The 2026 meeting of the Shenzhen Global Marine Economy Forum

Hosted by
China Oceanic Development Foundation
Shenzhen Port Group
Global Ocean Capital Promotion Council of Shenzhen

Shenzhen World Exhibition & Convention Center 22 - 23 October 2026

Public program as of 23 October 2026

Names listed by alphabetical order - Names of the country where the principal HQ of the company is located

Thursday 22 October 2026	
08:00 On-Going	***Registration of Forum participants***
09:00 - 11:30	***Official opening ceremony for*** ***The China Marine Economy Exposition (CMEE)*** ***VIP Exhibition Tour*** ***Guest of Honour Pavilion Opening Ceremony***
12:00 - 13:15	***Lunch break***
13:30 - 14:15	***Opening Session of the Shenzhen Global Marine Economy Forum*** Speeches by Senior Leaders from China and Overseas **Efstathios Andreou**, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Guangzhou **Bao Daming**, Secretary General of the International Mangrove Center **Chan Yaodong,** Deputy Secretary-General, Shenzhen Municipal People's Government

	Vassilios Demetriades, Former Shipping Deputy Minister to the President of the Republic of Cyprus **He Guangshun,** Chief Engineer, Ministry of Natural Resources of China **Hu Chaoyang**, Party Secretary and Chairman, Shenzhen Port Group **Lv Bin**, President of China Oceanic Development Foundation **Hon Sunny Tan**, Chairman of Hong Kong Productivity Council, Member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
14:15 - 14:30	***Report Release: China Ocean Development Report 2026*** Institute of Marine Development Strategy, Ministry of Natural Resources of China ***Release of the 2026 China Marine Engineering and Construction Industry Development Report*** National Marine Consultancy Center, Ministry of Natural Resources ***Release of the 2026 Blue Book of Marine Economy*** Ocean University of China ***Launch of Digital Twin Ocean 1.0 and Shenzhen's Digital Twin Application for Marine Disaster Prevention and Mitigation*** National Marine Data and Information Service; Shenzhen Marine Development Promotion Center ***Release of the Report on the Competitiveness Index of Marine Industry Cities*** Shenzhen Development and Reform Innovation Center ***China Ocean Energy Development and Utilization Report 2026*** Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China
14:30 - 15:30	***What growth potential for the blue economy - and China's part of it - in the next five years?*** The marine economy is today estimated at 3 to 6 trillion US dollars and is expected to keep expanding. While, globally, the sector is expected to continue to grow annually at 4-6%, over the next five years China's Compound Annual Growth Rate is estimated at 5–8% for the same period. However, ensuring the sustainability of ocean resources is a key condition and an absolute priority if the blue economy is to realize its full potential as an ever more important source of prosperity and social development.

	✓ What factors will be most impactful in the coming years in driving the expansion of the blue economy globally and in China? ✓ What sectors of China's blue economy are expected to have the greatest growth potential by 2030? ✓ What a sustainable long-term growth of the marine economy will require from governments, corporations, and the academic community? *Speakers*: **Cheng Zhangmin**, Deputy Director, Shenzhen Municipal Ocean Development Bureau **Luobing Lou**, Director for Greater China and Vietnam, RINA, Italy **Pan Xinchun**, Vice President and Secretary-General of China Oceanic Development Foundation **Mark J. Spalding**, President, The Ocean Foundation, Senior Fellow at the Center for the Blue Economy, The Middlebury Institute of International Studies, USA **Zhang Zhanhai**, Chairman of China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association *Moderated by:* **Nan Haifen**, Vice Chairwoman of the German-Chinese Media Network, Senior Media Professional
15:40 - 16:40	***Expanding the Use of New Financial Instruments for Marine Activities*** Several ocean sustainability projects such as marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, coastal resilience to climate change but also the development of green shipping and logistics have difficulties attracting the funding they need, despite their importance for the future of the oceans. The gap between the resources available and the financing needs to be bridged. New forms of finance such as blue bonds and blue loans are now used for an increasing number of projects. However, several issues constraining the full development of blue finance remain, such as regulatory uncertainties, a higher risk profile associated with many ocean-related projects. ✓ What is needed to direct more private capital flows towards Blue finance? ✓ How to manage investors' exposure to ocean-related uncertainties and risk? What approach to risk mitigation?

