INTERNATIONAL
SEA TOURISM
FESTIVAL 2025
AYIA NAPA | CYPRUS
YACHTING | CRUISING |
SAILING | WATERSPORTS
DIVING | FISHING

BLUE HORIZONS

Sea Tourism & Development Conference

PROGRAMME

08:30 – 09:00 **Registrations and Welcome Coffee**

09:00 – 09:05 **Introduction by the Master of Ceremony & Moderator**

Marios Adamou, Journalist

09:05 – 09:15 **Welcome Addresses**

Anastasios Konstantaros, President Organizing Committe ISTF, CEO BoatAdvisor Hub&Events

Costas Fitiris, Chief Marina Officer, ANM

09:15 – 09:20 **Video of Ayia Napa Marina**

09:20 – 10:30 **Panel Discussion 1: Sea Tourism & Strategic Investments in Marinas and other Blue Growth projects**

SPEAKERS:

- **Stefanos Gkikas,** Deputy Minister of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy, Greece
- **Kostas Koumis,** Deputy Minister of Tourism, Cyprus
- **Stavros Caramondanis,** President, Cyprus Marinas Association
- **Stavros Stavrou,** President, Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI)

10:30 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 – 12:10 **Panel Discussion 2: Sustainable Development, Innovative Applications & Protection of the Marine Environment**

SPEAKERS:

- **Stelios Himonas,** Permanent Secretary, Shipping Deputy Ministry, Cyprus
- **Toula Onoufriou,** Professor of Infrastructure Reliability and Management, Cyprus University of Technology
- **Nikiforos Pampakas,** General Manager, Limassol Marina
- **Zacharias Siokouros,** CEO, Cyprus Marine & Maritime Institute (CMMI)

12:10 – 13:20 **Panel Discussion 3: People, Maritime Education, Safety of Sea-based Activities & Development of Yachting and Cruise Sectors**

SPEAKERS:

- **Charalambos Manoli,** President, Famagusta Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- **Giorgos Economou,** Commander, JRCC Larnaca
- **Michael Ierides,** Secretary General, CYMEPA
- **Panayiotis Agathokleous,** Limassol Port Manager, Cyprus Ports Authority

13:20 – 13:25 **Closing by the Master of Ceremony & Moderator**

13:30 **Networking Cocktail**

Conference Language: Greek

INTERNATIONAL
SEA TOURISM
FESTIVAL 2025
AYIA NAPA | CYPRUS
YACHTING | CRUISING |
SAILING | WATERSPORTS
DIVING | FISHING

SPEAKERS

Marios Adamou, Journalist

Marios Adamou is originally from Sotira, Famagusta.

He is a graduate of the Classical Branch of Kokkinokhoria Lyceum "Fotis Pittas" and, after completing his military service, he pursued studies at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He obtained a degree from the Department of Journalism and Mass Media at Aristotle University. Upon returning to Cyprus, he initially worked as a correspondent for the television station ANT1, covering the districts of Larnaca and Famagusta, while also serving as editor-in-chief at the local station VOX TV.

He later took on the role of editor at ANT1, specializing in political and energy reporting, and in recent years has been serving as Chief Editor of the station's main news bulletin.

He is also the author of books that examine, from a historical perspective, the critical decades of the 1960s and 1970s.

Stefanos Gkikas, Deputy Minister of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy, Greece

Retired Hellenic Navy Captain Stefanos Gkikas, Vice Minister of Shipping and Island Policy, was born in Corfu in 1960. He graduated with distinction from the Hellenic Naval Academy in 1981 and holds postgraduate degrees in Naval and Defense Studies, Naval Science and Strategy, and Electrical Engineering from Monterey University (USA).He served as Commanding Officer of the Frigate "Salamis" and participated in significant missions in the Aegean Sea and the Persian Gulf. From 2004 to 2007, he worked as an advisor to the Ministers of Defense, and was later elected Member of Parliament for Corfu with the New Democracy Party in 2015, 2019, and 2023.He has served as Vice Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense and Secretary of the Committee on Armament Programs.Mr. Gikas is a regular columnist in both the Athenian and Corfiot press, is fluent in English, and is the father of two daughters.

Kostas Koumis, Deputy Minister of Tourism, Cyprus

Mr. Kostas Koumi was appointed Deputy Minister of Tourism on March 1st, 2023.He was born in Paralimni, Famagusta District, in 1977.

