WISTA JAPAN Update: October 2026

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1974 - 2024

50 WISTA International

On 2 December **1974**, a handful of women brokers involved in the tanker market met for a Christmas lunch at the Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese in London UK.

In **1981**, the first conference of "Ladies in Shipping" took place in Hamburg.

In **1984**, when the conference was held in Stockholm, it was decided to change the name to Women's International Shipping & Trading Association, WISTA.

WISTA AGM & Conference Hamburg 1981

Our Mission

A **determined promoter of Diversity, Equality & Inclusion (DE&I)** in Japan's maritime industry

A **driving engine** for transforming leadership through cross-cultural collaboration and modern practices

A **network** of industrial talents (all genders) across generations and sectors

A **platform** for open dialogue, learning, and knowledge exchange within the **maritime** community

A **correspondent and active contributor** to WISTA International in East Asia

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WISTA International AGM October 2025

Approval of WISTA Japan at the WISTA International AGM in 2025 in Barcelona/Spain

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TradeWinds Shipowners Forum October 2025

Collaboration with the TradeWinds Shipowners Forum

Learning and dialogue to strengthen connections across the maritime industry.

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IAPH World Port Conference October 2025

Collaboration with the IAPH World Port Conference

Building connections with maritime communities in Japan and internationally.

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Business & Career Exchange February 2026

Corporate representative insights: container shipping business

Career speaker series: Why I chose the shipping industry, and where I am now

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UN Women: Unstereotype Exhibition March 2026

UN Women Japan invited WISTA Japan to the opening at the United Nations University in Tokyo.

Ahead of International Women's Day, the exhibition challenged unconscious gender and racial biases and encouraged dialogue and action for gender equality.

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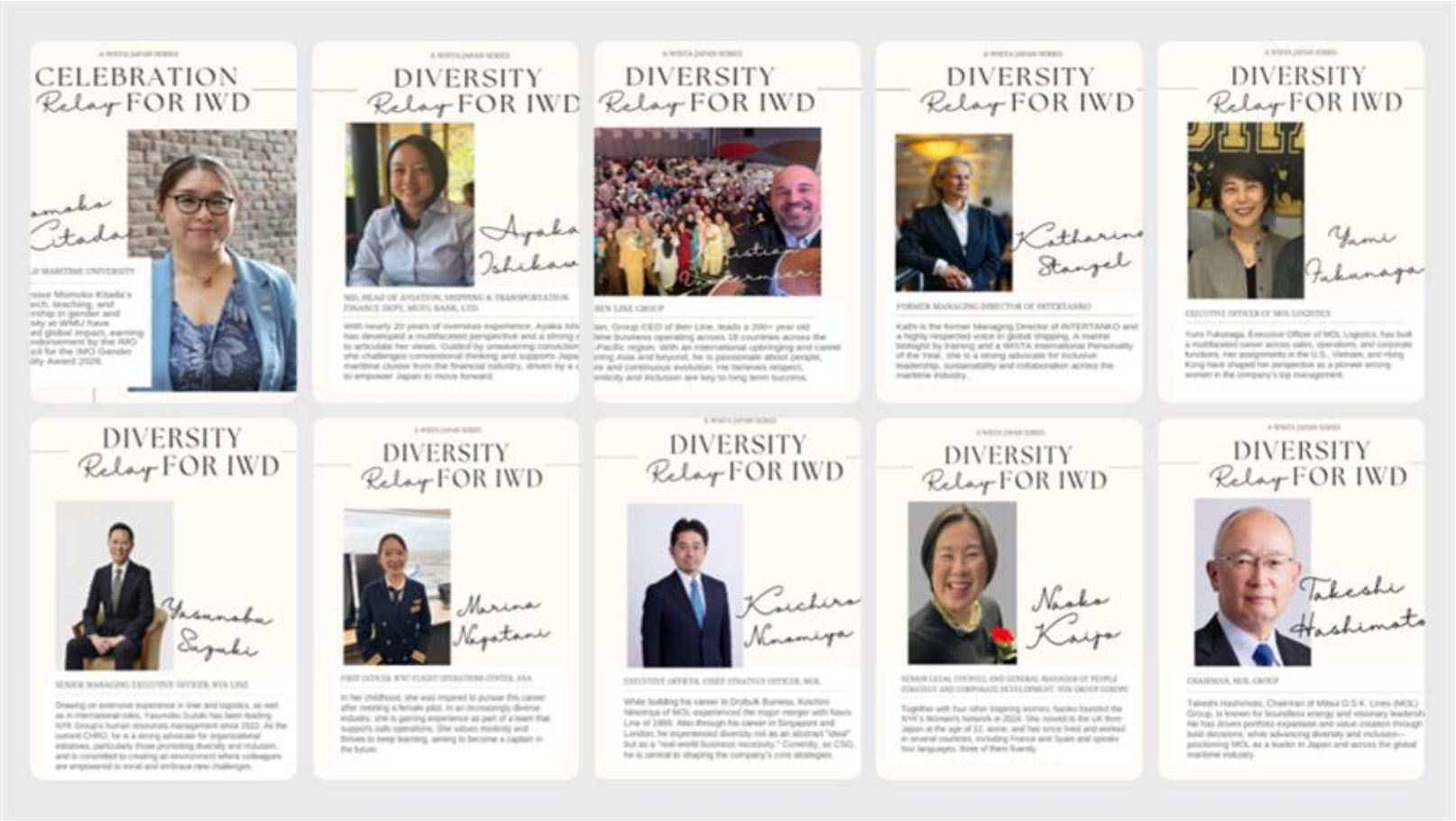

