 5. International Maritime University of Panama (Panama)
- 6. Cal Poly Maritime Academy (USA)
- 7. Maine Maritime Academy (USA)
- 8. Massachusetts Maritime Academy (USA)
- 9. State University of New York, Maritime College (USA)
- 10. Texas A&M Maritime Academy, Texas A&M University at Galveston (USA)
- 11. U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USA)

Europe and Africa

- 1. Azerbaijan State Marine Academy (Azerbaijan)
- 2. Antwerp Maritime Academy (Belgium)
- 3. Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy (Bulgaria)
- 4. Faculty of Maritime Studies, University of Dubrovnik (Croatia)
- 5. University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime Studies (Croatia)
- 6. University of Split, Faculty of Maritime Studies (Croatia)
- 7. Svendborg International Maritime Academy, University of Southern Denmark (Denmark)
- 8. Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (Egypt)
- 9. Estonian Maritime Academy of Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia)
- 10. Novia University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Technology and Seafaring (Finland)
- 11. Satakunta University of Applied Sciences (Finland)
- 12. South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (Finland)
- 13. École nationale supérieure maritime (French Maritime Academy) (France)
- 14. Batumi Navigation University (Georgia)
- 15. Batumi State Maritime Academy (Georgia)
- 16. Hochschule Wismar, University of Applied Sciences Technology Business and Design (Germany)
- 17. HSB - City University of Applied Sciences, Centre of Maritime Studies (Germany)
- 18. Jade University of Applied Sciences Wilhelmshaven Oldenburg Elsfleth, Faculty of Maritime and Logistics Studies, Elsfleth (Germany)
- 19. Regional Maritime University (Ghana)
- 20. Italian Shipping Academy Foundation (Italy)
- 21. Faculty of Maritime Studies Kotor, University of Montenegro (Montenegro)
- 22. Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands)
- 23. University of Kyrenia, Faculty of Maritime Studies (North Cyprus)
- 24. University of Southeast Norway (Norway)

- 25. Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (Norway)
- 26. Gdynia Maritime University (Poland)
- 27. Maritime University of Szczecin (Poland)
- 28. Escola Superior Náutica Infante D. Henrique (Portugal)
- 29. Constanta Maritime University (Romania)
- 30. "Mircea cel Batran" Naval Academy (Romania)
- 31. Admiral Makarov State University of Maritime and Inland Shipping (Russia)
- 32. Admiral Ushakov Maritime State University (Russia)
- 33. Baltic Fishing Fleet State Academy of Kaliningrad State Technical University (Russia)
- 34. Federal State-Financed Educational Institution of Higher Education "Volga State University of Water Transport" (Russia)
- 35. King Abdulaziz University Jeddah, Faculty of Maritime Studies (Saudi Arabia)
- 36. University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transport (Slovenia)
- 37. Barcelona School of Nautical Studies - Polytechnical University of Catalonia (Spain)
- 38. School of Maritime Sciences, Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden)
- 39. Dokuz Eylül University, Maritime Faculty (Türkiye)
- 40. Istanbul Technical University, Maritime Faculty (Türkiye)
- 41. Karadeniz Technical University (Türkiye)
- 42. Ordu University (Türkiye)
- 43. Piri Reis University (Türkiye)
- 44. Yildiz Technical University, Naval Architecture and Maritime Faculty (Türkiye)
- 45. Liverpool John Moores University (UK)
- 46. Kherson State Maritime Academy (Ukraine)
- 47. National University «Odessa Maritime Academy» (Ukraine)
- 48. Odessa National Maritime University (Ukraine)
- 49. State University of Infrastructure and Technologies (Ukraine)
- 50. World Maritime University (Sweden)

