# 2026 World Maritime Day Parallel Event, Korea Maritime Week, 10TH Digital@Sea Asia-Pacific Conference, Joint IHO-IMO-IALA Capacity Development Workshop – Busan, Republic of Korea, 26–29 October 2026

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2026.

Task 1.1.15 Maintain relationships with other international and observer organizations whose agendas are relevant to the IHO Programme.

## High level summary

- The IHO Secretary-General, Rear Admiral Luigi Sinapi, took part in the IMO–Republic of Korea World Maritime Day Parallel Event and its IGO–NGO Dialogue, reinforcing the practical connection between IMO, IHO and IALA and the need to translate maritime standards into operational capability.
- The 20th Korea Maritime Week and the 10th Digital@Sea Asia-Pacific Conference provided a high-level platform for S-100 implementation. The Secretary-General delivered congratulatory remarks, while IHO Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas presented the next-generation S-100 services and the future IHO Infrastructure Centre (IHOIC) in Busan.
- The Joint IHO-IMO-IALA Capacity Development Workshop addressed key developments in maritime digitalization, with representatives from seven countries sharing national progress, challenges and capacity development needs. IHO Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas delivered a welcome address and presented the IHO's role and activities.
- A visit to the newly appointed KHOA Director General, Ms. Jang Myo-in, further underlined the strategic contribution of the Republic of Korea to hydrography, maritime digitalization and international cooperation.

## Details:

*World Maritime Day Parallel Event – 26–27 October*

Jointly organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, the event in Busan addressed the IMO theme "*From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence*". Ministerial, international-organization, industry and

academic sessions emphasized that effective implementation requires shared standards, institutional capacity and coordinated action.




*Official group photograph – 2026 World Maritime Day Parallel Event, Busan.*

On 26 October, the IHO Secretary-General participated in *Session 2, "IGO–NGO Dialogue"*, moderated by IMO Secretary-General Emeritus Kitack Lim. He outlined the IHO Strategic Plan 2027–2032, the S-100 transition, the remaining global seabed-mapping gap and the need to invest in capacity development. During the panel discussion, he stressed the complementarity of IMO's regulatory framework, IHO's hydrographic standards and IALA's maritime services, supported by end-to-end interoperability and engagement with industry and users. Referring to his meeting with IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez in London on 30 September 2026, Rear Admiral Sinapi reaffirmed a shared commitment to coordinated S-100 implementation. Particular emphasis was placed on the link with SOLAS Chapter V, the role of authoritative information in next-generation ECDIS, practical sea trials, secure distribution and assistance to developing States. The dialogue demonstrated that digital navigation needs interoperable services rather than isolated solutions.




*Rear Admiral Luigi Sinapi addressing the IGO–NGO Dialogue, 26 October 2026 –*
*IHO S-G, IMO S-G and IMO S-G Emeritus at the end of Session 2 – IGO-NGO Dialogue*

*Korea Maritime Week – 28–29 October and 10th Digital@Sea Asia-Pacific Conference – 29 October*

The 2026 Korea Maritime Week marked the 20th edition of this national and international forum. Its programme brought together maritime authorities, international organizations, research institutions and industry around digitalization, decarbonization, maritime mobility, safety and capacity

development. It also provided an opportunity to reinforce the Republic of Korea's leadership in technological innovation and to link the policy discussions of World Maritime Day with practical solutions for the maritime sector.

*8th Asia-Pacific Capacity Development Workshop – 28 and 30 October*

The Joint IHO-IMO-IALA Capacity Development Workshop on "*Enhancing Safety of Navigation with Maritime Digitalization*" was held from 28 to 30 October 2026, bringing together 29 participants and representatives from IHO, IMO and IALA.




*Participants in 8th Asia-Pacific Capacity Development Workshop – 28 and 30 October.*

IHO Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas delivered a welcome address and presented the IHO's role and responsibilities, the importance of hydrography, the Capacity Development Work Programme and the transition to the S-100 data model. The Workshop addressed key developments in maritime digitalization, including next-generation ECDIS, MASS and Maritime Single Window. Representatives from seven countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam), whose attendance was supported by the organization, shared their latest developments, challenges and capacity development needs, identifying opportunities for coordinated support. Participants also attended the Digital@Sea Conference on 29 October and technical tour on 30 October, visiting the BadaNavi Center, Korea Institute of Maritime and Fisheries Technology and the National Maritime Museum of Korea.

