



**FUTURE
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Speaker Profiles

Technical seminar on the use of ammonia as marine fuel

IMO Headquarters, 17 September 2026



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4 Albert Embankment
London, SE1 7SR



Dr. Lynn Loo

Chief Executive Officer, GCMD

Moderator

Prof. Lynn Loo is the Chief Executive Officer at the Global Centre for Maritime Decarbonisation.

Under her leadership, Lynn has led GCMD to launch several initiatives to close technical and operational gaps in deploying ammonia as a marine fuel, establishing the assurance framework for drop-in green fuels, unlocking the carbon value chain to demonstrate onboard carbon capture and storage systems and the offtake of LCO₂, and deploying energy efficiency technologies to improve fuel efficiency of ships. To date, GCMD is working with more than 130 centre- and project-level partners.

Prior to joining GCMD, Lynn was the Director of the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment at Princeton University.

Lynn is currently Theodora D. '78 and William H. Walton III '74 Professor in Engineering and professor of chemical and biological engineering at Princeton University. She is also a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Physical Society and the Materials Research Society.



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Ms. Vibeke Rasmussen

Vice President Certification and Regulatory Affairs, Yara International ASA

Vibeke Rasmussen has 30 years of industrial experience from the Water and Fertilizer industries. Through her various roles spanning research & development, project management, sales and general management Vibeke has developed extensive experience in translating sustainability ambitions into practical business opportunities.

Vibeke joined Yara in 2014 and has worked within different business units across the company, including last 5 years as responsible for Yara Clean Ammonia product management. Today, she holds the role of VP Certification and Regulatory Affairs for low-carbon products within the Yara Group dedicated to achieving sustainable growth while meeting evolving market and regulatory expectations.

Vibeke is board member of the Norwegian Hydrogen Forum, the Hydrogen Council and Ammonia Energy Association and the President of Ammonia Europe.

Vibeke Rasmussen has a MSc in Civil Engineering from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway and an MBA from University of Lincoln, UK.



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Mr. Martin Eriksen

Head of Safety Leadership & Operations,
Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon
Shipping

Martin Eriksen is a seasoned safety professional with extensive leadership and operational experience within maritime & logistics. With a career spanning nearly 20 years, he has progressed from dual maritime officer to leading global safety and operations functions across the maritime and logistics sectors. Martin joined The Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping in 2022 and is serving as Head of Safety Leadership & Operations in the Fleet Transition function.

The Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping is a not-for-profit, independent research- and development center working with industry players across the energy- and shipping sectors to develop solutions and viable decarbonization pathways for shipping globally. With Partners, the Center facilitates the development and implementation of new energy technologies; builds confidence in new concepts and their supply chains; and accelerates the transition by defining and maturing viable strategic ways to drive the required systemic and regulatory change. The Center is Copenhagen-based and has a partner base of global companies across the maritime eco system.



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Ms. Françoise van den Brink

Strategic Lead Energy Transition, Port of Rotterdam

Françoise van den Brink is Strategic Lead Energy Transition at the Port of Rotterdam, Division Harbour Master. In this role, she provides strategic direction for the transition towards a low-carbon energy system, with a focus on shipping and the role of ports in enabling new energy-related activities. Her work focuses on preparing the port for the safe introduction of alternative marine fuels and emerging technologies, including onboard carbon capture.

She combines expertise in energy transition, safety, and governance to ensure that innovative activities can be implemented safely, responsibly, and in a future-proof manner. A key part of her role is the development of governance frameworks and safety systems that support the transition to sustainable shipping. She works closely with industry, government authorities, and knowledge institutions at both national and international levels to align stakeholders and enable a coordinated energy transition.

Internationally, Françoise contributes to the development of harmonised safety frameworks for new marine fuels, including LNG, methanol, hydrogen, ammonia, and nuclear propulsion. She led the Port of Rotterdam's ammonia bunkering pilot under the MAGPIE programme and chairs the IAPH Working Group on the Port Readiness Level for Marine Fuels assessment tool, supporting ports worldwide in preparing for the safe introduction of alternative marine fuels.