Momoka Kitada, Professor, World Maritime University

Ayaka Ishikawa, Head of Department, MUFG

Kristian Vandermeer, CEO, Ben Line Group

Katharina Stanzel, former MD, INTERTANKO

Yumi Fukunaga, EO, MOL Logistics

Yasunobu Suzuki, SMEO, NYK Line

Marina Nagatani, First Officer, ANA

Koichiro Ninomiya, EO, MOL

Naoko Kaijo, GM, NYK Group Europe

Takeshi Hashimoto, Chairman, MOL

Diversity Relay for IWD

From **International Women's Day** to **International Day for Women in Maritime**

8 March to 18 May

Members and allies shared their experiences and perspectives.

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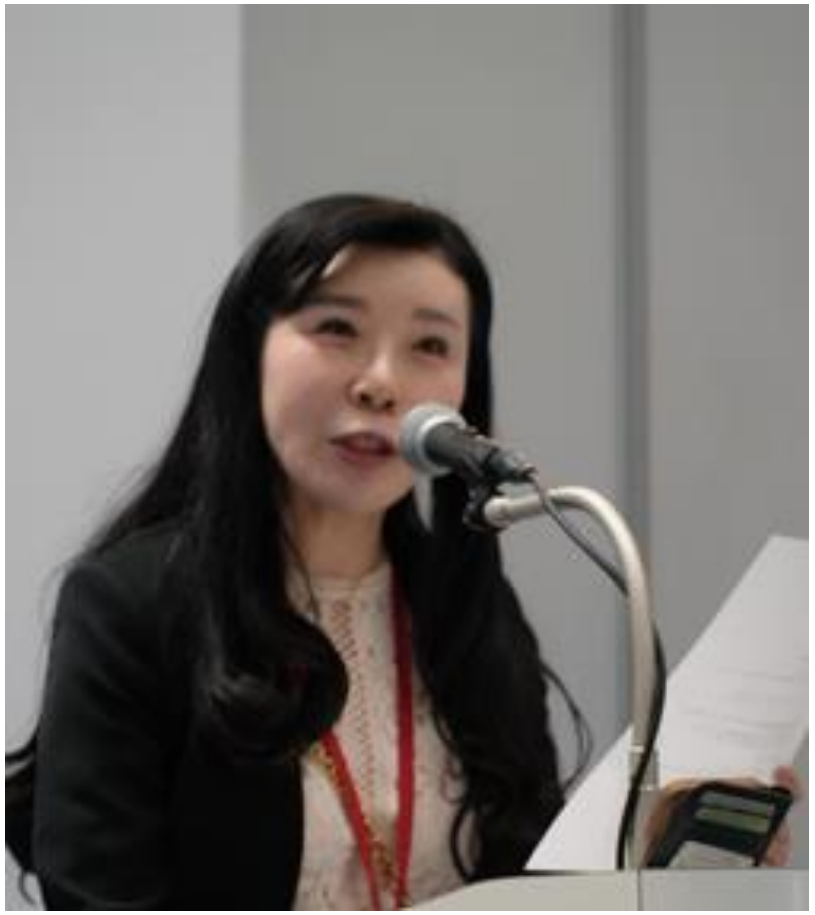

Sea Japan 2026: Global Connectivity April 2026

At Tokyo Big Sight, Maki Yoshida moderated the “Women’s Empowerment Panel in the Maritime Industry” on collaboration across maritime clusters.

Session 2 featured Kelly Takano (MOL), Paul Sessions (UK P&I Club) and Ken Hasui (Norstar Group), discussing WISTA Japan’s contributions and how human networks and diversity drive innovation.

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Tokyo Networking Luncheon September 2026

WISTA Japan member discussions and networking

Geopolitics and shipping: Natsuki Tanaka (UK P&I)

Maritime decarbonization: Azusa Nakajima (Mitsui OSK Lines)

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London: World Maritime Day September 2026

WISTA Japan’s first London gathering took place ahead of World Maritime Day.

Celebrating the people and connections that strengthen the maritime community.

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Upcoming Events

WISTA International AGM in Kuala Lumpur (October)

WISTA Maritime Expert Talk & Networking (November~December)

WISTA Japan AGM (January 2026)

Vessel visit (TBC)

Corporate Sponsorship

We are excited to welcome corporate sponsors of WISTA Japan!

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Join WISTA Japan

Expand learning, deepen dialogue and build connections across the maritime industry.

Grow with a like-minded community.

Click here to join our team!

Follow us on LinkedIn and stay tuned!

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