

Chennai, octobre 2025

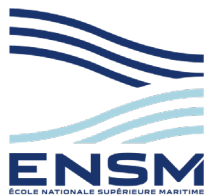
Objet : Discours d'adhésion de l'ENSM prononcé par François Lambert, Directeur Général de l'ENSM lors de l'Assemblée Générale de IAMU 2025,

Madame, Monsieur,

It is a great honour to stand in front of you today representing the Ecole Nationale Supérieure Maritime. We are privileged to join the International Association of Maritime Universities. And we have made this choice at an important moment in our history. We would like to formally thank you for this, and I would personally like to outline our project based on three ideas. The history of our school and its international aspirations, the necessary union in the evolution of the STCW and the great need for Europe.

Our Academy takes its roots from an old maritime history. The first hydrography school was founded in France in 1571. In those times, France had no Navy and the conquest of the "New World" was just beginning. Maritime issues in France, just as this Academy for seafarers, have been consolidated over time. We have just celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Academy in its latest shape, as a public institution and a national Academy. We are proud of this. First because we are French and the French are proud. But, above all, because our fees allow young people from all backgrounds to undertake studies without entering into an overly expensive system that would prevent them from realising their dream of becoming an officer. The young people are men but also women, and the population is becoming more feminised, which is a good thing. We are changing the school and changing the rules. The Academy is an engineering one, reflecting a vision of the maritime world which, in addition to being perfectly aligned with the concept of the 'Global Maritime Professional' promoted by IAMU, is evolving and becoming more complex, giving engineering an increasingly important role without ever losing sight of its maritime roots. We have high expectations for our exchanges with our foreign partners to advance joint projects.

Among these projects is the STCW review. These four letters alone sum up our condition, our past and our future. But we cannot be satisfied with that. Our job is to train seafarers, our goal is to ensure that they are the best at mobilising the skills we have taught them on board ships. And the world is changing : the energy transition, the digital transition and the societal transition are also giving a new dimension to our actions. We cannot be satisfied with the STCW as it stands. We expect IAMU to come up with concrete proposals that will benefit the greatest number of people, in the general interest. These proposals, which concern new engines and cyber security, will make the seas safer and seafarers even more irreplaceable. This is what I want to believe and defend before you by taking the "Chennai oath", to devote all our energy to revitalising this founding text, in the interest of us all.



Finally, though I come from an old country, I do not forget that it is also located on an old continent. Our old Europe is searching for a maritime destiny. It is searching for itself in various places elsewhere. We have a plan to structure a dynamic network within IAMU to give Europe a little more space in its maritime coherence. For Europe cannot be an accumulation of legislative texts that offer no perspective other than that of the lowest common denominator. One of France's greatest sources of pride is Europe, the Europe of the Founding Fathers. Because as well as being proud, we are often nostalgic. Without nostalgia, I want to look to the future with IAMU and propose that we organise a network of European academies to provide a different voice, which I hope will set the tone for the demanding and professional exchanges we will have.

Before concluding, I feel it is important to reiterate that the reasons behind our desire to host the 2027 conference are fully aligned with our application to join IAMU. I can appreciate the level of commitment required and I would like to thank our Indian hosts for welcoming us to this beautiful place. I simply want to tell you that, in addition to motivation, we have several advantages. France is a small country, but the Academy has four campuses located on three maritime coastlines. We can welcome you to Le Havre or Marseille, although Nantes or Saint Malo unfortunately less suitable for such a conference, and I invite you to come and visit us there, and you will see that they are also worth getting to know. And seeing a microcosm of France in just a few days is a real opportunity. Secondly, we are beginning to gain international experience, thanks to a determined team. A few examples: our challenge Hydrocontest by ENSM (where I hope all students from your schools will take part), our summer school, the launch of the Horizon project Overheat, the closing of the Erasmus+ MAR-Lang, the upcoming organisation of the 31st IMLA conference, the yearly international study days, and the exchanges and partnerships we are developing. Just listing all of this can be exhausting, don't you think? Finally, France needs you, and ENSM needs IAMU. You have to see the strength of this organisation to believe it, so your visit will be all the more useful and appreciated by our teams, our students and our ministry.

Thank you for your attention. I wish you a very successful general meeting. You can count on me, you can count on my colleague Gersende Le Dimna, who was the driving force behind our application, and you can count on the ENSM to move forward with this magnificent project that is IAMU !

François Lambert
Directeur Général de l'ENSM