Asia-Pacific

- 1. Australian Maritime College, University of Tasmania (Australia)
- 2. Dalian Maritime University (China)
- 3. Jimei University (China)
- 4. Shanghai Maritime University (China)
- 5. Tianjin University of Technology, Maritime College (China)
- 6. Academy of Maritime Education and Training (AMET) University (India)
- 7. Indian Maritime University (India)
- 8. School of Maritime Studies, Centurion University of Technology and Management (India)
- 9. Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Pelayaran (Maritime Institute)(Indonesia)
- 10. IRISL Maritime Training Institute (Iran)
- 11. Kobe University, Graduate School of Maritime Sciences (Japan)
- 12. Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, School of Marine Technology (Japan)
- 13. Sh. Yessenov Caspian University of Technology and Engineering (Kazakhstan)
- 14. National Korea Maritime & Ocean University (South Korea)
- 15. Mokpo National Maritime University (South Korea)
- 16. Myanmar Maritime University (Myanmar)
- 17. John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University (Philippines)
- 18. Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (Philippines)
- 19. Maritime State University named after Admiral G.I. Nevelskoy (Russia)
- 20. University of Transport Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)
- 21. Vietnam Maritime University (Vietnam)

Permanent Special Member



About IAMU



About IAMU

The International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) is a global network of leading maritime universities providing Maritime Education and Training (MET) of seafarers for the global shipping industry.

IAMU was founded by 7 maritime universities, academies and colleges from 5 countries in 1999 with a shared recognition of the significance of maritime education and training during the rapid globalisation of international shipping. Since then, IAMU has significantly expanded its membership to 82 of the world's leading maritime universities and faculties, with The Nippon Foundation as a permanent special member bringing the total to 83 members.

IAMU activities are supported by a grant from The Nippon Foundation and annual membership fees from IAMU members.

IAMU's Vision

IAMU aims to be the global leader in maritime capacity building through networking and excellence in MET.

IAMU's Mission

The mission of IAMU is five-fold and global in nature:

- Building a network of member institutions
- Providing opportunities for MET system development
- Supporting effective MET systems for passing on maritime know-how
- Publicising members' research and scholarly works
- Functioning as a liaison with other maritime associations and United Nations agencies

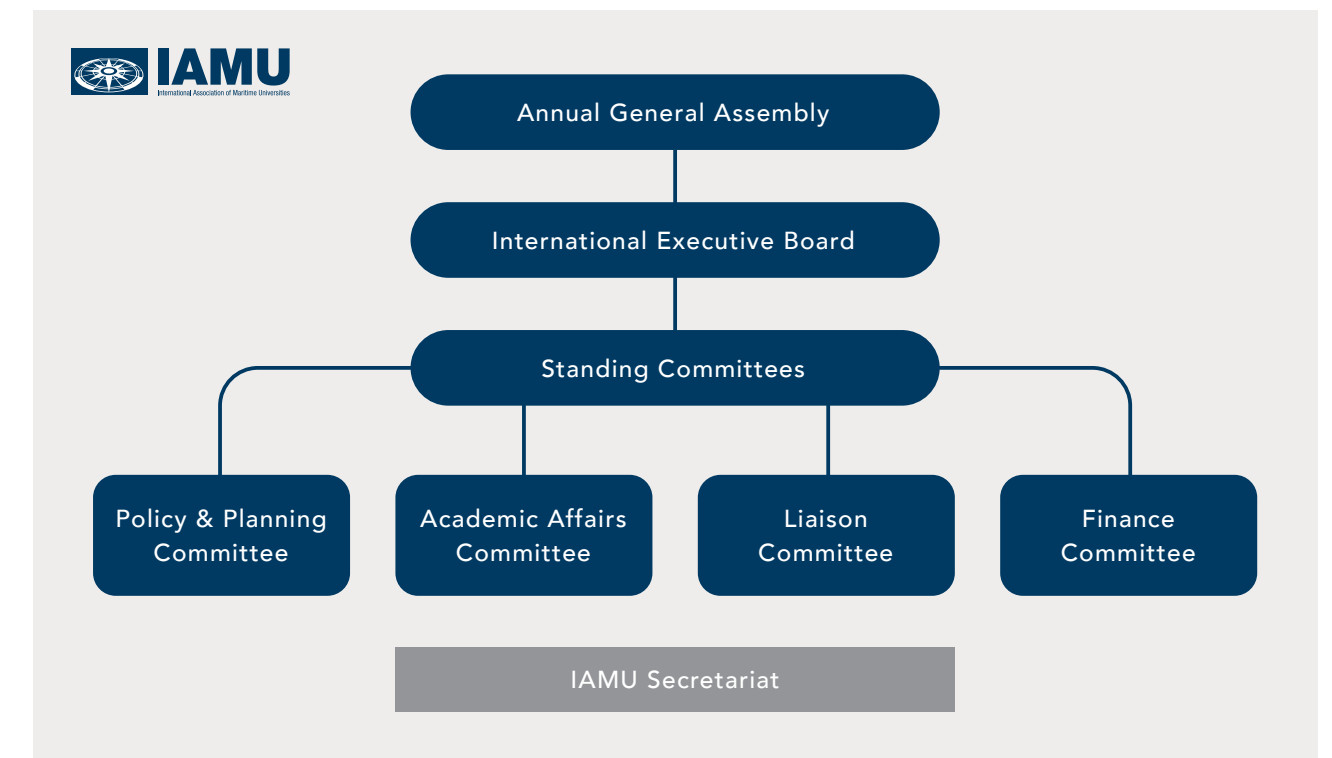
Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with IMO

