

Poland's World Maritime Day parallel event

How to create better shipping for a better future was a theme running throughout the 2018 IMO World Maritime Day Parallel Event held from 13-15 June in Szczecin, Poland.

In the words of IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim (*illustrated*), in his keynote address: *'IMO's heritage for 70 years has been to drive improvements in shipping to achieve a better world today. But we cannot rest on past achievements. Our challenge for the years to come remains the same: to create better shipping – for a better future.'*

The international audience was welcomed by Mr Marek Gróbarczyk, Minister of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation of Poland, and the importance of the event was recognized in remarks in a letter from Mr Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland, presented by Mr Paweł Mucha, Secretary of State, Deputy Chief of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland.

Following the opening session, delegates heard high-level speakers on a range of topics, including IMO70: Looking back / Looking forward; the Future of Shipping; Green and Smart Shipping; Big Data and Cyber Security in Shipping; Shipping in the Face of New Transport Routes; and the Future of the Maritime Labour Market.

Participants also heard about the Polish maritime economy and visited the President Lech Kaczyński LNG Terminal in Świnoujście and the Szczecin Świnoujście Seaport. In addition, delegates attended a reception aboard the Polish sail training ship *Dar Młodzieży* just before she departed on a round-the-world cruise to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the independence of Poland, another theme running through the parallel event.

Closing ceremony – Colombia takes the flag for 2019

During the closing ceremony, a commemorative plaque was presented to Mr Gróbarczyk, Minister of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation of Poland, by Secretary-General Lim.

The World Maritime Day Parallel Event flag was handed over by Mr Gróbarczyk, to Rear-Admiral Mario Germán Rodríguez Viera, Maritime General Director, Colombian National Navy. Colombia will host the 2019 Parallel Event.

The event in Poland was attended by representatives from the maritime community in Poland and other countries, including government representatives and representatives from the maritime industry, non-governmental organizations and academia.

Ministerial round table

Transport and maritime Ministers / Vice-Ministers from 13 countries, who were attending the World Maritime Day Parallel Event, took part in a roundtable discussion with IMO Secretary-General Lim. Discussions focused on green shipping, smart shipping and capacity-building.

Ministers highlighted the historic adoption in April of the initial IMO strategy on the reduction of GHG emission from shipping and looked ahead to the next stage, considering candidate measures to implement and achieve the strategy. They also emphasised that the forthcoming 1 January 2020 reduction in the limit of sulphur in fuel oil to 0.50% (from 3.0%) would not be delayed and that this was an important measure for human health and the environment.

There was a fruitful exchange of views on the ‘fourth industrial revolution’, as it impacts the maritime sector, including increasing digitalization, the internet of things and artificial intelligence. IMO is already addressing related matters, including maritime autonomous surface ships and cyber security. Ministers also discussed and highlighted the continued need, now and in the future, for capacity building and technical cooperation, to ensure global effective implementation of IMO standards.

The IMO Member States represented at ministerial level were: China, Croatia, Cyprus, Ghana, Greece, Islamic Republic of Iran, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand and United Arab Emirates.