He holds a degree in Business Administration and a Master's degree in Media and Communication. Mr. Koumi is an experienced professional with 20 years of experience in different industries such as tourism, real estate, education, as well as the public sector. Serving these positions, he acquired extensive knowledge of the country's public sector processes, including broad skills in national and regional development management. Also, he acquired skills in managing and/or coordinating teams of specialists of different industries.

He has a strong background in business and networking development on an international level, including identification of potential strategic partners. Over the years he has developed strong negotiation skills since he participated and/or lead negotiations in different sectors.

He is strongly focused on increasing an organization's value through the establishment of operational processes and the management of quality. An important target that has emerged through his post graduate studies is to improve the organization's both internal and external communication culture. He served as the Vice Chairman of the Cyprus Tourism Organization during the period of 2014 – 2018 and as the Vice Chairman of the Cyprus Telecommunication Authority (CYTA) and President of the Audit Committee of CYTA between January 2019 to December 2020. He also worked as a visiting lecturer at University of Central Lancashire (UCLan Cyprus).

From September 2020 until June 2021, he was the editor and presenter of a podcast program dedicated to the Tourism Sector.

From July 2021 until February 2023, he was a member of the Public Service Commission.

INTERNATIONAL
SEA TOURISM
FESTIVAL 2025
AYIA NAPA | CYPRUS
YACHTING | CRUISING |
SAILING | WATERSPORTS
DIVING | FISHING

SPEAKERS

Stavros Caramondanis, President, Cyprus Marinas Association

Stavros Caramondanis studied in the USA before joining the Caramondani Group in 1992, starting as a storekeeper and steadily advancing through various roles. By 1996, he was appointed Brand Manager, and in 2002, he became the Group's Commercial Manager.

Recognizing opportunities in the energy sector, he co-founded Medserve Cyprus LTD in partnership with a Malta-based logistics company, positioning it as a leading provider of logistics and support services to International Oil Companies (IOCs).

In 2012, he secured a landmark 55-year concession agreement with the Cypriot government to develop Ayia Napa Marina. A year later, he partnered with prominent international businessman Naguib Sawiris and the Orascom Group to bring the visionary Ayia Napa Marina project to life — a world-class waterfront destination blending luxury residences, a state-of-the-art marina, and vibrant commercial spaces. As industry leaders in water treatment, in 2018 he played a big role in expanding the company's existing open water desalinated plants with the successful addition of the Caramondani Desalination Paphos plant. Caramondanis' strategic leadership and commitment to innovation continue to shape Cyprus's infrastructure and tourism landscape, solidifying his reputation as a key figure in the region's economic development.

In addition to his other responsibilities, Mr. Stavros Caramondanis holds the position of President of the Cyprus Marinas Association.

Stavros Stavrou, President, Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI)

Mr. Stavrou was born in Alambra in 1959 and studied at The English School, Nicosia. He was later awarded a First Class Honours Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and Finance from Middlesex Polytechnic (London).He is a Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and a Member of the Institute of Internal Auditors (UK and Ireland). He also holds a Diploma for Non-Executive Directors.Mr. Stavrou has served in a number of executive positions, including as Group CFO from 1993 to 2003 and as CEO from 2003 to 2008 in the oil and gas industry.He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the International School of Monaco from 1998 to 2003.He has served or continues to serve as a Non-Executive Independent Director on various Boards across multiple sectors, including Banking, Insurance, Reinsurance, Mining, Software Development, Real Estate Development, Construction, and Shipping, among others.He currently serves as President of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Stelios Himonas, Permanent Secretary, Shipping Deputy Ministry, Cyprus

Stelios Chimonas has been serving as the Director General of the Deputy Ministry of Shipping since July 1, 2023.He previously served as Director General of the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, the Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, as well as Director of the Department of Electronic Communications and Director of Telecommunications (at the former Ministry of Communications and Works).