IAMU was granted consultative status by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at its 25th Assembly in November 2007. Recognised as representing maritime universities worldwide, it contributes academic perspectives to IMO agenda items when appropriate.



IAMU Structure

IAMU's Basic Agreement dictates all of IAMU's activities and the administrative structure. IAMU structure consists of the Annual General Assembly, the International Executive Board, Standing Committees, and the Secretariat.



Annual General Assembly

The Annual General Assembly (AGA) is a forum to allow the exchange of information, policy approvals, and the development and fostering of good relations and collaboration among IAMU member universities.

Comprising all member universities, the AGA provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of maritime issues by member universities. IAMU has held an AGA at one of its member universities every year since 2000. The AGA, the Presidents' Forum, IAMU Conference and IAMU Student Programme are jointly organised by a host university which is selected by the International Executive Board two years prior to the event. At the AGA plenary session, the Chair and the Executive Director, on behalf of the International Executive Board, report to the member universities on the decisions of the International Executive Board.



International Executive Board

The International Executive Board (IEB) is responsible for directing and supervising the Association and is the primary decision-making body of IAMU. The IEB regularly meets twice a year.

Members of the IEB are the official representatives of member universities (Presidents, Rectors, Principals or Deans) nominated by regional members and the Policy and Planning Committee. They are then ratified at the Annual General Assembly. The terms of office for IEB members is two years.



Standing Committees

The following Standing Committees are primarily formed by IEB members, who take charge of different activities. Each committee has its own responsibility stipulated in the Annex to the Basic Agreement, which are shown below.

1 Policy Planning Committee (PPC)

- To advise the IEB on general and specific policy matters
- To implement strategic and action plans
- To oversee the new membership applicant assessment process
- To nominate IEB members and the heads of Standing Committees for the next term

3 Liaison Committee (LC)

- To advise the IEB on contemporary issues in the international maritime community
- To represent IAMU at IMO meetings
- To ensure effective and valid IAMU contribution to IMO

2 Academic Affairs Committee (AAC)

- To advise the IEB on academic activities related to MET and maritime research
- To oversee the research project selection process
- To oversee and promote academic publications and presentations of the IAMU Conference and other Association activities.

4 Finance Committee (FC)

- To advise the IEB on the annual budget
- To advise the Executive Director on financial administration
- To coordinate a financial audit every fiscal year in accounting and internal administration in the Secretariat

International Executive Board Members

The IEB comprises representatives of IAMU member universities, a representative of The Nippon Foundation, and the Executive Director.



China

Prof. Dr. Shan Hongjun

President

Dalian Maritime University

IAMU Chair



Philippines

Dr. Ronald Raymond Lacson SEBASTIAN

CEO

John B.Lacson Foundation Maritime University



Australia

Mr. Malcolm Wise AM

Principal-AMC

Australian Maritime College, University of Tasmania



Romania

Prof. Gabriel RAICU, Ph.D

Rector

Constanta Maritime University



Croatia

Dr. Srđan Vujičić, PhD

Dean

Faculty of Maritime Studies, University of Dubrovnik



UK

Dr Christian Matthews PhD, MEng, MIMechE, CEng, FHEA

Director, School of Engineering

Liverpool John Moores University



USA

Mr. Craig JOHNSON

President

Maine Maritime Academy



Croatia

Dr. Ivan PERONJA, PhD

Dean

University of Split, Faculty of Maritime Studies



UN

Dr. Maximo Q. Mejia, Jr.

