

## ***The Shenzhen Global Marine Economy Forum 2024***

***Shenzhen 31 October-1<sup>st</sup> November 2024***

***“Developing the growth drivers of the Blue economy”***

***Public program as of 19 September 2024***

<p><b>Thursday 31 October 2024</b> <b>14:00 - 18:30 (Shenzhen time)</b></p>	
<p>13:00 - On-going</p>	<p><b><i>Registration of participants</i></b></p>
<p>13:30 - 14:30</p>	<p><b><i>Official opening ceremony</i></b></p>
<p>14:30 - 15:40 Plenary 1</p>	<p><b><i>What growth potential for the blue economy - and China’s part of it- by the 2030 horizon?</i></b></p> <p>The ocean economy is today estimated to be worth 3 to 6 trillion US dollars and is expected to keep expanding as the potential of oceans’ resources keeps expanding when it comes to blue food, offshore renewable energy, Blue biotech or the many different ways in which the restoration of the oceans’ ecosystems can contribute to the fight against climate change. However, ensuring the sustainability of the oceans resources is at the same time a key prerequisite and an absolute priority if the blue economy is to realize its full potential as an ever more important source of prosperity and social development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What factors will be most impactful in the coming years in driving the expansion of the blue economy?</li> <li>✓ What sectors of the blue economy are expected to have the greatest growth potential by 2030?</li> <li>✓ What sustainable long-term growth of the marine economy will require from governments, from corporations, from the academic community and the public at large?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What is the picture with respect to the growth potential of China's blue economy compared to the overall expansion of the global blue economy over the next seven or ten years?</li> <li>✓ What next initiatives for Shenzhen to play an even bigger role for China's marine economy expansion and global marine hub in the coming years?</li> </ul>
15:40 – 16:00	<b>Networking break</b>
16:00 - 17:10 Plenary 2	<p><b><i>Moving faster on restoring the marine ecosystems and ensuring their long-term sustainability</i></b></p> <p>The oceans ecosystems absorb 25% of the world CO2 emissions. They also absorb close to 90% of the additional heat generated from CO2 emissions generated by human activities. However, only 7% of the global ocean is currently protected at different degrees, the restoration of marine ecosystems and their long-term sustainability are nevertheless of critical importance not only to revitalize the world's oceans and ensure that they provide increasingly needed resources of all kinds but also in helping to fight climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mobilizing the required financial resources for the restoration of Blue ecosystems</li> <li>✓ Expanding the crucial role of Coastal wetlands and mangrove forests in carbon sequestration</li> <li>✓ Leveraging the potential of Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, and data analytics to accelerate the restoration of marine ecosystems.</li> <li>✓ What is needed to accelerate the restoration of oceans ecosystems in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area?</li> </ul>
17:20 - 18:30 Plenary 3	<p><b><i>Improving the efficiency and increasing the scope of ocean governance</i></b></p> <p>There is no underestimating the progress achieved in the last few years in expanding the scope of the global oceans governance, with the adoption of the global biodiversity framework, of the global ocean treaty contributing to secure the protection and effective management of the high seas, the global plastic pollution treaty, to mention some significant positive steps. However, the challenges in ensure the sustainability of the oceans ecosystems keep getting more acute and more urgent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What is needed to ensure the swift implementation by government and the private sector of the commitments made by the signatories of the existing treaties?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Leveraging technologies for a more efficient global oceans governance</li> <li>✓ How to expand China's contribution to a more efficient global oceans governance?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024</b> <b>08:45 - 19:00 (Shenzhen time)</b></p>	
08:15 - On-going	<b>Registration of participants</b>
08:45 - 09:55 Plenary 4	<p><b>Activating a network of global marine cities – including Shenzhen – for more innovation and business synergies</b></p> <p>Global marine cities have a very important role to play in ensuring a sustainable, growing, blue economy. There is a lot of experience and knowledge to be shared among them for addressing common issues such as coastal cities waste management, tackling plastic pollution and promoting a circular blue economy, resilience to the impact of rising sea levels induced by climate change, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What mechanisms to connect think tanks and ocean-related academic institutions based in marine cities for knowledge sharing and joint-projects creation?</li> <li>✓ How to use the annual international climate meetings (COP) to create a network of key marine cities, following up on the « Call to Action for Subnational Governments” which will be launched at the COP16 in Cali?</li> </ul>
10:05 - 11:05 Plenary 5	<p><b>Corporate and policy Initiatives to accelerate the decarbonization of maritime industry</b></p> <p>The last few years have seen a decisive shift towards the greening of the shipping and logistics industry. Decarbonization has now become a guiding, urgent, priority for the world's shipping companies, ports and logistics operators. With the shipping contributing to about 3% of total greenhouse gas emissions and the whole maritime industry accounts for about 17% of global CO2 emissions, accelerating the decarbonization process to help achieve the 2050 zero emission goal, is a major goal and challenge for every player in the maritime industry. And the coming into force on January 2024 of EU's Emissions Trading System (ETS) is increasing the pressure for decarbonization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Dealing with the challenges involved in relying on new fuel options, such as biofuels, methanol and ammonia.</li> <li>✓ Will Financing options expand enough to help operators sustain the costs of an accelerated decarbonization process?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What will be the transformative impact of decarbonization on the shipping and maritime industry as a whole?</li> <li>✓ How are legislation and policies on shipping decarbonization promulgated by China working at the national and local levels? What actions taken? What issues to be addressed?</li> </ul>