	✓ What kind of policy framework and regulatory support would facilitate the expansion of Blue Finance instruments? ✓ What best ways to blend public and private capital at scale? ✓ How can platforms such as the International Mangrove Center and the Shenzhen Urban Index (UIS) which connect environment conservation with capital, technology and industry, and make ecological value more measurable and investable? *Speakers*: **Yonghai Du**, Chief Innovation Officer, Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong **Debra Tan,** Director and Head, CWR, Hong Kong **Torsten Thiele**, Founder & Executive Director, Global Ocean Trust, Germany **Chavalit Frederick Tsao**, Chairman, TPC (Tsao Pao Chee) Group; Maritime Entrepreneur, Singapore **Wu Zhenghong**, Director, Shenzhen Natural Resources and Real Estate Valuation and Development Research Center *Moderated by* **Zhou Hua**, Secretary-General, Marine Economic Innovation and Development Branch, China Society for Pacific Studies; Partner, Beijing Dacheng Law Offices
16:40 - 17:10	***Global Ocean Governance and Urban Sustainable Development*** Since January 2026, the international legal framework for global ocean governance has been strengthened significantly by the entering into force of the High Seas Treaty, for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. However, major issues are still to be addressed regarding the implementation and the enforcement of the treaty and a forthcoming meeting scheduled in January 2027 will be quite important. In the same way, the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, entered into force at the end of 2025 was a significant step for a more effective ocean governance but some significant issues related to the implementation of the agreement are yet to be addressed. And no progress has been made towards achieving an agreement on the much needed Global Plastic Pollution Treaty. Where do we stand with the process of strengthening and expanding the architecture for global ocean governance? What are the most critical challenges to be addressed?

	Keynote speakers: **Olivier Poivre d'Arvor**, Special Envoy of the President of the French Republic for Ocean and Poles **Shan Liang,** Director, Shenzhen Urban Planning and Land Development Research Center; Director, Shenzhen Urban Index (UIS) Research Center **Peter Thomson**, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean *Discussion leader:* **Henry Wang**, Founder and President of the Center for China and Globalization (CCG)
17:10 - 18:00	***Awards Ceremony***
Friday 23 October 2026	
09:00 - On-going	***Registration of participants***
09:30 - 10:45	***What to expect for Asia's Blue economy from the APEC Summit in Shenzhen?*** Although marine economy is not a specific official item on the agenda of the November 2026 APEC Summit in Shenzhen, one can expect that this increasingly important sector of the global and China's economy will be part of the leaders' discussions on the key domains on the agenda of the Summit. The role of the marine economy and the important implications for its different components could hardly be ignored when addressing the topic of supply chains and connectivity or of energy, and food security, or trade and regional integration. ✓ What kind of advances could be hoped for on the issues of policy coordination and transparency so important for the marine economy? ✓ How could the forthcoming APEC Summit achieve progress on the issue of making regional supply chains more resilient to shocks and disruptions?

	✓ What actions can APEC members adopt to increase the sustainability of the marine economy and – in so doing – accelerate the path towards a green economy? ✓ How can Shenzhen leverage platforms such as CMEE and UIS to strengthen cooperation among Asia-Pacific ocean cities and advance marine economic innovation and regional sustainable development? *Speakers*: **Le Yucheng**, Former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China; Former Deputy Director of the National Radio and Television Administration **Li Daozheng**, Vice President, Government Affairs Business Group, Huawei **Liu Zhenghua**, Research Fellow, Third Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China; Chief Scientist, APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center **Diana Lozano**, Senior Manager, Mexican Chamber of Commerce in China (MEXCHAM) **Yu Lu**, Party Secretary and Chairman, Shenzhen Urban Planning & Design Institute Co., Ltd. *Moderated by:* **Serena DONG**, Senior Media Professional; CCG Non-resident Research Fellow
11:00 -12:15	***Open Cooperation, Collaborative Resilience, Green & Smart Development: Building a New Ecosystem for High-Quality Port and Shipping Growth*** The global maritime industry is undergoing profound transformation amid shifting trade patterns, geopolitical uncertainties and growing supply chain risks. The forum will bring together maritime leaders, industry experts and leading enterprises to explore new pathways for sustainable and resilient maritime development, focusing on open cooperation, green innovation, digital transformation and collaborative resilience to build a more connected, sustainable and resilient global maritime ecosystem. ✓ How can Greater Bay Area ports strengthen coordination, deepen Shenzhen-Hong Kong cooperation, and foster mutually beneficial development amid shifts in global shipping? ✓ How can the shipping industry strengthen coordination and emergency response mechanisms to enhance supply chain resilience and ensure stable, efficient international logistics?

