

Research Conference

Ocean Futures:

Advancing Decarbonisation
and Innovation in Shipping
and Marine Biodiversity
through Law, Policy, and AI

Tuesday 14 October 2025
1:00 pm - 6:30 pm

SUAD Campus



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland to the United Arab Emirates
and the Kingdom of Bahrain





Summary

This interdisciplinary event, co-organised by the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) of the National University of Singapore and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (SUAD), brings together experts from law, policy, and science to address pressing environmental challenges in the maritime sector. This event, part of SUAD's Year of the Ocean, will convene leading experts, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss cutting-edge developments shaping the future of ocean governance. The programme features three panels that explore both regulatory and technical dimensions of sustainable ocean governance. The first panel explores the move towards the decarbonization of the shipping industry, including international and national strategies to achieve net-zero emissions in the maritime sector. The second panel addresses regulatory, policy, and technical tools to mitigate shipping's impact on marine ecosystems. Complementing this, the third panel is a science-driven discussion of effective ocean biodiversity monitoring in the Gulf Region. Topics include data collection, sharing, and standardisation; and deployment of monitoring technologies such as autonomous vehicles. Participants will gain insights from UAE officials, UAE shipping industry professionals, and international experts, and engage in rich interdisciplinary discussions that bridge law, policy, and industry practice.

Programme

13:00 - 13:30

Registration

13:00 - 13:45

Opening Remarks

Prof. Nathalie Martial-Braz, Chancellor, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi

Dr. Linda Yanti Sulistiawati, Senior Research Fellow at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (National University of Singapore)

13:45 - 14:15

Keynote Speeches

H.E. Hiba Al Shehhi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Biodiversity and Marine Life Sector

H.E. Norbert Daniel Bärlocher, Senior Diplomatic Advisor at the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Head Rio Conventions (climate, biodiversity)

14:15 - 15:15

Panel 1: Decarbonisation in the Shipping Industry

Moderator:

Dr. Linda Yanti Sulistiawati, Senior Research Fellow at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (National University of Singapore)

Speakers:

Dr. Beatriz Garcia, Associate Professor, Department of Law Economics and Management and Sustainability Officer

Huiwen Yang, Research Associate at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (National University of Singapore)

Lisa Outtier, Chief Sustainability Officer, Dubai Regional Office, CMA-CGM Group

Q&A and Open Discussion

15:15 - 15:30 - Coffee Break

15:30 - 16:45

Panel 2: Shipping and Marine Biodiversity Protection

Moderator:

Huiwen Yang, Research Associate at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (National University of Singapore)

Speakers:

Anuradha Bhattacharya, MENA Oceans Initiative - Strategy & Programme Development, Stakeholder Mobilisation & Partnerships, Goumbook

Dr. Jimena Rodriguez, Oceans and Biodiversity Senior Manager, DP World

Dr. Justine Muller, Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (National University of Singapore)

Dr. Jean-Michel Morinière, Senior Counsel, Al Aidarous Law Firm / SUAD

Q&A and Open Discussion

16:45 – 17:15

Break & Networking - Demo of Blue AI Project

Speaker:

Francois-Alexandre Bertrand, Founder, Blue AI project-PLATYPUS CRAFT

17:15 – 18:15

Panel 3: AI & Robotics for Marine Biodiversity Preservation and Climate Nature-Based Solutions

Moderator:

Dr. Justine Muller, Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (National University of Singapore)

Speakers:

Dr. Giulia De Masi, Associate Professor, Department of Sciences and Engineering, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi

Laura Meyer, Stakeholder Coordination Officer UN Ocean Decade, IOC-UNESCO

Dr. Ada Natoli, Assistant Professor, College of Natural and Health Sciences, Zayed University

Q&A and Open Discussion

18:15 – 18:30

Closing Remarks

Final Reflections and thanks from organisers

Dr. Linda Yanti Sulistiawati, Senior Research Fellow at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (National University of Singapore)

Dr. Beatriz Garcia, Associate Professor, Department of Law Economics and Management and Sustainability Officer, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi