



## Press Release

### Wah Kwong Hosts Inaugural Annual China Conference in Shanghai

Shanghai, China, 17 April 2026 – Wah Kwong Maritime Transport Limited (“Wah Kwong”) successfully hosted its inaugural **Annual China Conference** in Shanghai, bringing together leaders across the shipping chain to engage in in-depth dialogue on global trends, partnership models, dry bulk market, decarbonisation challenges, ship management, and smart shipping technologies.

In the opening remarks, **Captain Zhou Jianfeng, Managing Director of Wah Kwong**, welcomed partners and emphasised the Group’s seventy-year tradition. He noted that resilience and collaboration remain essential in navigating today’s complex environment, and reaffirmed Wah Kwong’s commitment to building long-term, trust-based relationships across the industry.

A fireside chat followed under the theme “*Global Shipping Dialogue and Wah Kwong’s Vision for Partnerships.*” Wah Kwong’s **Chairman, Mr. Hing Chao** highlighted that the shipping industry is at a critical juncture, with overlapping cycles of technology, energy, and global trade. He stressed that cooperation is shifting from transaction-based to long-term partnership-based models, and underscored the importance of sharing cultural values, common goals, and innovation in building a sustainable global maritime system.

Subsequent sessions explored investment opportunities and risks facing shipping in 2026. A keynote on decarbonisation assessed the IMO’s net-zero framework, EU ETS requirements, and the practical challenges of alternative fuels. Wah Kwong Ship Management shared insights into environmental technologies and digitalisation, while a briefing on smart shipping examined how smart systems are being integrated into vessel design, newbuilding, and operations.

Two panel discussions provided further analysis. One focused on the dry bulk market, following Wah Kwong’s recent announcement of **Wah Kwong Bulk**, the dedicated owner-operator company, and examined partnership models in the sector. Another centred on artificial intelligence and smart shipping, with experts discussing how AI, generative AI, and digital twins are reshaping vessel design, safety standards, operational practices, and data ecosystems.

By convening stakeholders across the industry, the Annual China Conference provides a platform for open dialogue collaboration, fresh perspectives and practical insights to drive collective progress in global shipping.



## About Wah Kwong Maritime Transport

Wah Kwong Maritime Transport is a family-owned integrated shipping company based in Hong Kong, with offices in Shenzhen, London, Genoa, Singapore, and Dalian. For over 70 years, we have been investing in, owning, and operating shipping assets through market cycles. Established by T. Y. Chao and currently managed by the third generation of the Chao family, Wah Kwong currently has four main business streams: ship owning, ship management, dry bulk operating, and energy — combining a proud ship owning heritage with a modern, forward-thinking approach, serving our customers and partners in China, Asia, Europe and Middle East.



## MEDIA CONTACTS

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Photos	Captions
<p>Photo 1</p> 	<p>Wah Kwong’s inaugural <b>Annual China Conference</b> concluded successfully in Shanghai, bringing together leaders across the shipping value chain to engage in focused discussions on global trends, partnership models, dry bulk market, decarbonisation challenges, ship management, and smart shipping technologies.</p>
<p>Photo 2</p> 	<p>Captain Zhou Jianfeng, Managing Director of Wah Kwong, delivered the opening welcome remarks, thanking guests for their participation.</p>
<p>Photo 3</p> 	<p>Mr. Hing Chao, Chairman of Wah Kwong, and Ms. Abbie Hui, Partnerships &amp; Corporate Communications Manager, engaged in a fireside chat titled <i>“Global Shipping Perspectives and Wah Kwong’s Vision for Partnerships.”</i></p>

Please download photos [here](#).