

Bios and Headshots of panelists

Sharon De Chavez-Aledo



Sharon De Chavez-Aledo is a seasoned maritime law and governance professional with over fifteen years of experience in maritime administration, legal affairs, and international representation. Currently serving as Maritime Attaché of the Republic of the Philippines to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), she represents national interests in global maritime forums and contributes to negotiations, policy alignment, and compliance with international maritime instruments. Her work demonstrates a strong commitment to transparency, regulatory excellence, and institutional integrity, supported by extensive expertise in maritime law, policy development, and governance.

She holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Maritime Law from the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), alongside a Juris Doctor, a Master of Social Change and Development, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science specializing in Governance Studies. Prior to her diplomatic role, she served as Director of the Legal Service of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), where she led legal and policy development and advised senior leadership. Her career also includes multiple leadership roles as Officer-in-Charge across key MARINA offices, where she oversaw legal, operational, and regulatory functions. Her core strengths include international representation, legal policy formulation, strategic leadership, and stakeholder engagement.

Professor Anna Petrig



Anna Petrig is Professor of International Law and Public Law at the University of Basel, Switzerland. She previously held a professorship at the University of Zurich. Anna holds a PhD in the field of the Law of the Sea and Human Rights Law from the University of Basel and an LL.M. from Harvard Law School, where she studied as a Fulbright scholar. Professor Petrig is admitted to the Bar of the Canton of Berne (Switzerland) and to the New York State Bar (USA).

Her professional experience spans private legal practice, judicial work, and service in the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Her research and publications cover a broad spectrum of ocean-related legal issues, and she is the author of several monographs. She has provided expert advice, oral evidence, and legal counsel on maritime matters to various governments, non-governmental organisations, and international organisations. Professor Petrig has served as a member of both the Swiss delegation and the Comité Maritime International (CMI) delegation to the International Maritime Organization (IMO). She has also acted as judge ad hoc for Switzerland before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Cases No. 27 and 29. She currently serves on the boards of the Swiss Maritime Law Association and the Swiss Society for International Law. In addition, she is Co-Rapporteur of the International Law Association (ILA) Committee on the Protection of People at Sea and Chair of the EU-funded BlueRights project focusing on the rights to life, liberty and health of people at sea. Since 2025, Anna is a member of both the Group of Experts and the Drafting Committee tasked with updating the 1994 San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea.

Professor Momoko Kitada



Professor Momoko Kitada is a former seafarer and was awarded a PhD in Social Science from Cardiff University, UK. She joined WMU in 2011 and serves as Full Professor; Academic Dean; and Head of the Maritime Education and Training (MET) specialization. She coordinates and teaches in MET subjects as well as the Postgraduate Diploma in Maritime Energy as well as the Summer Institute on Maritime Decarbonization.

Dr Kitada leads WMU's collaboration efforts with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in terms of women's integration in the maritime sector. She is a certified Gender Audit Facilitator and holds other certificates such as Monitoring and Evaluation, Project Design and Impact Evaluation. Her work with IMO includes MET in decarbonization as well as the joint evaluation and internal audit of the IMO's activities on gender equality and empowerment of women; IMO-WMU-WISTA Gender-Inclusive Leadership in Maritime training; and the SMART-C Women project.

Dr Kitada has over 20-year research experience in gender equality in the maritime and ocean sectors and actively incorporates gender perspectives in her interdisciplinary teaching in maritime subjects, including the human element, maritime education, decarbonization, digitalization and research methodology.

Mia Kroglund Jørgensen



Mia Kroglund Jørgensen is Vice President and Head of People, Culture & Strategy at Hafnia.

Mia began her career as a shipping and CSR specialist in another large tanker company before joining Hafnia Tankers in 2012. Prior to her current position, she held various commercial, operational, and strategic roles at Hafnia, including responsibility for executive projects for the management team at Hafnia.

In her current role, Mia leads global initiatives across Hafnia's Executive Management and Leadership Teams involving projects related to Hafnia's overall corporate strategy, culture, diversity, AI, communications and branding. Through her work at Hafnia, Mia represents the company in key industry initiatives such as the All-Aboard Alliance, and Diversity Study Group, contributing to wider efforts to make shipping a more attractive, inclusive, and sustainable industry.

Mia has been ranked Number 1 in the Top 100 Women in Shipping List - and has been recognized as one of Denmark's Top 25 Future Leaders of 2026.