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Mr. Tobias Krook

Head of small-bore engines development, Wärtsilä,
(nominated by EUROMOT)

Tobias Krook holds an M.Sc. in Energy Technology and leads the development of small-bore engines within Wärtsilä R&D. Based in Vaasa, Finland, he has been with Wärtsilä since 2013 and has spent the last 11 years in R&D. Tobias is passionate about supporting shipping's transition to more sustainable fuels and a lower-carbon future.



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Ms. Dorte Marie Sveistrup Jacobsen

Principal Research Engineer, Everllence
(nominated by EUROMOT)

Dorte is a Master of Science in mechanical engineering, and she has a B.Sc. in both Leadership and Project Management. She is working as Principal Research Engineer specializing in emissions and regulatory affairs for Everllence (formerly called: MAN Energy Solutions). She has worked 28 years with R&D of large two-stroke engines.

She is active in several international industry organizations, including CIMAC and EUROMOT, and she has previously participated in ISO standards development for marine fuels. Dorte also serves as a technical advisor to the Danish delegation at IMO environmental meetings, including MEPC and PPR.



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Mr. Anirudh Purayil

Project Manager – New Engines, WinGD Ltd.
(nominated by EUROMOT)

Originally from Bengaluru in India, Anirudh obtained a Master of Science specialized in Internal Combustion Engines from RWTH University in Aachen, Germany. With over 10 years of experience in the maritime industry, including close to five years focused on engine design and development, he has extensive expertise in low-speed two-stroke engine technologies, future fuel propulsion systems, and marine safety for alternative fuels.

As Project Manager – New Engines at WinGD Ltd. in Switzerland, Anirudh is responsible for the company's first commercial ammonia engine projects. He is also an active participant in various marine industry associations, serving as a technical and safety expert, including in the EUROMOT delegation to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), contributing to the future fuel regulatory discussions at Intersessional Working Group on Alternative Fuels (ISWG-AF3).

Prior to his current role, he served as Technical Project Manager at CIMAC, and more recently as Expert Classification for Future Fuels at WinGD, where he managed the certification of WinGD's first methanol and ammonia engines.



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Mr. Patrick Jan

Expertise Leader – Environment, Innovative Engine and Alternative fuels, Bureau Veritas

Patrick Jan is currently an Expertise Leader – Environment, Innovative Engine and Alternative fuels at Bureau Veritas Head Office in Paris. In this role, he leads technical innovation initiatives. His work focuses on alternative fuels, decarbonization strategies, hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, LNG, hybrid propulsion systems, and novel vessel concepts, while contributing to Bureau Veritas' Future Shipping initiatives.

Before joining Bureau Veritas in 2011, Mr. Jan was navigated for several shipowners on container vessels, passenger vessels, oceanographic research vessel and LNG carrier. In 2011, he started to work for Bureau Veritas in risk consultancy services at Bureau Veritas with a specialization in risk assessment tools from Risktech training in Great Britain and in 2014 he held the position of Head of Machinery Department at Bureau Veritas Head Office in Paris.

Beyond his Bureau Veritas responsibilities, Mr. Jan is actively engaged with leading associations and forums. He is a member of CIMAC (Conseil International des Machines à Combustion) and regularly represents Bureau Veritas in technical panels, conferences, forums, and selected working groups.

With more than 28 years of experience in shipping, technical management, newbuilding, retrofit projects, and vessel operations, Mr. Jan is recognized as one of the leading maritime specialists in Bureau Veritas.

Mr. Jan holds a Merchant Navy officer licence from the Ecole National Supérieur Maritime (France) and is a certified Chief Engineer (Motor) Unlimited.



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Ms. Nathalie Deleuze

Maritime expert – Alternative Fuels

Belgian Federal Public Service Mobility and Transport,
DG Shipping

Nathalie Deleuze is a maritime expert at the Belgian Federal Public Service Mobility and Transport, Directorate-General Shipping, specializing in the assessment and approval of Alternative Design and Arrangements (ADA) for newbuilding projects and innovative ship technologies. Representing Belgium in international regulatory discussions, she contributes to the development of safety frameworks and risk-based approaches for alternative marine fuels.

