

From June 9th to 12th, 2026, the global maritime community will gather in Rotterdam for the 15th International Harbour Masters Association (IHMA) Congress. Co-hosted by the Port of Rotterdam Authority, this biennial event serves as a vital forum for port authorities, industry stakeholders, and innovators to share insights and explore the latest advancements in technology and best practices. Under the theme “Connecting Horizons – Building Future Resilient Ports Together,” the Congress reflects a shared commitment to collaboration, innovation, and sustainability across the maritime sector.

The event will feature a dynamic program, including plenary sessions, keynote addresses, interactive workshops, and games, all designed for those responsible for safe, secure, and efficient marine operations in port waters.

The three-day technical program is structured around three strategic pillars that are redefining the maritime landscape:

- **Emerging Technologies: Redefining Port Operations**

As digitalization accelerates, Day 1 focuses on the tools transforming the digital horizon. From AI-driven decision support systems to drone technologies and new data standards like S-100, the session explores how cutting-edge methodologies can enhance connectivity and operational efficiency. It is an opportunity to share practical experiences, whether piloting new solutions or scaling proven digital tools.

- **Sustainable Together: Greener Maritime Operations**

Sustainability is a collective challenge that requires a unified response. Day 2 centers on how the industry is working toward decarbonization and greener operations. Through case studies from port authorities and terminal operators, the Congress will examine the use of alternative fuels and innovative strategies to reduce the environmental footprint of the global shipping sector.

- **Resilient Ports: The Human and Organizational Dimension**

On Day 3, the focus shifts to the human element and organizational resilience.

Topics will include safety and security, workforce development, and the critical need to attract and retain talent. Discussions will delve into leadership, diversity, inclusion, and international cooperation as essential components of a robust and future-proof port management strategy.

The Congress will conclude with an exclusive field experience. Participants will visit Portlantis, an advanced port simulation and research facility, to gain first-hand insights into the future of port management. The day will end with a scenic boat trip through the Port of Rotterdam—the largest in Europe—offering a unique perspective on the stunning harbor infrastructure while fostering informal networking among delegates.

More Information

<https://ihma-port-rotterdam-announce-2026-congress-connecting-horizons-building-future-resilient-ports>
