



IPMEN 2025 Full Conference Program
Conference Dates: Monday April 14 to Thursday April 17, 2025

Venue: National Sun Yet-Sen University (NSYSU) College of Marine Sciences No 70
Lianhai Road, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Sunday April 13, 2025: Delegates arrive in Kaohsiung, Taiwan

- All delegates travel to Kaohsiung conference accommodation.
- **5:00 pm to 6:00 pm** conference registration.
- Evening – informal pre-conference kick-off reception.
- First night in conference accommodation.

Monday April 14, 2025: Conference Opening – Venue NSYSU

- **9:00 am to 9:30 am** Conference registration at conference venue.
- **9:30 am to 10:00 am** IPMEN 2025 Opening Ceremony.
- **10:00 am to 12:00 pm** NSYSU College of Marine Science Campus field trip. Conference participants will engage with faculty and students at the NSYSU College of Marine Sciences. This visit provides a valuable opportunity to learn about NSYSU's cutting-edge research, academic programs and initiatives in marine sciences through direct interaction and exchange.
- **12:00 pm to 2:00 pm** Lunch and networking at conference venue.
- **2:00 pm to 5:00 pm** Afternoon keynote & concurrent sessions - **Strand 1: Asia & Pacific examples of the local community knowledge with connections to [Ocean Literacy and Ocean Decade White Paper Challenge 10](#).**

Keynote: Tsuyoshi Sasaki (Tokyo, Japan)



Dr. Sasaki is a Professor in the Department of Marine Policy and Culture at Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, the Director of the Japan Aquatic Marine Environmental Education Association, and the Chairman of the Asia Marine Educators Association (AMEA). He is dedicated to advancing ocean literacy through innovative programs like the Forest-River-Ocean Nexus Education.

- 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm – welcoming event at [Sunset Beach Resort](#).
- Second night in conference accommodation.

Tuesday April 15, 2025: Keynotes & Concurrent Sessions – Venue NSYSU

- **9:00 am to 12:00 pm** Morning keynote & concurrent session - **Strand 2:** *Advancing ocean science through Asia-Pacific Traditional Ecological Systems.*

Keynote: Pieter Romer (Victoria, Canada)

Advancing Indigenous in ocean monitoring through meaningful engagement and building true partnerships in ocean science.



Pieter is a producer based in Victoria and Vancouver, Canada, working with Indigenous company renowned for its visually captivating and impactful digital video, film, documentaries, and television programming. Driven by a deep passion for storytelling, he collaborates closely with clients to transform ideas into powerful narratives that inspire, inform, and entertain. From initial concept through to final execution, Pieter focuses on understanding your vision and goals, crafting a style and storyline that will engage and resonate with audiences.

- **12:00 pm to 2:00 pm** Lunch and networking at conference venue.
- **2:00 pm to 5:00 pm** Afternoon keynote & concurrent sessions - **Strand 3:** *Asia and Pacific examples of the links between local ocean community knowledge and climate change / extreme weather.*

Keynote: Sylvia Spalding (Hawaii, USA)



Sylvia is the communications officer for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and has worked on Pacific fishery issues for various organizations for more than three decades. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a master's degree in non-fiction writing from the University of Iowa; she has earned the Carol Burnett Award for Ethics and Excellence in Journalism for her essay on freelance writing.

- No formal evening event or meal plans.
- Third night in conference accommodation.

Wednesday April 16, 2025: Keynotes & Concurrent Sessions – Venue NSYSU

- **9:00 am to 12:00 pm** Morning keynote & concurrent session - **Strand 4:** *Asia & Pacific examples of collaboration between communities and international ocean scientists (Asia-Pacific Sea Grant Consortium initiative).*

Keynote: Mike Spranger (Florida, USA)



Mike has been a coordinator, trainer, or presenter at over 400 national, state and regional conferences and workshops in areas of community and economic development, civic engagement, program planning, marine education, land use planning, natural resource management, energy, climate change, and policy analysis. Internationally, he has been invited to assist in building capacity in university outreach programs in Belize, Canada, China, Haiti, Indonesia, Japan and Korea.

- **12:00 pm to 2:00 pm** Lunch and networking at the conference venue.
- **2:00 pm to 3:30 pm** Afternoon keynote session – *“It was 20 years ago today”* (reflecting on the origins and achievements of IPMEN 2005 to 2025).

Keynote 1: Kitty Muller Simonds (Hawaii, USA)



Kitty has served as the executive director of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council since 1983. A Maui native, she previously worked with U.S. Senator Hiram Fong. Under her leadership, the Council has implemented innovative marine resource management, regulating gear like drift gill nets and bottom trawls and transforming Hawaii’s longline fishery into an international model for sustainable fishing. She has led efforts to reduce bycatch and integrate traditional ecological knowledge into ecosystem-based fishery

management. She also co-organized the First Stewards Symposia, highlighting climate change impacts on Indigenous communities.

Keynote 2 Harry Breidahl (Victoria, Australia)



Harry has worked in Australia for 50 years as a teacher, university lecturer, author and freelance consultant. Specializing in marine education, he has published over 100 books and a wide range of other educational material. He was a founding member of the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) and the Marine Education Society of Australasia (MESA) and was also one of the founders of International Pacific Marine Educators Network (IPMEN). Although now retired from formal employment, Harry’s current interests are focused on Ocean Literacy

programs, both in Australia and internationally

- **3:30 pm to 4:00 pm** Kaohsiung Declaration and Closing Ceremony.
The Kaohsiung Declaration encapsulates 20 years of efforts and advocacy by the International Pacific Marine Educators Network (IPMEN), setting forth a direction for global collaboration in the next decade. This declaration calls for greater global attention to the importance of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Ocean Literacy, emphasizing the necessity of multi-stakeholder cooperation for sustainable ocean development. The Kaohsiung Declaration is set to be officially presented at the 10th Our Ocean Conference in South Korea in late April and the 3rd UN Ocean Conference in France in June, advocating for worldwide commitment to ocean protection, marine education, and the shared knowledge of ecological wisdom.
- **5:00 pm to 7:00 pm** IPMEN 2025 Conference Banquet.
- Fourth night in conference accommodation.

Thursday April 17, 2025: Local community visits and dialog

- Morning field trip and local community interaction at Kezailiao Harbor.
Join us for a morning field trip and local community interaction at [Kezailiao Harbor](#). This experience offers a unique opportunity to explore the harbor's rich marine culture, engage with the local fishing community, and learn about sustainable fishing practices firsthand.
- Afternoon field trip to Taijiang National Park.
In the afternoon, we will visit [Taijiang National Park](#) for a field trip that delves into its unique wetland ecosystems, mangrove forests, and diverse wildlife. This excursion offers insights into the park's conservation efforts and the importance of protecting coastal environments.
- Evening – informal conference closing event.
- Fifth night in conference accommodation.

Friday April 18, 2025: Delegates travel home

- All delegates make their way home.