



## IPMEN 2025 Conference Program

**Conference Dates: Monday April 14 to Thursday April 17, 2025**

**Venue: National Sun Yet-Sen University (NSYSU) College of Marine Sciences, Kaohsiung, Taiwan**

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

- All delegates travel to Kaohsiung conference accommodation
- 13:00-15:00 IPMEN Action Plan Update Workshop
- 16:00-18:00 A two-hour fish rubbing experience to create a beautiful gift for your IPMEN20. (Organized by Taiwan Fish Rubbing Association, TFRA) (Free for full registration)



- 18:00-20:00 Evening – informal pre-conference kick-off reception



- First night in conference accommodation

### Monday April 14, 2025: Conference Opening – Venue NSYSU

- 09:00-10:00 Conference registration (NSYSU)
- 10:00-12:00 NSYSU Campus field trip - interactions with faculty and students at NSYSC College of Marine Sciences)

We will embark on a campus field trip at National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU), where participants will engage with faculty and students at the 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.



- **12:00-14:00 Lunch at conference venue**
- **14:00-17:00 Strand 1 keynote & concurrent session/Chair: Tsuyoshi Sasaki (Japan)**  
*(Asia & Pacific examples of the local community knowledge with connections to Ocean Literacy and Ocean Decade White Paper Challenge 10)*

**Session speech: 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.

- **18:00-20:00 Welcoming event at Sunset Beach Resort**
- **Second night in conference accommodation**

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

- **09:00-12:00 Strand 2 Keynote & concurrent sessions/Chair: Pieter Romer (Canada)**  
*(Advancing ocean science through Asia-Pacific Traditional Ecological Systems)*

**Session speech: 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.

- **12:00-14:00 Lunch at conference venue**
- **14:00-17:00 Strand 3 keynote & concurrent session/ Chair: Sylvia Spalding (Hawaii)**  
*(Asia & Pacific examples of the links between local ocean community knowledge and climate change/ extreme weather)*

**Session speech: Sylvia Spalding (Hawaii, USA)**



Sylvia is the former 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 2022 NMEA Honorary Member Award for a distinguished career in marine education.

- **Evening - IPMEN Conference Committee Meeting**
- **Third night in conference accommodation**

**Wednesday April 16, 2025: Keynotes & Concurrent Sessions/ Close ceremony– Venue NSYSU**

- **09:00-12:00 Strand 4 keynote and concurrent session/ Chair: Mike Spranger (USA)** (*Asia Pacific examples of collaboration between communities and international ocean scientists (Asia Pacific Sea Grant Consortium initiate)*)

**Session speech: Mike Spranger (Florida, USA)**



Mike is a coordinator, trainer, or presenter of more than 400 national, regional, state and county 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, has been invited to assist in building capacity in university outreach programs in Belize, Canada, China, Haiti, Indonesia, Japan and Korea. Recipient and management responsibility of \$30 million dollars in federal, state, and local funds to conduct research, extension outreach programs over the past 35 years.

- **12:00-14:00 Lunch at conference venue**
- **14:00-15:00 Celebrating 20 years of IPMEN**

**Keynote speech 1: Harry Breidahl (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). Although now retired from formal employment, Harry's current interests are focused on Ocean Literacy programs, both in Australia and internationally.

**Keynote speech 2: 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.

- **15:00-16:00 Takau Declaration and close ceremony**

The Takau 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 Takau 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.

- **17:00-19:00 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'll 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**