



AUSTRALASIAN INSTITUTE
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September 2026



- **Marine Surveyors Symposium in 2027**
- **Report on AIMS biennial conference**
- **Marine incident annual report**

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Front Cover: *Global Mercy*, the world's largest purpose-built civilian hospital ship. Tymor Marine recently completed a lightweight survey and inclining test aboard the vessel. (See page 48.)

Back Cover: Marine Rescue Queensland's *Gladstone Rescue 1* at Gladstone, Queensland.



From the Bridge (Page 5.)



CEO: AMSA stakeholder forum. (Page 7.)



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ADVERTISING AVAILABLE

Advertising is now available in *Shipshape*, the official journal of the Australasian Institute of Marine Surveyors (AIMS). For all the information about advertising in our quarterly magazine, contact AIMS CEO Eric Perez at gm@aimsurveyors.com.au or on +61 492 881 737.

AIMS' biennial conference report

THE AIMS' biennial conference report has been shared and it's worth coming back to the key themes of the event.

1. Professional Standards, Trust and Assurance

Maintaining confidence in the marine surveying profession depends on a visible commitment to high standards, sound governance and ethical conduct. Across the conference, there was a strong emphasis on the importance of quality assurance, role clarity, accountability and procedural consistency in building trust with regulators, industry stakeholders and the wider community.

As the profession continues to evolve, the ability to demonstrate credibility through robust frameworks, transparent practice and dependable professional judgement will remain fundamental to its reputation and long-term relevance.

The sessions highlighted the importance of robust accreditation frameworks, clear scopes of work, defensible reporting, professional indemnity awareness, audit and assurance processes, ethical conduct, and consistency in marine surveyor practice.

2. Safety, Risk and Prevention

Safety remains a defining priority for the marine surveying profession, with conference discussions repeatedly highlighting the value of early risk identification, practical foresight and preventative action.

Marine surveyors operate at the intersection of compliance, operations and public interest, making their role essential in reducing harm, improving decision-making and protecting



vessels, cargo, people and infrastructure.

This theme reinforces that effective surveying is not only about technical assessment but also about anticipating risks, applying sound judgement and contributing to a safer maritime environment overall.

The sessions reinforced prevention as a core safety strategy, with emphasis on early risk identification, enclosed and hazardous space controls, port and supply chain resilience, hidden damage assessment, evidence-based assurance, and professional judgement in Port State Control.

3. Capability, Training and Future Workforce

The future strength of marine surveying will depend on how effectively the profession attracts, develops and supports the next generation of practitioners. A recurring message throughout the conference was the importance of practical training, continuing professional development, mentoring and accessible learning pathways that reflect the changing demands of the industry.

With workforce pressures,

succession planning challenges and the need for specialised skills becoming more visible, there is a clear strategic imperative to invest in people, strengthen capability and ensure that professional knowledge is passed on in a structured and sustainable way.

The sessions focused on workforce sustainability, succession planning, practical training pathways, continuing professional development, micro-credentials, learner-centred education, professional qualifications, mentoring and the need to develop future-ready capability.

4. Technology, Innovation and Professional Judgement

Digital transformation is reshaping the operating environment for marine surveyors, bringing new tools, faster processes and emerging opportunities to improve accuracy, efficiency and insight.

At the same time, the conference highlighted that technology, including automation and artificial intelligence, must be applied thoughtfully and responsibly.

The strategic challenge is not simply adopting new systems but also ensuring they enhance, rather than diminish, professional judgement, independence and critical thinking. The future of the profession will rely on balancing technological capability with human expertise and ethical decision-making.

The sessions addressed digital transformation, artificial intelligence, automation, software-enabled surveying, data interpretation, international standards, technical tools and the need to ensure technology supports, rather than replaces,

independent professional judgement.

5. Partnerships, Collaboration and Collective Influence

The conference underscored the value of strong partnerships in advancing shared priorities across the maritime sector.

Collaboration between professional bodies, regulators, insurers, training providers and allied industry organisations was presented as essential to strengthening standards, improving trust, building capability and addressing complex challenges that no single organisation can solve alone.

Strategic partnerships also expand the influence of the profession, create opportunities for joint advocacy and help position marine surveying as an active contributor to broader industry development and reform.

These sessions showed that collaboration with regulators, industry bodies, insurers, training providers, ports and allied maritime organisations strengthens trust, advocacy, capability building, regulatory reform and the overall visibility of the marine surveying profession.

6. Adaptation, Growth and Strategic Positioning

Marine surveying is operating in a period of significant change, shaped by evolving regulation, market complexity, geopolitical disruption and advances in vessel design and technology.

In this environment, strategic success will depend on the profession's ability to adapt, while remaining clear about its purpose and value.

The conference pointed to the need for stronger member engagement, wider regional reach, more visible leadership and a proactive approach to shaping the future of the profession.

Growth will come not only from responding to change but also from positioning marine surveying as an essential, future-focused discipline within the maritime sector.

These sessions positioned marine surveying as a profession operating in a changing maritime environment shaped by regulatory reform, regional expansion, market disruption, new vessel technologies, onshore wind, supply chain change and the need for stronger strategic leadership.

7. Conclusion

The conference themes demonstrate that driving change in the marine surveying profession depends on purposeful collaboration within the profession, across industry sectors and beyond national borders.

The sessions collectively reinforced that progress will come through shared standards, stronger partnerships, cross-border knowledge exchange, coordinated training pathways and a willingness to work with regulators, educators, industry bodies and allied maritime organisations to shape a safer, more capable and future-ready profession.

As we move forward, the challenge for industry, industry partners and stakeholders is clear: to turn these conference insights into action by strengthening collaboration, sharing knowledge across borders, supporting professional standards, and working collectively to drive meaningful change for the future of the marine surveying profession.

You can access a copy of the conference report [here](#)

Dr Eric Perez
Chief Executive Officer



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