

Webinar Series

Webinar 1: Green and Resilient Ports: Global Lessons for Southeast Asia

Thursday, 2nd October 2025

3:00-4:00 pm MNL time

This webinar marks the first in a series that will spotlight what leading ports around the world are doing to address sustainability and climate challenges—and explore how their approaches can be adapted and applied across Southeast Asia. Through this series, we aim to share global best practices, encourage peer learning, and build momentum for greener, more resilient ports in the region.

Ports are the heartbeat of global trade, handling around 80% of the world's goods by volume, and even more in developing economies. Yet the very activity that drives economic growth also creates concentrated environmental and social pressures.

Shipping accounts for roughly 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with a portion of these occurring in and around port areas. This not only contributes to climate change but also elevates local air pollution (NO_x, SO_x, and particulate matter), with levels in some port cities exceeding those from road traffic.

The impacts go beyond emissions. Port operations can contaminate waterways through spills and discharges and generate large volumes of solid and hazardous waste. Dredging and land reclamation disrupt marine habitats, while ballast water and hull fouling spread invasive species across ecosystems. Ports themselves are increasingly vulnerable to climate risks (storms, heat extremes, and sea-level rise) while surrounding communities face noise, congestion, and land-use conflicts. Together, these dynamics make ports both vital economic engines and complex environmental and social hotspots.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Southeast Asia, home to one of the world's most diverse and dense port systems, from mega container hubs such as Singapore, Port Klang, and Tanjung Pelepas to specialised bulk export terminals, cruise ports serving booming tourism markets, and small-scale fishing and inland ports essential for food security and local economies. These ports are lifelines of regional connectivity and growth, but they also face mounting pressures around climate resilience, sustainability, and global competition.

Greening ports is therefore not just about mitigating impacts; it is about unlocking opportunities. Cleaner technologies and efficiency measures can reduce fuel use, lower operating costs, and improve cargo handling performance. Strong sustainability credentials open the door to green finance and investor confidence, while visible stewardship builds trust with communities and regulators. Climate-adapted infrastructure strengthens resilience against disruption, while early adoption of low-carbon fuels, shore power, and circular waste solutions positions ports as leaders in global trade, ready to meet international standards and safeguard market access.

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AGENDA

Time	Topic & Speaker
5 minutes	Welcome and Brief Overview <i>Jackie Spiteri – SESG – Managing Director</i>
	Panel Presentations:
10 Minutes	Benchmarking & Certification – Green Marine (Up to 10 min presentation) <i>Allison Ryan - Program Manager – Green Marine</i> Green Marine are a leading North American environmental certification program for the maritime industry. With over 70 ship owners and 60 ports and terminals across Canada, the United States, and Europe and Australia participating, and 400+ participants and partners in total, Green Marine demonstrates how voluntary performance-based certification is driving continuous improvement across indicators that go well beyond decarbonisation, covering areas such as bulk handling, spill prevention, stormwater management, aquatic ecosystems, and waste.
10 minutes	Case Study – Port of Newcastle (Up to 10 min presentation) <i>Ruth Madden – Port of Newcastle – ESG & Sustainability Manager</i> Port of Newcastle will outline its green port initiatives with a focus on decarbonisation pathways, innovations in cargo handling, and preparations for electrification readiness. Their perspective will highlight how one of Australia’s leading ports is positioning itself to deliver lower-emission operations while maintaining efficiency and competitiveness.
10 minutes	Regional Perspective - (Up to 10 min presentation) <i>Adrian Sammons – ADB – Senior Transport Specialist – Maritime Transport & Ports</i> The Asian Development Bank will bring the lens back to Southeast Asia, exploring regional challenges and opportunities for green port development. Their perspective will highlight how global best practices can be tailored to local realities, offering practical insights for policymakers and port authorities in the region.

	Regional Case Study: Port Klang Authority - (Up to 10 min presentation) <i>Capt. Subramaniam Karuppiah, General Manager Port Klang Authority</i> Port Klang Authority will share its perspective on the sustainability and climate challenges facing Malaysia's busiest port, and highlight the green port initiatives currently being implemented. Their contribution will provide insights into how the Authority is balancing commercial priorities with environmental responsibility, strengthening governance frameworks, and embedding sustainability into long-term planning and operations.
8 minutes	Moderated Discussion (two questions per panellist) <i>Facilitated by Jackie Spiteri – SESG – Managing Director</i>
2 minutes	Closing <i>Jackie Spiteri – SESG – Managing Director</i>

