皇家造船師學會暨輪機工程及海事科技學會
香港聯合分會
The Hong Kong Joint Branch of
The Royal Institution of Naval Architects
and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology

香港海事科技學會
THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF MARINE TECHNOLOGY

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS
香港工程師學會
Mechanical, Marine, Naval Architecture & Chemical Division
機械、輪機、造船及化工分部

** Notice of Joint Technical Seminar**

Technical Seminar on Trusted Resilience Powering Global Maritime Trade

DATE / TIME:
21 November 2026 (Saturday) / 9:15am – 12:15pm (Registration at 9:00am for on-site participation)

VENUE FOR ON-SITE PARTICIPATION:
The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Chan Yat Mei Sophie Room, 9/F Island Beverley, No.1 Great George Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS:
Being part of the Hong Kong Maritime Week 2026 activities, the seminar with three topics on *Trusted Resilience Powering Global Maritime Trade* have been co-organised by the HKIMT, the HKJB of RINA & IMarEST and HKIE-MMNC Division.

SESSION 1
"Pinglu Canal – the Mega-canal Project in China" by Prof. Zhanbin Meng

Pinglu Canal is a project of the century in Guangxi Province, China, this direct river-to-sea new corridor officially opened to navigation in September 2026. This vital link for Southwest China to the Beibu Gulf dramatically optimizes the Inland-Sea trade, reduces the overall freight by slashing maritime transit distances, and changing the industry's traditional 'Eastern Detour' through Guangdong Province to the sea. This will accelerate the logistics and economic integration between the inland Chinese markets and the ASEAN.

This session will focus on the project's overview, summarizing the canal's operation for over two months. Prof. Meng will introduce the engineering feat in addressing the 65-metre elevation difference along the canal by constructing three(3) massive ship-lock complexes, and the six(6) key technologies / elements to achieve the goal: water-saving navigation locks, concrete durability, low-impact construction, collaboration in bridges reconstruction and demolition, earthwork resource utilization, and digital model technology for the canal.

SESSION 2
"Review of Maritime Claim Cases and Challenges" by Mr. Robert Hodge & Ms. Maria Michael

What happens when a technical decision is questioned following a casualty, equipment failure or unexpected performance issue? Marine engineers, naval architects and surveyors may find their advice, calculations, designs or inspections examined in detail, sometimes years after the work was completed.

Through real claims handled by International Transport Intermediaries Management Co., Ltd. ("ITIC"), this presentation will explore how technical issues can develop into significant professional liability disputes. The

case studies demonstrate that an allegation does not necessarily mean the professional is responsible for the entire loss, particularly where operational factors, client decisions or work performed by others have contributed. The presentation will consider the role of expert evidence in testing allegations and identifying the true cause of a loss. It will also provide practical guidance on clearly defining responsibilities, recording technical assumptions, retaining supporting documents and protecting your position when your work is later called into question.

SESSION 3

"Advancing the World into the Era of Waterborne Intelligence: Key Technologies and Industrial Applications of Smart Electric USVs" by Dr. Liu Xia

As the blue economy and green transition accelerate, waterborne operations are moving toward electrification, autonomy, and swarm intelligence. This session will present the technical architecture of smart electric unmanned surface vehicles (USVs), covering perception, autonomous navigation, collision avoidance, remote control, swarm coordination, electric propulsion, and energy management. Drawing on OceanAlpha's applications in hydrographic surveying, environmental monitoring, emergency rescue, security patrol, and waterborne operations, it will discuss how USVs improve efficiency, safety, and sustainability. The session will also explore opportunities in Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area, and global waters, envisioning the era of waterborne intelligence.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS:

Prof. Zhanbin Meng, Vice Dean of the College of Mechanical, Marine and Ocean Engineering, Beibu Gulf University

Prof. Meng is the Vice Dean of the College of Mechanical, Marine and Ocean Engineering, Beibu Gulf University. He also holds several professional roles including Deputy Secretary-General of the Guangxi Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, and NSFC peer reviewer. He leads the Guangxi Province's Key Laboratory of Marine Engineering Equipment and Technology.

Prof. Meng's research covers the ship and offshore structure design and safety. He has led and contributed to over ten major research projects, secured 12 science and technology progress awards, published more than 10 papers, and holds over 20 authorized patents.

Mr. Robert Hodge, Asia-Pacific Regional Manager of International Transport Intermediaries Management Co., Ltd. ("ITIC")

Mr. Hodge is the ITIC's Asia-Pacific Regional Manager.
He began his career at sea, crewing on superyachts before serving as a deck officer in the merchant navy, giving him first hand operational insight into the risks faced by maritime intermediaries.

Mr. Hodge has nearly 20 years' experience in the marine insurance industry and has contributed his expertise to the industry in the development of widely used for BIMCO ship management maritime contracts.

Ms. Maria Michael, Account Executive at ITIC in London

Ms. Maria Michael is the Account Executive at ITIC in London, where she focuses on underwriting and claims handling for maritime professionals in Spain, U.K, Canada, Morocco, and South America. She holds a bachelor's degree in Maritime Business with Law and a First-Class Master's degree in Maritime Safety and Security Management.

Dr. Liu Xia, Business Development Manager of OceanAlpha

Dr. Liu is the Business Development Manager of OceanAlpha (Zhuhai Yunzhou Intelligence Technology Co., Ltd.), the prominent company specializing in the development, manufacturing, and deployment of advanced Unmanned Surface Vehicles (USVs) and autonomous water-surface robotic systems.

Dr. Liu actively promotes the research and development. She is also a member of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Sub-Committee under the Convocation of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, serving as a direct professional bridge for marine robotics and the cross-border entrepreneurial networking in regional development.

LANGUAGE:

The presentation will be delivered in English and Mandarin.

REGISTRATION:

This number of physical participants is limited to 70. Attendance certificates will be provided. For registration (on a first-come-first-served basis), please fill in the online registration form https://forms.gle/KTvM6sAKycoTN3Zh7 **not later than 15 November 2026**. Successful applicants will be notified by email.

For queries, please contact the Honorary Secretary of HKJB of RINA & IMarEST at email secretary.hkg@branches.imarest.org or Mr. Chan Wai Lok (email: alfredchanwailok@yahoo.com.hk)