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ORGANIZATION

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Circular Letter No. 5145
16 March 2026

To: All IMO Member States and Associate Members
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO

Subject: **Technical Seminar on methane-based fuels, 12 May 2026**

1 The Marine Environment Division, in particular the Future Fuels and Technology (FFT) Project*, is organizing a Technical Seminar on methane-based fuels, scheduled to take place on Tuesday 12 May 2026 at IMO Headquarters, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR, before the 111th session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 111).

2 The aim of this one-day Technical Seminar, designed to be informative, is to enhance the understanding and share recent experiences in the use of methane-based fuels, e.g. LNG, bio-methane, and e-methane. Following up on the recent Technical Seminar on [biofuels](#) which touched upon bio-methane as a marine fuel produced from biomass feedstock, this Technical Seminar will address in more detail the latest developments in the production, safe use, and blending of methane-based fuels.

3 The provisional programme for the Seminar is set out in the annex. More detailed information regarding the programme and speakers will be circulated in due course.

4 A limited number of speaker slots are available and interested Member States and organizations are invited to nominate speakers and inform the Secretariat by email at futurefuels@imo.org by **10 April 2026** at the latest. Please note that no nominations will be accepted after the deadline.

5 Seminar participants will be subject to the Code of Conduct for Delegates, Observers and Other Participants at IMO Meetings, Events and Activities to Prevent Harassment including Sexual Harassment (see Circular Letter No.4908 of 20 August 2024).

6 The Technical Seminar will be conducted as an in-person event at IMO Headquarters, with hybrid support for remote participation, and in English only without interpretation.

7 To participate, registration is required by **8 May 2026** using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/b4dYcsWt8m>. In case of any further queries, please email the FFT Project team at futurefuels@imo.org.

8 The FFT Project's next technical seminar will focus on ammonia and is provisionally planned to be held in the margins of the 12th session of the Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC 12) in September 2026.

* The **Future Fuels and Technology Project** is a partnership project between the Government of the Republic of Korea and IMO.

ANNEX

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE TECHNICAL SEMINAR
ON METHANE-BASED FUELS**

Time	Presentation	Speakers
10:00-10:30	IMO's ruleset and policies relevant for the use of methane-based fuels	Secretariat
Session 1: State-of-play of the current and projected use of methane-based fuels in shipping (Each presentation will be followed by Q&A)		
10:30-12:00	Overview of current volumes in shipping, availability and bunkering infrastructure, and experience	Ship owners, shipbuilders, R&D-pilot programmes, etc.
Session 2: Developments in production pathways and on-board technology (Each presentation will be followed by Q&A)		
14.00-16:00	Production pathways, supply potential, upstream and on-board emissions abatement technologies	Fuel producers, suppliers, energy companies, engine and onboard technology manufacturers, etc.
Session 3: Technical aspects enabling safe bunkering and on-board use (Each presentation will be followed by Q&A)		
16:30-17:30	Bunkering and on-board safety requirements and training requirements of seafarers	Ship builders, classification societies, ports, etc.