From 2012 to June 30, 2023, he was appointed by the Council of Ministers as Cyprus' Digital Champion. He has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Research and Innovation Foundation (formerly the Research Promotion Foundation) and of the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (CYTA). At the European level, he served as Vice-Chairman of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT). Dr. Chimonas holds a PhD, a Master of Science, and a Bachelor of Engineering in Electronic Engineering from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. From 1989 to 1997, he was an Associate Professor in the Department of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science at the New York Institute of Technology, and also served as a Professor in the Department of Engineering and Computer Science at Intercollege. In addition, he worked as a Research Consultant in Multimedia Communications at Bell Communications Research (Bellcore) in New Jersey, USA.He is the author of 35 scientific papers published in reputable journals and international conferences and has been listed in Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in American Education, and Who's Who Among Human Services Professionals.

INTERNATIONAL
SEA TOURISM
FESTIVAL 2025
AYIA NAPA | CYPRUS
YACHTING | CRUISING |
SAILING | WATERSPORTS
DIVING | FISHING

SPEAKERS

Toula Onoufriou, Professor of Infrastructure Reliability and Management, Cyprus University of Technology

Professor Toula Onoufriou is a Professor of Reliability and Infrastructure Management in the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics at the Cyprus University of Technology. She is also the President of the Cyprus Hydrocarbons Company. She has extensive experience both in academia and in the international hydrocarbons industry, where she has held prominent leadership positions including Vice Rector, President, Director of Research, Research Centre Director, and Senior Consultant. Her professional contributions and achievements have been widely recognized at national, regional, and international level. Her international distinctions and awards include the EGYPS 2020 Women in Energy Leadership Award, the Stanley Gray Award from the Institute of Marine Engineers (UK), and distinction through the prestigious European research programme SmartEN Marie Curie ITN. Professor Onoufriou has served as President, Vice President, and Member of various national bodies advising the Republic of Cyprus on strategic issues related to energy, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and education. She is also the Chairman of the Eastern Mediterranean Energy Congress & Exhibition (EMC) conference series.

Nikiforos Pampakas, General Manager, Limassol Marina

Nikiforos Pampakas is the General Manager of Limassol Marina, the first superyacht marina in Cyprus which has recently completed. Nikiforos brings with him significant experience, particularly in business marketing, sales and customer service, acquired through his diverse roles in multiple sectors in Cyprus and abroad. He also holds a degree in Business Administration from the University of Bedfordshire in England. He began his career as the Project and Marketing Manager at the British Association of Medical Managers England. He later moved on to Pafilia Property Developers in Paphos, Cyprus, where he served in various roles in the Marketing Department. As his professional expertise expanded, Nikiforos went on to serve as Marketing and Sales Manager at Kanika Developments Ltd in Limassol. As General Manager of Limassol Marina, Nikiforos plays a vital role in ensuring its ongoing success by overseeing all efforts pertaining to the strategic development, sustainable growth and overall smooth operation of this multi-million-dollar award-winning Marina development.

Zacharias Siokouros, CEO, Cyprus Marine & Maritime Institute (CMMI)

Zacharias Siokouros is a Naval Architect and Marine Engineer (NTUA) and has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute (CMMI) since its establishment in 2019. He has over 30 years of experience in the maritime industry, research, and regulatory oversight, having served in senior positions in shipping, cruise ship operations, and international classification societies.He has served as Senior Ship Surveyor, Lead Safety & Security Inspector, Labour Inspector, and Trainer in an international classification society, gaining extensive experience in technical, operational, and regulatory matters. At the same time, he has represented Cyprus and the maritime sector at international fora and organizations. A strong advocate of maritime innovation, he was the initiator of the Lynceus Project, which received the Lloyd's List Global Innovation Award and was co-funded by the European Union. He has also led significant initiatives and associations promoting the development of the Blue Economy. Through his leadership at CMMI, he continues to work with vision towards a sustainable, innovative, and competitive maritime and marine sector in Cyprus and beyond.

INTERNATIONAL
SEA TOURISM
FESTIVAL 2025
AYIA NAPA | CYPRUS
YACHTING | CRUISING |
SAILING | WATERSPORTS
DIVING | FISHING

SPEAKERS

Charalambos Manoli, President, Famagusta Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr. Charalambos Manoli is a Chartered Naval Architect and Marine Engineer with extensive experience in the shipping industry and ship management. He possesses a strong academic background and over four decades of active professional involvement in naval architecture, marine engineering, and business management.