	✓ How can green ports, clean energy, and shared low-carbon standards drive a sustainable and scalable global shipping ecosystem? ✓ How can digital innovation, data sharing, and smart technologies improve efficiency, service quality, and competitiveness across the port and shipping industry? ***Launch of the Cooperation Initiative on Coordinated Port Development in the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area*** *Speakers:* **Florent D'Azevedo,** Director of Strategic Business Development in China, CMA CGM, France **Vassilios Demetriades**, Former Shipping Deputy Minister to the President of the Republic of Cyprus **Ku Fan,** Secretary-General, Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) **Liu Peng**, President & Deputy Party Secretary, China Waterborne Transport Research Institute, Ministry of Transport **Qiu Zhaofeng**, Chairman and General Manager, Zhendui Industrial Intelligent Technology Co., Ltd. **Lawrence Shum,** Managing Director of Hutchison Ports YANTIAN **Yang Jiemin,** Vice President, Tianjin Port (Group) Co., Ltd.
12:00 - 13:15	***Lunch break***
13:20 - 14:30	***Leveraging the latest technology advances in the marine renewable energy sector*** The offshore renewable energy sector has been evolving quite significantly over the last two years with new developments such as wave energy converters, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion, floating wind turbines, etc. being implemented. Another quite important new development is the emergence of hybrid offshore energy systems, putting together different energy sources on the same platform. ✓ What new technologies beyond offshore wind are advancing the fastest? ✓ How to get many projects which are still at a pre-commercial or subsidized to move into profitability? ✓ What answers to the issues of High costs, grid connection and transmission infrastructure, environmental impact?

	Speakers **Gianluca Giorgi,** Vice chair of South China Board of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China and CEO of ES Automation Consulting Ltd**.** **Xiaofan Li**, Professor, Swire Institute of Marine Science, Marine Renewable Energy, Marine Structures & Equipment, The University of Hong Kong **Alex Ng**, Manager Energy Transition & Advanced Technologies, SeaTech Solutions, Singapore **Peng Wei,** Director General & Party Secretary, National Ocean Technology Center **Sun Xiansheng,** Chairman, International Energy Transition Association *Moderated by:* **Li Binbin**, Associate Professor, Tsinghua Shenzhen International Graduate School (SIGS)
14:45 - 15:45	***Meet the startups pushing the frontiers of marine technology innovation*** Artificial intelligence, advanced sensors, autonomous vessels, underwater robotics, digital twins and big data analytics are transforming the future of ocean technology and industries. Ocean tech startups are driving innovation through agility and cross-sector collaboration, while smart ocean infrastructure provides a digital foundation for resource management, operational safety and ecosystem protection. Shenzhen is building an "Ocean Silicon Valley" by connecting technology, talent, capital and real-world applications to accelerate R&D, field validation and commercialization, and to foster globally competitive ocean technology companies and future industry clusters. ✓ How can we attract more patient capital to support long-cycle innovation projects at the intersection of artificial intelligence and ocean technology? ✓ How can we help ocean AI startups participate in major national initiatives, integrate into leading companies' industrial ecosystems, and access city-level application scenarios? ✓ How can Shenzhen leverage artificial intelligence, foundation models and ocean data to accelerate the development of smart ocean infrastructure and build a globally influential "Ocean Silicon Valley"?

	Speakers: **Jean-Marc Daniel**, Director General in Charge of Strategy, French National Institute for Ocean Science (Ifremer) **Sidhant Gupta**, Co-founder, Clearbot, Honk Kong **Sue Putallaz,** Co-founder & CEO, MobyFly, Switzerland **Klaus Zenkel**, Board Member, European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, South China Chapter; Former National Vice President, European Union Chamber of Commerce in China **Jacky Zhu**, Founder & CEO Orcauboat, People's Republic of China *Moderated by:* **Ma Zhenmin**, Editor-in-Chief of New Media, Harvard Business Review China; Executive Publisher, Thinker Science & Technology Review
15:50 - 16:55	***How is the shipping industry addressing a convergence of challenges?*** The last few years have seen an accumulation of challenges for the shipping industry, from the pressures to decarbonize and move to alternative sustainable energies, to the need to accelerate the digitization of operations, from geopolitical and climate change-generated disruptions testing the resilience of maritime supply chains to uncertainties related to technology and alternative fuel solutions and mobilizing the necessary financial resources to address these issues. ✓ What best approaches for identifying the long-term sustainability of new fuel options, such as biofuels, methanol, hydrogen and ammonia. ✓ How can digital optimization reduce the carbon footprint of the shipping industry? ✓ Will financing options expand enough to help operators sustain the costs of accelerated decarbonization and digitization processes and of fleet renewal? ✓ What actions can be taken to mitigate the risks created by increasing trade frictions and changing trade patterns? *Speakers* **Hu Zhenyu**, Vice President of Qianhai Division, Director Of Department Of Sustainable Development And Blue Economy Research, China Development Institute, Shenzhen **Rico Salgmann,** Transport Specialist, The World Bank

	Torsten Thiele, Founder & Executive Director, Global Ocean Trust, Germany **Zou Junshan**, Chief Representative for China, the Port of Rotterdam Authority, Board director, Zhuhai Port Co. Ltd *Moderated by:* **Claude Smadja**, President, Smadja & Smadja Strategic Advisory Switzerland, Senior Adviser of Global Ocean Capital Promotion Council of Shenzhen
16:55 - 17:00	***Concluding remarks: Highlights from The 2026 meeting of the Shenzhen Global Marine Economy Forum***