11:15 - 12:25 Plenary 6	<p><b><i>Developing Blue finance instruments for a sustainable Blue economy</i></b></p> <p>The development of ocean finance is now of critical importance in ensuring the restoration and protection of the oceans ecosystems and for achieving a sustainable marine economy. There is today a huge gap between the resources available and the financing needs which need to be bridged. New forms of finance such as blue bonds and blue loans are now being used for an increasing number of projects. There are still a number of issues constraining the full development of blue finance such as regulatory uncertainties, a higher risk profile associated with many ocean-related projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What is needed to direct more private capital flows towards Blue finance?</li> <li>✓ What approach to risk mitigation in Blue finance?</li> <li>✓ What new approaches to insurance, as risk manager and institutional investor, are needed to support the development of Blue finance?</li> </ul>
12:25 - 13:25	<b><i>Lunch break</i></b>
13:25 - 14:25 Plenary 7	<p><b><i>Promoting business initiatives and innovation for making of the oceans a major factor in fighting climate change</i></b></p> <p>Many ocean-related activities in which business has a crucial role to play, such as the development of offshore renewable energy, or marine carbon capture technologies, play a significant role in the fight against climate change. Corporate R&amp;D to develop these kinds of initiatives is today encouraged by the potential for revenues created by carbon credits. Such initiatives and innovations also comprise the development of blue proteins to meet increasing demand for affordable food, or innovations in the coastal tourism industry to reduce significantly carbon emissions and water pollutants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Creating China's legal framework for companies to develop seaweed cultivation for carbon removal.</li> <li>✓ What role for Chinese companies in developing offshore carbon capture and storage projects?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Developing the potential of ocean AI technology for as more efficient understanding of the interaction between climate change on ocean ecosystems.</li> </ul>
<p>14:35 - 15:45 Plenary 8</p>	<p><b><i>The Future of Blue science: Developing the research on the oceans' ecosystems</i></b></p> <p>We still know relatively little about our ocean systems. For instance, as of June 2024 only 26.1% of the world's seafloor has been mapped with modern technology and over 80% of Earth's ocean remains unexplored. The Ocean scientific community is warning that the deterioration of the oceans ecosystems is developing faster than our knowledge of these ecosystems. The 2021-2030 period has been declared the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development to stimulate the development of the oceans-related sciences and knowledge generation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What partnerships will best contribute to accelerate advances in ocean science and to expand our understanding of the ocean systems?</li> <li>✓ What can be the contribution of Blue economy-related corporations and startups in advancing the science and understanding of the oceans?</li> <li>✓ How is the science of the oceans progressing in China? How does it compare with the state of research at the international level? Are there ways to accelerate progress in this domain?</li> </ul>
<p>15:55 - 17:05 Plenary 9</p>	<p><b><i>Where is marine technology innovation going? What implications for the Blue economy?</i></b></p> <p>Whether it is applications of AI technology, IoT capabilities, the leveraging of Big Data, the use of ever more sophisticated drones or 3D mapping, the leveraging of these new technologies in the whole scope of blue economic activities will increasingly impact the way the Blue economy develops in the coming year. For instance, the increasing use of robotics and of Virtual and Augmented Reality technologies is expected to have a game-changing impact for the shipbuilding industry. Similarly, Blue Biotechnology is expected to considerably improve the sustainable management and protection of oceans, fisheries, and coastal and marine ecosystems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What initiatives to address some specific challenges in leveraging blue-economy-related innovations, such as conditions of the research environment, long development timelines due to the complexity of ocean-related technologies, insufficient access to capital etc.?</li> <li>✓ How to promote the creation of more "Made in China" Marine technology innovation?</li> <li>✓ What actions to enhance the contribution of Blue economy startups?</li> </ul>

<p>17:15 - 18:25 <b>Plenary 10</b></p>	<p><b><i>Mapping the future of marine engineering industries</i></b></p> <p>Marine engineering industries are crucial to a wide variety of domains of the ocean economy, from working on shipbuilding and maintenance to building offshore platforms, from high-tech devices to increase navigation accuracy to prevention of oil spills. The whole sector of marine engineering is now going through transformative technological innovations and digitization that will make it more efficient, more reliable and a greater contributor to a sustainable high-growth ocean economy.</p> <p>Just a few months ago, several Chinese SOEs, universities and private companies have set up a marine engineering innovation consortium to foster scientific breakthroughs and help accelerate the development of the fast-growing marine industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What assets can key players in China’s marine engineering industries leverage to be part of the global leadership group in this sector?</li> <li>✓ How will emerging technologies such as DataOps, digital twins, and AI transform the whole marine engineering industries sector?</li> <li>✓ Addressing the financing and the skills availability challenges for the transformation of the marine engineering industries</li> </ul>
<p>18:25 - 18:30</p>	<p><b><i>Concluding remarks: What we take home</i></b></p>