President

World Maritime University

Honorary Chair of IAMU



Japan

Mr. Takeju Ogata

Chairman

The Nippon Foundation

IAMU Secretariat



Japan

Dr. Takeshi Nakazawa

Executive Director

IAMU Secretariat

Global Maritime Professional Initiative

The Global Maritime Professional Initiative originated from the recognition of the need for common goals and objectives in Maritime Education and Training (MET) provided at IAMU member universities. As the maritime industry became increasingly global and interconnected, IAMU acknowledged the importance of fostering a shared understanding of the competencies expected of maritime professionals.

Building on the shared understanding, the Association, through its International Executive Board (IEB) and with the support of the Nippon Foundation, sought to formulate a vision for a Global Maritime Professional (GMP). The Initiative aims to address the emerging needs of the maritime industry and the evolving landscape of education and career development, while supporting the professional growth and aspirations of individuals pursuing maritime careers. It encompasses a range of activities and programmes that support its implementation and long-term development.

Who is a Global Maritime Professional

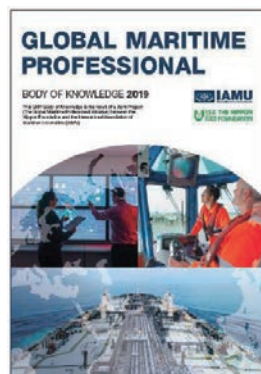
IAMU first describes a Global Maritime Professional as a professional in the maritime industry who has with the following features:

- competencies in their specific operational role in the industry;
- high- level academic skills, including logical and critical thinking;
- Ethical behaviour, human relation skills, emotional intelligence, and multicultural/diversity awareness and sensitivity;
- significant leadership skill and ability to optimise work and take personal initiative;
- a high sense of environmental consciousness and the need for sustainable practices;
- an excellent grasp of contemporary issues affecting the maritime industry.

GMP Body of Knowledge (GMP-BoK)

The GMP BoK, first published in 2019, defines the intended learning outcomes of a Global Maritime Professional and aligns them with the competencies addressed in the STCW Convention (1978, as amended). Structured as an outcome-based and internationally adaptable framework, the BoK provides a common reference for aligning maritime education programmes with evolving industry expectations.

A draft of the second version has been completed and is currently undergoing final review. Reflecting emerging developments in the maritime sector and advances in educational approaches, publication is expected in June 2026, and it will be available in PDF format via the IAMU website. The revision work is conducted by the GMP-BoK Review and Revision Committee composed of experts from IAMU member universities.



NF-IAMU GMP Fellowship Programme

At the 20th Commemorative Annual General Assembly held in October 2019, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, the Honorary Chair of IAMU, declared initiatives to educate the next generation of Global Maritime Professionals in alignment with the Global Maritime Professional Body of Knowledge (GMP-BoK).

In support of this initiative, the Nippon Foundation–International Association of Maritime Universities (NF-IAMU) GMP Fellowship Programme provides support for Master's degree studies.

The Programme is intended to support faculty members of IAMU member universities, as well as seafarers and professionals from the maritime industry, particularly those who aspire to contribute to maritime education within the IAMU network.

Through this Programme, Fellows are expected to contribute to the implementation of the GMP Initiative through their teaching and research activities.



IAMU Student Forum

The IAMU Student Forum provides an opportunity for the next generation of maritime industry leaders to connect and collaborate with world-leading researchers, educators and experts from the maritime industry as well as students from all over the world.

The forum consists of a 2-day workshop and 1-day technical tour. Over the first two days of the forum,

students worked under the supervision of their group facilitators to identify the underlying issues at the heart of each given topic, while also coming up with unique suggestions and solutions for dealing with them. On the final day of the forum, the participants visited maritime-related venues to widen their perspectives and knowledge by learning about maritime history and being exposed to different values.