Her expertise spans regulatory compliance, risk assessment, safety engineering, and design evaluation, with particular emphasis on the IGF Code, IGC Code, and alternative design processes. She has played a key role in the approval and commissioning of the first ammonia-fueled ships under the Belgian flag, working closely with shipowners, shipyards, classification societies, and regulatory authorities.

She continues to work closely with industry stakeholders to enable the safe and practical implementation of innovative vessel concepts.



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Mr. Liam Blackmore

Global Head of Technology Adoption and Integration,
Lloyd's Register

Liam Blackmore is the Global Head of Technology Adoption and Integration in Lloyd's Register, specialising in complex, safety critical energy and power systems. International experience spanning system assurance, regulatory development, technical governance, and operational delivery. Recognised authority in alternative fuel classification and decarbonisation technologies, with direct responsibility for defining acceptable technical practice in areas where regulatory frameworks are immature or evolving. Regularly represents Lloyd's Register at industry and regulatory level, influencing the safe adoption of novel technologies across the global fleet.



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Mr. Jun Kato

General Manager, Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha
(NYK Line)

Jun Kato is a General Manager at NYK Line with over 25 years of experience spanning newbuilding, ship management, and commercial operations.

He was previously seconded to the Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping, of which NYK Line is a founding company partner, where he contributed to international efforts to accelerate maritime decarbonization. His work included the development and assessment of alternative-fuel vessel concepts, with a particular focus on ammonia as a marine fuel. Following his return to NYK, he has remained actively engaged in collaborative initiatives through the Center's international network.

He currently plays a leading role in the ammonia-fuelled ship project under Japan's Green Innovation Fund Program for next-generation vessel development. He has worked closely with shipyards, classification societies, equipment manufacturers, research institutions, and international industry organizations to advance the practical adoption of low- and zero-carbon marine fuels. His work focuses on bridging technological innovation, safety assurance, and commercial deployment to support the maritime industry's transition toward net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.



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Captain Masaya Kawai

Sakigake Captain, Shin-Nippon Kaiyosha (SNK, an NYK subsidiary)

Masaya Kawai graduated from the Shimizu Maritime School (now National Shimizu Maritime Poly-technical College) in 1998 and joined Shin-Nippon Kaiyosha (an NYK subsidiary). He worked in tug operations as an ordinary seaman and deck officer and was promoted to captain in 2011. In 2015, he took part in the delivery of Japan's first LNG-fuelled tugboat, SAKIGAKE, serving as captain and gaining extensive experience in the safe operation of next-generation fuel vessels.

Drawing on this background and expertise, he now serves as captain of the world's first commercial ammonia-fuelled vessel, the recently converted SAKIGAKE which was converted from LNG to ammonia propulsion commencing operations in August 2024. Leveraging his long-standing experience in tug operations, throughout the project he has made proposals aimed at ensuring safe and practical operations and has contributed to the establishment of the operational framework. Since the vessel's delivery, he has focused on developing daily operational plans aligned with the day's scheduled work, working to ensure safety while maximizing the effective use of the ammonia-fuelled engines.



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Mr. Atsushi Takahashi

Sakigake Chief Engineer, Shin-Nippon Kaiyosha
(SNK, an NYK subsidiary)

Atsushi Takahashi graduated from the Marine Technical College in 1997 and joined ShinNippon Kaiyosha (an NYK subsidiary). He worked in tug operations as a wiper and engineer, undertaking engine operation and maintenance, and was promoted to chief engineer in 2009. In 2015, he took part in the commissioning of Japan's first LNG-fuelled tugboat, SAKIGAKE, serving as chief engineer and gaining extensive experience in the safe operation and engine management of next-generation fuel vessels.