GREEN AND RESILIENT PORTS: GLOBAL LESSONS FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

2 October 2025 (Thursday) | 3:00-4:00 p.m. MNL (GMT +8)

Allison Ryan
Program Manager
Green Marine

Adrian Sammons
Senior Transport Specialist –
Maritime Transport and Ports
Asian Development Bank

Ruth Madden
Environmental, Social, and
Governance (ESG) and
Sustainability Manager
Port of Newcastle

Subramaniam Karuppiah
General Manager
Port Klang Authority

Jackie Spiteri
Managing Director
Sustainable ESG
MODERATOR

Biographies:

Allison Ryan Program Manager – Green Marine 	Allison Ryan is an accomplished sustainability and quality management professional with expertise spanning the marine, mining, and pharmaceutical sectors. She is currently Program Manager at Green Marine, where she leads advisory committees, collaborative working groups, and program development on key issues such as ship recycling, waste management, and environmental leadership. Allison also serves as a Board Member of the Council of Marine Professional Associates. Previously, Allison held senior leadership roles at McKesson Canada, including Senior Manager, Quality Operations & Validation Excellence, where she oversaw quality management, validation, and compliance projects throughout the pharmaceutical distribution network. Earlier in her career, she worked with Oceanex Inc. in progressively senior HSEQ roles, managing safety, environmental, and quality systems aligned with ISO and OHSAS standards
Ruth Madden ESG & Sustainability Manager – Port of Newcastle 	Ruth Madden is the ESG Manager at the Port of Newcastle, where she leads the development and implementation of the port's sustainability strategy. Ruth's focus areas include decarbonisation, the circular economy, and equity, diversity & inclusion. Ruth brings a background in environmental consulting, with a Master's in Environmental Management and Sustainability, and is committed to advancing climate resilience and nature-positive outcomes at the port. Ruth also chairs the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, strengthening community partnerships and inclusion
Captain K. Subramaniam General Manager, Port Klang Authority	Captain K. Subramaniam began his career in the Merchant Marine in 1981 obtaining his Captaincy in 1992. He joined Port Klang Authority in 1994 as a Harbour Pilot and held several designations before being appointed the General Manager in 2016 becoming the 1st scholar sponsored by PKA to head the organization.

	He is a certified Harbour Pilot since 1997 and has been the Chairman of the Port Klang Pilotage Committee since 2011. In his years at Port Klang Authority, he was instrumental in implementing the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) in Port Klang in 2004 and in 2010 coordinated Port Klang's participation in Mega Ports Initiative jointly with Royal Malaysia Customs, Atomic Energy Licensing Board and the US government. Amongst his notable achievements in Port Klang are introduction of safe working practices in port operations, safety of navigation and maritime security besides enhancing the use of digitalisation and green technology in the port and logistic industry. In 2023, he spearheaded Port Klang's initiative in implementing the Malaysia Maritime Single Window which is being extended to all ports nationwide. Capt. Subra is also prominently involved in the international maritime arena. He served as the President of the International Association of Ports & Harbours (IAPH) from 2021 to 2023, he is currently an Advisory Board Member of APEC Port Services Network and Secretary General of Eastern Dredging Association EADA.
Adrian Sammons Senior Transport Specialist – Maritime Transport & Ports – ADB 	Adrian Sammons is an international transport specialist with more than 20 years' experience in maritime, ports, and logistics. He currently serves as a Senior Transport Specialist (Maritime Transport & Ports) with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), based at ADB headquarters in Manila, where he leads work on sustainable port and maritime development across the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, Adrian is a Director of AMSTEC Pty Ltd, a consultancy he founded in 2005 that provides expert analysis and advisory services across land and maritime transport. AMSTEC's work spans market analysis, demand forecasting, infrastructure evaluation, financial modelling, and strategic assessments for governments and industry. Adrian has also held senior advisory roles with international organisations including UNCTAD, UNESCAP, the World Bank, and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, supporting projects on maritime connectivity, port competitiveness, and sustainable transport policy.

Jackie Spiteri
Managing Director – SESG



Jackie Spiteri is an experienced sustainability professional with over 18 years in the maritime and infrastructure sectors. She is the Founder and Managing Director of SESG, a specialist advisory firm helping organisations navigate the evolving sustainability and reporting landscape through tailored strategies, implementation, and education.

Jackie has served in leadership roles including Board Member of PIANC ANZ and Chair of Ports Australia’s Environment Planning and Sustainability Working Group. She is also an accredited Lead Auditor and the only Green Marine verifier in the Asia–Pacific region.

Her career highlights include developing sustainability financing frameworks enabling over \$750 million in linked debt, contributing to the ASEAN Taxonomy V3 and ongoing work on V4, and leading the creation of KubeNest, an innovative sustainability software platform.