The IAMU Student Forum exemplifies global engagement. In 2015, 48 students from 31 countries participated; in 2017, the number rose to 59 students from 30 countries. The 2023 forum continued this tradition with 45 students representing 31 countries. Each forum offered a richly international and multicultural experience for all participants.



Early Career Academic Forum

IAMU is organizing the Early Career Academic Forum (ECAF) in 2026 to support the professional development of academic staff working in IAMU member universities. The forum will bring together early-career academic staff to exchange best practices, build international networking, and discuss key issues shaping the future of maritime education, training and research.

Through collaborative dialogue and group discussions, participants will explore the shared challenges and opportunities facing universities in maritime education and training. The forum will culminate in a joint declaration outlining practical actions to support the sustainable development of maritime education and training and strengthen collaboration within the IAMU network.

IAMU Activities

IAMU carries out a range of collaborative activities across its global network of member universities, supporting maritime education, training and research, and contributing to the broader maritime community.

Working Groups

Working Groups are collaborative platforms where IAMU member universities jointly address key challenges in maritime education, training, and research. Through international collaboration, they generate practical solutions, share expertise, and contribute to the continuous improvement of MET worldwide.

- **Peer-Assisted Evaluation Scheme**
Providing academic advice and suggestions to improve MET and postgraduate curricula under the MoU with national administrations.
- **Collaboration with the South African International Maritime Institute**
Providing academic advice to MET institutions in South Africa to improve MET and research under the MoU with national administrations.
- **Simulator Training**
Improving maritime simulator training through the sharing of knowledge and simulator exercises.
- **Comprehensive Review of the STCW Convention and Code**
Providing professional insights from the MET perspective for discussions on the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention.
- **GMP Initiative**
Supporting the development and implementation of the Global Maritime Professional (GMP) Initiative.



Sub-Committees

Sub-Committees focus on specific priority areas, supporting coordination, advancing targeted initiatives, and enhancing collaboration across IAMU member universities.

- **Research Projects**
Administering the IAMU research project system, determining research themes and coordinating the project proposal and selection processes.
- **IAMU Conference**
Enhancing the quality of IAMU Conference publications and facilitating the dissemination of research within the IAMU community.

Organizational Development Projects

The IAMU Organizational Development Project (ODP) was established in 2016 to strengthen IAMU as an association of maritime universities and enhance its activities and functions. Through collaborative projects proposed and implemented by academic staff of member universities, the project promotes activities aligned with the Tokyo Statement and the IAMU Basic Agreement. These projects aim to produce practical outcomes, such as mechanisms to strengthen collaboration with industry, efforts to enhance IAMU’s international presence, and tools that support maritime education and training.



IAMU Representation at External Meetings

IAMU maintains an active presence in international maritime discussions through delegates, academic staff of member universities with relevant expertise, at selected external meetings, particularly the IMO sessions and other relevant forums. Acting on behalf of the Association, they follow agenda items related to maritime education, research, and policy, and engage with the wider maritime community. The insights gained through these engagements are shared across the IAMU network and may contribute to future activities in education, research, and policy development.



Research Project System

The IAMU Research Project System promotes innovative research activities that contribute to capacity building among IAMU member universities. The system funds international collaborative research projects conducted by teams from IAMU member universities. Through these projects, IAMU seeks to advance maritime knowledge while strengthening research collaboration across its global network. The system consists of two frameworks: one for all academic staff (AAS) and another for young academic staff (YAS). YAS was introduced in FY2018 to encourage the participation of early-career researchers. Each year, four research projects for AAS and three projects for YAS are funded under these frameworks. The results of all research projects are published in the Publications section of the IAMU website.

Referee System

Referees nominated by IAMU member universities evaluate research proposals and final reports. Their voluntary contributions play an essential role in maintaining the academic quality and fairness of the IAMU Research Project.

Member-Driven Activities

Simulator Instructor Camp brings together simulator instructors from IAMU member universities to exchange experiences and address practical challenges in maritime simulator training. Held annually, the camp includes keynote sessions, thematic discussions, and hands-on group work. Through these activities, participants share teaching approaches, explore solutions to common issues, and contribute to the improvement of simulator-based training



Biofouling Network Webinars share research outcomes and address topics requested by network members. The IAMU Biofouling Network was established through the NOFOUL project, an IAMU Research Project in 2024. These webinars engage IAMU members through discussions, polls and surveys, and contribute to the exchange of knowledge on biofouling issues. These voluntary webinars will be continue in 2026 with a new programme.



