



International Maritime Pilots' Association
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IMPA Notice: 14-2025

6 September 2025

Dear Members,

LAUNCH OF THE IMPA FOUNDATION

Following a decision by the Executive Committee in April 2024, IMPA is pleased to announce the launch of the IMPA Foundation, a global charitable initiative dedicated to investing in the industry's most critical asset: its people.

The IMPA Foundation will fund education and training to attract the next generation of talented professionals into the industry. Its mission is to help build a resilient workforce that meets the evolving technical demands of the industry while upholding the highest standards of safety and operational excellence. In this respect, the IMPA Foundation's mission is inspired by the adaptability and professionalism of maritime pilots worldwide.

A press release from the Foundation is enclosed with this notice. We look forward to your support for the Foundation and its work in the future.

Action: Note the launch of the IMPA Foundation.

If you have questions regarding the work of the Foundation, please contact Eliane Blanch at info@impafoundation.com.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Williams
Secretary General

PRESS RELEASE

London, 4 September 2025

IMPA Launches Foundation to Power Next Generation of Maritime Leaders

The International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA) has officially launched the IMPA Foundation, a global charitable initiative focused on investing in the industry's most critical asset: its people.

Shipping carries around 90% of global trade, yet the industry faces both a growing shortage of maritime labour and a widening skills gap. A recent report by the Maritime Just Transition Task Force estimates that more than 800,000 seafarers will require upskilling by 2030 to meet the demands of decarbonisation and digitalisation.

The IMPA Foundation will support the maritime community by funding education and attracting a new generation of diverse, talented professionals into the industry. Its mission is to help build a resilient workforce that not only meets the evolving technical demands but also upholds the highest standards of safety, environmental responsibility, and operational excellence.

Headquartered in London, the Foundation will operate globally, breaking down barriers and opening pathways for young people pursuing maritime careers. Alongside financial support for maritime education, it will provide mentoring and practical guidance, equipping the next generation with the skills to succeed in a rapidly evolving industry.

The Foundation is governed by a committed and experienced Board of Trustees, comprising three influential maritime leaders who will ensure it delivers on its mission.

Captain Simon Pelletier, Chair of the Board, said: *"The shortage of mariners and officers in the world's merchant fleet, as well as the need to ensure the current workforce maintains appropriate skill sets, are important issues for the marine sector. The global community of maritime pilots is committed to helping address this challenge, and we believe the Foundation will play a significant role in encouraging the pursuit of fulfilling careers in the sector."*

Mr Guy Platten, former Secretary General of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), added: *"I am passionate about the amazing careers the maritime industry can provide and am very proud to be associated with the Foundation as a Trustee, helping to provide even more opportunities."*

Reflecting the Foundation's global outlook, **Ambassador Nancy Karigithu** highlighted the transformative role of education in creating opportunity: *"Throughout my career, I have witnessed how opportunities can transform lives, breaking barriers for young women and men and inspiring them to dream bigger. The IMPA Foundation is more than an investment in skills; it is a commitment to nurturing talent and opening doors for the next generation of maritime leaders."*

At the heart of the Foundation's work is Ms Eliane Blanch, IMPA's Sustainability and Relationships Director, who leads day-to-day operations and turns the Board's vision into measurable impact.

The IMPA Foundation represents a long-term investment in maritime talent. Driven by social responsibility, it aims to deliver lasting value across the industry. With its first programmes set to launch soon, the Foundation invites stakeholders to engage, contribute, and play a part in creating opportunities and building a resilient maritime workforce.

About the IMPA Foundation

The IMPA Foundation, established by the International Maritime Pilots' Association, supports the development of a global maritime workforce prepared for the future. Based in London, it provides scholarships, grants, and mentoring to aspiring maritime professionals, with a strong focus on inclusivity and sustainability. Its mission is to build a skilled and resilient workforce, safeguarding the future of this vital industry.

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