*10th Digital@Sea Asia-Pacific Conference – 29 October*

Celebrating a decade of maritime digital cooperation, the Conference examined global digitalization trends, connectivity and infrastructure strategies, and national technologies. In his congratulatory remarks, the IHO Secretary-General highlighted the start of the operational S-100 era in 2026 and the transition towards the 2029 ECDIS milestone. He emphasized that data, equipment and maritime services must operate as a coherent ecosystem, and thanked the Korean Government for supporting the establishment of the IHO Infrastructure Centre (IHOIC) in Busan. He also recalled the need for close cooperation among IMO, IHO, IALA and other international organizations, acknowledging the participation of IALA Secretary-General Francis Zachariae. The IHOIC, scheduled for inauguration on 10 November 2026, will support shared technical infrastructure, interoperability and global implementation of S-100.



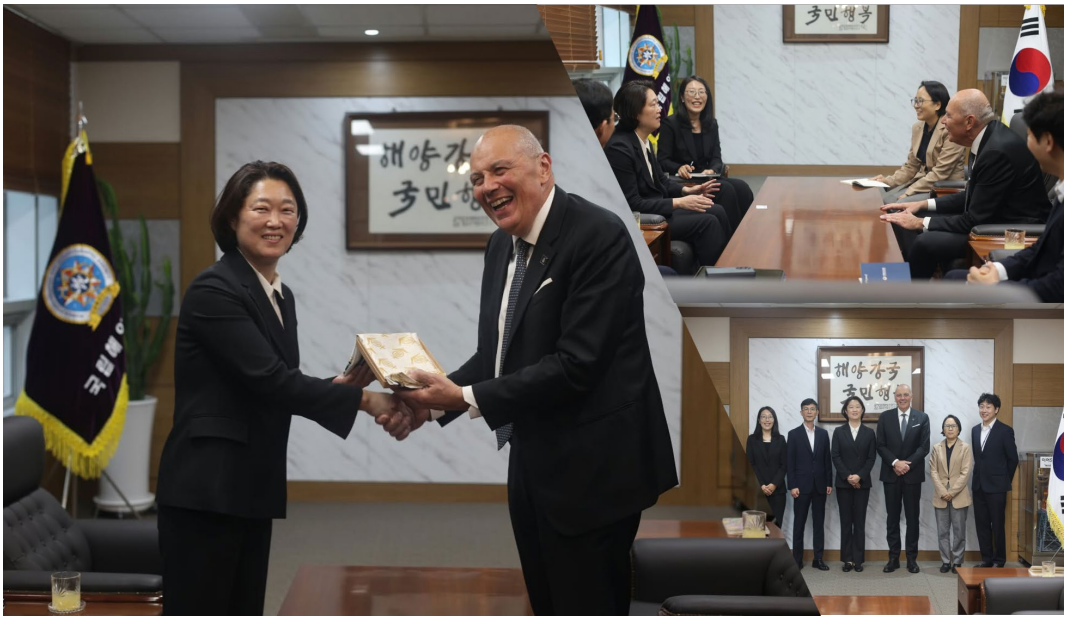

*IHO Secretary-General delivering congratulatory remarks and IHO Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas presenting the S-100 service standardization roadmap at the 10th Digital@Sea Asia-Pacific Conference, 29 October 2026.*

During *Session 1, "Global Trends and Prospects for Maritime Digitalization*", IHO Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas delivered a presentation entitled "*Current Status of Next-Generation S-100 Service Standardization*". It examined the transition from S-57 electronic charts to S-101 and related S-100 products, new dimensions of digital navigation, the IHO Geospatial Information Registry, the S-100 security scheme and the architecture for secure ship–shore services.

The presentation demonstrated the operational benefits of integrating charts, bathymetry, water levels and currents for navigation safety, route optimization and under-keel clearance management. It also presented the IHOIC's role in supporting implementation, with attention to the 2029 transition milestone.

*Visit to the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA)*

During the mission to Busan, the IHO Secretary-General visited KHOA and met its newly appointed Director General, Ms. Jang Myo-in. The visit provided an opportunity to acknowledge the Republic of Korea's longstanding commitment to IHO activities and its important role in hydrographic services, marine geospatial information and the international S-100 transition. It also reinforced the significance of Korea's support for the new IHO Infrastructure Centre and for practical technical cooperation.



*IHO Secretary-General with KHOA Director General Jang Myo-in during the official visit in Busan.*

*Overall assessment and follow-up*

The five engagements in Busan were mutually reinforcing: the *World Maritime Day Parallel Event* established the institutional imperative for cooperation; *Korea Maritime Week* connected policy with the wider maritime ecosystem; *Digital@Sea Conference* demonstrated progress towards usable S-100 services; *Joint IHO-IMO-IALA Capacity Development Workshop* reinforced international cooperation and supported countries in developing capacity and the *KHOA visit* strengthened direct relations with a key Member State partner.

The Secretariat will continue to coordinate with IMO, IALA, the Republic of Korea and technical stakeholders on S-100 implementation, interoperability, capacity development and the operational start-up of the IHO Infrastructure Centre. The central outcome is a stronger common understanding that maritime digital transformation must be measured not only by standards developed, but by trusted services delivered to end users.