

MARITIME HERITAGE PROSPECTUS¹

1st World Congress on Our Common Maritime Heritage: “Connecting the Past to Navigate the Future”

This document seeks your support to convene the first ever World Congress on maritime heritage. Today, as maybe never before, there is a critical need to bring together the diverse global array of maritime constituent groups, institutions, and stakeholders to connect the past to help better navigate a sustainable future. The Congress will provide an unprecedented opportunity to share economic contributions, cultural values, and experiences worldwide an investigation of how we are all interconnected by the sea to better understand our common challenge of sustaining the global economy. Plans are to convene the Congress in Singapore in the fall of 2018 as a must attend event.

WHAT IS MARITIME HERITAGE?

Maritime heritage is the history of human involvement with the ocean, coastal and inland waters. It includes the history of ships, seafaring, marine transportation, navies, ports and communities, immigration, tourism, traditional maritime practices and trades, fishing, the marine environment, lighthouses, submerged cultural resources, museums and educational organizations, the arts, literature, law and history of human involvement with the ocean, coastal and inland waters. Human involvement with the ocean in recent centuries has resulted in the greatest migration of human populations in the history of humans; created a global commerce that drove the industrialization that changed the face of human cultures everywhere. An important part of the world today is a legacy of our Maritime Heritage.

¹ Initial white paper/essay written by the author and others that led to the “1st World Congress on Maritime Heritage: Connecting with the Past to Navigate the Future” in Singapore, March 13-15, 2019. The goals and importance of the initial Congress are as important today as in 2019.

WHY A CONGRESS?

A congress is proposed because it denotes the highest level of participatory involvement and importance placed on the coming to together of related interests for a common purpose. Initiating a World Congress also emphasizes the scope, scale, and level of importance of the proposed event

The oceans are the common heritage of all people. The myriad uses of the oceans over the centuries - for transportation, trade, resource exploitation, and much more have shaped our planet and have connected humans. Yet our common maritime heritage forged by those myriad uses is not only not appreciated but more importantly an underutilized body of knowledge and experience that may help greatly navigate our rapidly changing and dynamic world today. **The First World Congress on Maritime Heritage will present a unique opportunity for all stakeholders in all areas of the maritime endeavour to form new partnerships towards achieving a common objective: securing a sustainable future through better understanding the depth and scope of our common maritime heritage**

WHY NOW?

In 2015, the UN established the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and set an ambitious agenda for the world. According to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) many if not all of these goals will be delivered from the sea. Consequently, better understanding, appreciation and communication of the world's maritime heritage lays the foundation for an effective, efficient and sustainable use of the oceans, not only for the attainment of the goals, but well beyond. Re-discovering our past through the lens our shared maritime heritage allows us to better navigate our present and our shared future. As the world prepares to meet the challenges of the 2030 SDGs, a coordinated effort now to communicate the importance of our maritime heritage and current endeavours is needed. The First World Maritime Congress provides the venue and opportunity to begin that coordinated effort.

WHO SHOULD BE AT THIS CONGRESS?

- The First Congress is designed to attract 300-500 international leaders and participants from diverse sectors including:
- All element of the Maritime Industries Sector
- Port Cities, Places, and Communities strongly connected to the ocean
- Academics, such as historians, archeologists, geographers, economists, other scholars that study humans and the sea, and related Academic Institutions
- Maritime Museums and Aquariums that interpret Humans relationship to the ocean
- Governments and International Organizations for which connections to the sea are important drivers or responsibilities
- Conservation, Non-governmental groups, and Heritage Foundations who are pursuing programming that is affect by connections to the sea

All participating organizations and individuals share a concern to conserve and find ways to utilize the maritime heritage connected to our oceans, lakes, rivers and coastal zones in new ways to support a sustainable future. The Congress will provide a venue to exchange ideas and innovations on maritime conservation and connections to how we navigate the future and work towards achieving Goal 14 of the SDGs. It will allow an interaction and new coalitions to be formed with the wider maritime community to evolve better ways to cooperate towards our shared purpose.

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

The First World Congress on Maritime Heritage will chart new ground as to the string of tangible and intangible benefits that flow this first ever gathering. At the very least the Congress will:

- **Promote** the interests and value of maritime industries.

- **Enhance** the attention, visitation, and interests of maritime museums, historic places, and heritage organizations.
- **Result** in new cross-sector relationships and partnerships
- **Serve** as a vehicle for international organizations to better connect communities by demonstrating their historic maritime relationships; and
- **Illustrate** how better understanding our past through the lens of Maritime Heritage will help the world better navigate the future.
- **Reveal** heretofore-unknown connections among participants and their past.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

As planning goes forward, the format of the Congress will reflect:

- A combination of plenary, thematic, regional sessions and interactive forums conducted over 3 days.
- Formal papers will be solicited to provide context and provoke discussion across stakeholder areas, thematic crosscut topics, and regional perspectives from around the world. A volume of proceedings will be published.
- Keynote speakers will be invited to address the Congress at plenary sessions and
- Opportunities will be offered for “sponsored” events or sessions
- Live streaming of plenary and selected sessions will be offered.
- An active communications effort will be conducted throughout the congress.

The final agenda and plan for the Congress will be highly influence by discussions with participants, knowledgeable practitioners, and sponsors as the organizers learn more themselves about content, meaningful elements and most important connections to bring into the Congress

SPONSORSHIPS

Developing a broad sponsorship base is envisioned not only to enhance the funding base for conducting the Congress, but also to demonstrate the interest of organizations around the world in embracing the Congress as an important event contributing to a sustainable future. Learning from the past can help us navigate the future.

Consequently, multiple sponsorship opportunities will be made available, such as lead sponsors, session sponsorships, special events, delegate materials, receptions, and others. The global reach of the Congress will receive broad recognition on a wide-ranging, international platform and provide outreach and recognition opportunities for all sponsors. Media and supporting organization partnerships will also be invited to the Congress.