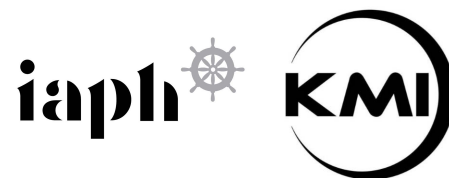


IAPH-KMI Port Forum 2026

27 July 2026, Tempyo Room, 14th Floor, Hotel Azur Takeshiba

Seminar Program & Speaker Introduction



Organized by IAPH, KMI, and Japanese Foundation for IAPH

Supported by IAPH Japanese Society

This program introduces keynote speakers, moderators, and presenters participating in the IAPHKMI Port Forum 2026.

Topics include decarbonization, digitalization, and operational efficiency in the maritime and port industries.

Opening Address

1030-1100

Dr. Tetsuya Hayakawa, Director, Industrial Port Policy Division, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)

Dr. Ichio Motono, Vice President, International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)

Dr. Kim Geunsub, Port Research Department, Senior Research Fellow / Ph.D. in Eng., Korea Maritime Institute (KMI)

Keynotes

1100-1200



Dr. Patrick Verhoeven

Managing Director, International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)

“Trends in Port Sustainability – Findings from the 2026 IAPH World Ports Tracker”

Patrick Verhoeven is managing director of the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH). The organisation represents 206 ports and 181 port-related businesses in 95 countries. Prior to joining IAPH in 2017, Patrick spent twenty-four years in Brussels representing the interests of shipowners, port authorities, terminal operators and ship agents at EU level. He started his career in 1991 with the Antwerp-based ship agent Grisar & Velge. From 2019 to 2022, Patrick served on the supervisory board of the Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority as deputy chairman. Patrick holds a PhD in applied economics and a bachelor's in law from the University of Antwerp. He is associate professor at the university's Centre for Maritime and Air Transport Management (C-MAT).

[pre-recorded video]



Prof. Ryuichi Shibasaki

Associate Professor, Department of Systems Innovation, School of Engineering, the University of Tokyo

“A global perspective on maritime and port industries in an uncertain era.”

Prior to his current dual appointment, Prof. Shibasaki spent over a decade at the National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management (NILIM) under the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT). His extensive career also includes serving as a Senior Researcher at the Overseas Coastal Area Development Institute of Japan (OCDI) and a Visiting Associate Professor at Kyoto University. His work spans global freight flow modeling, port logistics, and maritime big-data analytics. He has received multiple awards in the conferences for the International Association for Maritime Economists (IAME) and the Eastern Asia Society for Transport Studies and serves as associate editor for Maritime Policy & Management, International Journal of Shipping and Transport Logistics, and Asian Transport Studies and guest editor for Sustainability, Maritime Business Review, and Regional Studies in Marine Science. He is also a co-representative of the TLOG conference series.

Lunch
1200-1300

Decarbonization 1300-1415



Moderator

Prof. Enna Hirata

Professor, Graduate School of Maritime Sciences, Kobe University

After working for Marubeni Corporation and the A.P. Moller – Maersk Group, Prof. Hirata joined Kobe University in 2019. She currently serves as a professor at the Graduate School of Maritime Sciences, where she conducts interdisciplinary research spanning transportation economics, management, and data science, while also advancing data science education. Her studies on blockchain applications in supply chain management and the impact of COVID-19 on shipping and logistics received the 2022 and 2023 Emerald Literati Awards, respectively.



Mr. Hiroyuki Kikuchi

Director for Industrial Partnership Planning Ports and Harbours Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan
“Japan’s Carbon Neutral Port (CNP) Initiative”

Hiroyuki Kikuchi joined the Ministry in 2009 and has since built extensive experience in transport infrastructure policy, including ports, airports, logistics, and transport safety.

Over the course of his career, he has also worked at the Japan Tourism Agency and the Cabinet Office, where he was involved in tourism policy and regional revitalization initiatives.

While serving in the Akita Prefectural Government, he was responsible for the management of Akita Port and other ports. In this role, he contributed to decarbonization efforts through the development of offshore wind power projects. He currently leads and coordinates Japan’s Carbon Neutral Port (CNP) policy.



Mr. Hideyuki Ohnishi

President & Representative Director, Ocean Power Grid

“Building a new power grid across the ocean”

Harnessing ocean resources to address the energy challenges of remote islands is the core mission of Ocean Power Grid.

After studying solar energy at university, I developed global business experience in the energy sector and later served as representative of GE Energy Japan. During the GE Energy Carrier, led the development of onshore and offshore wind projects, advancing the practical deployment of renewable energy. PowerX’s vision is “a sustainably prosperous future”. By building a next-generation offshore transmission network, Ocean Power Grid is transforming ocean resources into a sustainable future for remote islands.



Mr. Lee Jae-Kwan,

Manager Sustainable Energy & Environment Department Energy Logistics Hub Team, Ulsan Port Authority
“Preparations at Ulsan Port for Eco-Friendly Marine Fuels”

Jae Kwan Lee has been working at Ulsan Port Authority since 2016. Prior to his current position, he worked in the Port Security Team, Planning & Coordination Office, Management Innovation Department, and Logistics Strategy Department. He currently serves as Manager of the Sustainable Energy & Environment Department, where he is responsible for developing sustainable energy storage infrastructure and alternative marine fuel supply chains. Jae Kwan holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Pusan National University.

Digitalization

1415-1530



Prof. Ryuichi Shibasaki

Moderator / Associate Professor, Department of Systems Innovation, School of Engineering, the University of Tokyo

Prior to his current dual appointment, Prof. Shibasaki spent over a decade at the National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management (NILIM) under the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT). His extensive career also includes serving as a Senior Researcher at the Overseas Coastal Area Development Institute of Japan (OCDI) and a Visiting Associate Professor at Kyoto University. His work spans global freight flow modeling, port logistics, and maritime big-data analytics. He has received multiple awards in the conferences for the International Association for Maritime Economists (IAME) and the Eastern Asia Society for Transport Studies and serves as associate editor for Maritime Policy & Management, International Journal of Shipping and Transport Logistics, and Asian Transport Studies and guest editor for Sustainability, Maritime Business Review, and Regional Studies in Marine Science. He is also a co-representative of the TLOG conference series.



Mr. Kinya Ichimura

Assistant GM / Head of Technological Development Gr. Marketing Dept., New Business Development Div., Mitsui E&S
“AI-Container Terminal”

He is a Licensed Professional Engineer in Mechanical Engineering (Delaware, U.S.). He began his career at Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding, working on PSA Singapore's automated cargo handling project, before joining PACECO CORP. (U.S.) to lead R&D for high-productivity container equipment. He also served as a Special Assistant at Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), leading IMO and ASEAN Port Security meetings. Currently, Mr. Ichimura spearheads business development in automated terminals, hydrogen-powered RTG cranes, and digital solutions.



Mr. Koo Ja-rim
Vice President for Global Affairs, Busan Port Authority (BPA)
“Busan Port’s Digital Smart Port Development Strategy”

Mr. Koo Ja-rim earned an LL.M. from Indiana University School of Law, USA (2002) and completed a Master’s program in Port Management at the World Maritime University (WMU) in 2017. He is licensed as an Attorney at Law in the State of New York, USA, and since joining the Busan Port Authority in 2004, he has been responsible for port marketing and international cooperation, overseas investment projects.



Dr. Lee Hyeryeong
Senior Researcher, Port Research Department, Korea Maritime Institute (KMI)

“Smart Port Transformation Strategy for Container Terminals”

Dr. Lee Hyeryeong is a researcher at the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), where she conducts policy research in the port sector. Her work addresses port digitalization and automation, port decarbonization, and the application of smart construction technologies to port projects, with an emphasis on the policy and institutional issues related to port operations and infrastructure. Dr. Lee holds a Ph.D. in Urban Engineering from Pusan National University, specializing in Transportation Engineering and Planning.

Toward Efficiency

1615-1730



Dr. Kim Geunsub
Moderator / Senior Research Fellow, Port Research Department, Korea Maritime Institute (KMI)

GeunSub has been serving as a Senior Research Fellow at the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) since 2005, where he also held the position of Deputy President from 2022 to 2026. He actively contributes to various international and national organizations, serving as the Director of PIANC Korea, a member of the IAPH Planning, Operation and Finance Committee, and a Global Directory member of ISO. Additionally, he holds leadership roles in several academic and professional societies, including the Korean Institute of Navigation and Port Research, the Korean Port Economic Association, and the Korean Association of Shipping and Logistics. Geun-Sub holds a Ph.D. of Engineering from Korea Maritime University.



Mr. Kaichi Nishimura

Deputy Director, Port Management and Operation Division, Ports and Harbours Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) "Terminal Reservation System Using CONPAS"

He started his career in 2020 at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

He has been engaged in work related to port, airport, and railway administration at MLIT and the Cabinet Secretariat.

Currently responsible, within the Port Management and Operation Division of the Ports and Harbours Bureau, for measures aimed at improving productivity at container terminals and enhancing working conditions.



Dr. LEE S. Y.

Director, Maritime AI Strategy Division, Korea Ocean Business Corporation (KOBC)
"AI Transformation in the Shipping and Port Industry: Pilot Projects and Future Prospects"

Before joining KOBC as a founding member in 2018, Dr. Lee accumulated more than two decades of experience in maritime research and policy development across industry and academia. His expertise spans shipping markets, port logistics, maritime information systems, and digital innovation strategies.

Since beginning his research career in 1996, he has led numerous government-funded projects, including studies on container terminal capacity assessment, vessel valuation, and the development of strategic information systems for global container tracking. He earned his Ph.D. from Pusan National University with research focused on RTLS based Dynamic Planning for Container Terminals.

At KOBC, He has served as Head of the ESG Management Division and the Maritime Industry Information Center. He currently leads the corporation's AI initiatives, driving the adoption of AI technologies and data-driven innovation across the maritime sector. In addition, he serves as a member of the Logistics Policy Committee of Busan Metropolitan City and as a member of the AI Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries.



Mr. Hideaki Kobayashi

Tomakomai Kuribayashi Unyu Co. Ltd.

"Enhancing Yard Trailer Operations within a Container Terminal"

Closing Remarks

17:45 – 17:50

Dr. Takashi Owaki, President, Japanese Foundation for IAPH

Networking 1800-2000 Asuka Room, 13th Floor, Hotel Azur Takeshiba