Leveraging this experience and expertise, he participated in the project to convert the SAKIGAKE from LNG to ammonia propulsion from the early design stage, contributing significantly to the development of the world's first commercial ammonia-fuelled vessel which commenced operations in August 2024. From an engineering perspective, he made proposals regarding equipment specifications and operational aspects, contributing to improvements in both safety and practicality. Since the vessel's delivery, he has been responsible as the chief engineer for operating the ammonia-fuel system and has continued to provide improvement proposals based on operational data and practical insights gained on site. He is working to enhance system reliability and to build knowledge that will support the wider adoption of ammonia-fuelled ships in the future.



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Mr. Joonghun Kim

Senior Surveyor

Korean Register

Joonghun Kim is a Senior Surveyor in the Convention and Legislation Service Team at Korean Register (KR), specialising in international safety regulations for alternative fuels and emerging maritime technologies. He has worked in the maritime industry since 2013, with experience spanning seagoing service, maritime education, classification and international regulatory work.

Before joining KR, he served as a marine engineer on LNG carriers, progressing to First Engineer. He also worked in maritime education and holds a master's degree in marine electrical engineering, with research on fuel cell systems for electric propulsion.

At the International Maritime Organization (IMO), his work covers ammonia, hydrogen and methyl/ethyl alcohol fuels, carriage of liquefied hydrogen in bulk, and onboard carbon capture systems (OCCS). He coordinates the Republic of Korea's technical work on developing IMO interim safety guidelines for OCCS, bringing together industry expertise to address system integration, operational safety, and the handling and transfer of captured carbon dioxide.

Regarding ammonia effluent management, he also coordinates the international group facilitating collaboration among administrations, classification societies, shipyards, manufacturers and research institutions. This work addresses the generation, handling, treatment, reuse and discharge of ammonia-containing effluent from ammonia-fuelled ships.

His multidisciplinary experience bridges practical engineering, emerging technologies and international regulatory development.



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Dr. Sofia Esquivel-Elizondo

Senior Scientist, Environmental Defense Fund

Sofia Esquivel-Elizondo is a Senior Scientist with Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) Europe. She studies the climate and environmental impacts of alternative fuels, focusing on hydrogen-derived fuels such as ammonia and methanol, as well as biofuels. Her work bridges science and policy, fostering collaboration with academia, industry, and NGOs to support the responsible deployment of low-emission fuel pathways, particularly in international shipping and climate policy.

Dr. Esquivel's scientific background spans biofuel and biomolecule production from waste streams, microbial nitrogen and hydrogen cycling, and the environmental impacts of alternative fuel value chains. More recently, she has published studies on hydrogen leakage and reactive nitrogen emissions associated with ammonia as a marine fuel, including their climate implications and potential impacts on marine ecosystems.

Dr. Esquivel earned a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from Universidad de las Américas Puebla, an M.Sc. in Bioprocesses from Instituto Politécnico Nacional, and a Ph.D. in Civil, Environmental and Sustainable Engineering from Arizona State University, where she conducted her doctoral research at the Biodesign Institute. She subsequently completed postdoctoral research at the Max Planck Institute for Biology before joining EDF in 2022.



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Mr. Tom Chitseko

Head of Risk and Safety, Lloyd's Register Maritime Decarbonisation Hub

Tom is a Master Mariner with over 15 years' experience in the maritime sector, including over a decade of sea-going experience. At the Decarb Hub, Tom leads work developing solutions to complex maritime risk problems through quantitative and qualitative analyses, with a particular focus on the human and organisational safety implications of alternative fuels.

Before joining the Decarb Hub, Tom worked in marine risk consultancy, where - among other projects - he supported catastrophic risk evaluations for shipping clients. Earlier, he held a staff officer post at UK Navy Command HQ as capability lead for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary oil tanker flotilla, responsible for policy work, interfacing with oil terminals and facilities and general vessel management.

A qualified Royal Navy Fleet Navigating Officer, Tom's sea-going career included deployments in support of energy supply security during the Arab Spring, co-ordinated amphibious exercises in the Gulf of Aden and counter-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean.

Tom holds a BSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics and an MSc in Managing Risk and System Change from Trinity College Dublin



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