Timeline of IAMU Events

Since IAMU was founded in 1999, our global network of members has spread through Europe, Africa, Americas, and Asia. Our goal is to promote the network of maritime universities across the world that are dedicated to building human capacity in the maritime sector.

- 1999** IAMU founded in Istanbul, Türkiye
- 2007** IAMU accredited with NGO in consultative status with IMO
- 2009** IAMU 10th Anniversary
AGA 10 hosted by Admiral Makarov State Maritime Academy, St. Petersburg, Russia
Saint Petersburg Statement adopted at AGA 10
- 
- 2017** AGA 18 hosted by Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy, Varna, Bulgaria
IAMU Student Forum jointly organised with IMO in London, UK
- 2018** AGA 19 hosted by Barcelona School of Nautical Studies
- Polytechnical University of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain
- 2019** IAMU 20th Anniversary
Commemorative AGA 20 held in Tokyo, Japan
The "Tokyo Statement" adopted at AGA 20
The first edition of Global Maritime Professional Body of Knowledge (GMP-Bok)
- 2021** AGA 21 hosted by Arab Academy for Science, Technology and
Maritime Transport, Alexandria, Egypt
- 2022** AGA 22 hosted by Batumi State Maritime Academy, Batumi, Georgia
- 2023** AGA 23 hosted by Satakunta University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland
IAMU Student Forum was jointly-organized with IMO in London, UK
- 2024** AGA 24 hosted by Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Buzzards Bay, US
- 2025** AGA 25 hosted by Academy of Maritime Education and
Training (AMET) University, Chennai, India
- 2026** AGA 26 to be hosted by University of Split, Faculty of Maritime Universities, Split, Croatia
Early Career Academic Forum to be organized in Tokyo, Japan
- 2027** AGA 27 to be hosted by John B.Lacson Foundation Maritime University, Philippines

Greetings from the Secretariat

When IAMU was originally established in 1999, the Secretariat was first located in the Maritime Faculty of the Istanbul Technical University in Turkey. In 2004, the office moved to Tokyo with great support from the Ocean Policy Research Foundation, currently The Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

The current Secretariat is located in an office in the Tokyo business district of Toranomon (Tiger's Gate in Japanese), administering and coordinating the affairs of IAMU, and implementing activities within the framework defined by the International Executive Board.

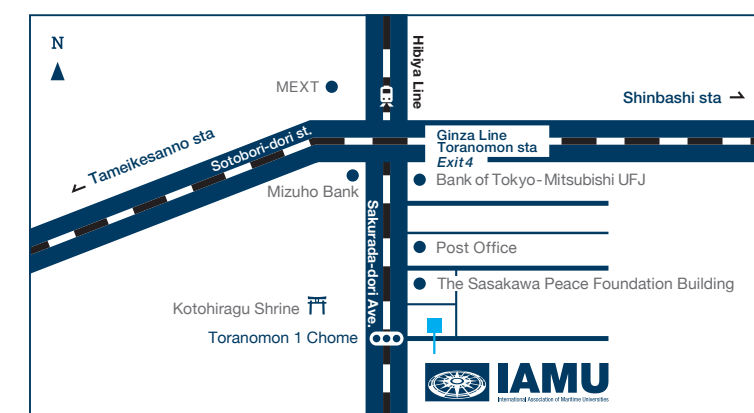
At the 15th Annual General Assembly in 2014, the revised Basic Agreement was approved, which included a new structure of the International Executive Board. Member universities also endorsed the Tasmanian Statement that clearly identified our key purposes and mechanisms to achieve them. The Secretariat faces another challenge of developing a new stage of the Association.

I believe that active communication among member universities and the Secretariat is the most important thing to sustain the effectiveness of IAMU's global network and to stimulate collaborative activities with member universities. We always welcome your valuable proposals to achieve our mission and goals. Let's work together!



**Takeshi Nakazawa,
Ph.D**

Executive Director



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U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