He graduated from the Higher Technical Institute in Nicosia (1977–1980) with a Diploma in Marine Engineering. He continued his studies at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow (1982–1984), where he earned a B.Sc. (Honours) in Naval Architecture. In 1996, he completed the Management of Ships Operation (MSO) program at the Center of Advanced Maritime Studies in Edinburgh, and in 2007 obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Leicester through distance learning.

Mr. Manoli is a Chartered Engineer and a member of the following professional bodies: the Engineering Council (UK), the Institute of Marine Engineers, the Royal Institution of Naval Architects, and the Scientific and Technical Chamber of Cyprus (ETEK).

He is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Acheon Akti Navigation Company Ltd, a family-owned shipping company established in 2002 with the vision of becoming a globally recognized ship management organization known for excellence and reliability. Acheon Akti manages a fleet of over 65 vessels, offering comprehensive ship management services from its headquarters in Cyprus and its branch offices in Dubai and Germany, maintaining the highest standards of operational and safety integrity.

Giorgos Economou, Commander, JRCC Larnaca

Lieutenant Commander (Navy) George Economou was born in 1980 in Limassol, with ancestral roots in Paralimni. He entered the Hellenic Naval Academy in 1998 and graduated in 2002, receiving his commission as an Ensign in the Navy.

His operational experience includes serving in the Navy Command's Coastal Patrol Boats as a Navigation Officer and Executive Officer, as well as serving as an Operations Officer and Deputy Commander in Coastal Missile Battery Units. Also, he served as Commander of a Naval Observatory and as Commanding Officer of a Coastal Patrol Boat.

In 2016, he was assigned to the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC), where he served as Operations Officer and Deputy Commander. On 4 August 2025, he was appointed JRCC Commander, a position he continues to hold today.

He graduated from the Naval Staff College, the Supreme Joint War College of Greece and has been awarded all decorations and medals corresponding to his rank.

He holds a MSc in Public Sector Management and a MSc in Strategic Studies.

He is married and the father of a boy and a girl.

INTERNATIONAL
SEA TOURISM
FESTIVAL 2025
AYIA NAPA | CYPRUS
YACHTING | CRUISING |
SAILING | WATERSPORTS
DIVING | FISHING

SPEAKERS

Michael Ierides, Secretary General, CYMEPA

Dr Michael Ierides was born in 1957 in Nicosia. After graduating from the English School, Nicosia and military service, he was selected for a scholarship offered by the French government. He graduated from the Faculty of Science of Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse, then completed a Masters' Degree from Pierre at Marie Curie University, Paris and obtained his Doctorate in Human Biology and Biochemistry at INSERM (National Scientific Institute of Medical Studies and Research) in Toulouse.

Dr Ierides is a Member of Biological Societies and has been elected as the first President of the "Environment and Quality of Life" Committee of the Cyprus Academy of Sciences.

He has served at the Falcon School, the Empire State College of the State University of New York, at Frederick University and represented Leeds Metropolitan University.

Since 1992 he is the Secretary General of CYMEPA (Cyprus Marine Environment Protection Association).

Panayiotis Agathokleous, Limassol Port Manager, Cyprus Ports Authority

Panayiotis Agathocleous has joined the Cyprus Ports Authority in 2001 as an Administrative Officer at the Head Offices of CPA in Nicosia. He currently holds the position of the Limassol Port Manager (appointed in December 2017) and after serving for many years in various administrative positions within the Organisation.

During his 24 years of service within the Cyprus Ports Authority, he had been dealing with operational matters of all Cyprus ports, with the introduction/implementation of the ISPS Code, with harmonisation of Cyprus ports legal framework with EU Directives, with the preparation of feasibility studies and establishing strategies and development plans of the Organisation. He has also been deeply involved in EU co-funded projects, while representing Cyprus Ports Authority as a panellist in various forums, conferences, and seminars. He was part of the Cyprus Ports Authority team in the commercialisation process of Limassol port services and has represented the Authority in numeral court and arbitration hearings.

He holds a Banking Diploma, a Postgraduate Diploma in Management Studies, an MBA, and an MA in Port Management from British Universities. Previously he was employed by Andreas Neocleous & Co (now Elias Neocleous & Co), one of the largest Law Firms in Cyprus, dealing with strategic management, and acting as the quality manager of the firm and as a strategic consultant to the firm's Managing Director on business development/expansion.