



Press Release

For Immediate release: Friday 29 May 2026

Pacific Transport Ministers Convene in Majuro for Inaugural Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership Ministerial Meeting

Majuro, Marshall Islands — Transport Ministers and senior government officials, from across the Pacific will convene in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, from 09–11 June 2026 for the inaugural Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership (PBSP) Ministerial Meeting.

The Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership is an ambitious country-driven initiative for a large-scale climate finance investment to catalyse a transition to sustainable, resilient, and low carbon shipping. While shipping is the absolute lifeline for all Pacific island and archipelagic States, it has not so far been a focus of regional programs to slash dependency on increasingly expensive imported diesel and reduce climate change causing emissions.

The PBSP will support its member states with the resources and opportunities to collaboratively develop and submit National Action Plans for their shipping transitions to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). Implementing these plans will come at significant cost and the PBSP aims to enable collective access by member states to global climate finance modalities and sustainable maritime technologies required for their domestic shipping transitions.

Ministers will also consider a \$300 million application to the Green Climate Fund to finance the building and operation of a demonstration fleet of low carbon vessels in participating PBSP member countries. The Juren Ae, the new Marshallese inter-island freighter, is achieving over 50% fuel savings using a mixture of sails, solar and innovative ship design. The next step is to introduce a range of low carbon vessels of types and sizes in common use throughout the region.

In Majuro, representatives of the ten Pacific countries will work through formal agreement on the PBSP Charter and establish the PBSP Council and Office. The Ministerial meeting is the first of its kind and marks a significant milestone in advancing this coordinated, multi-country approach.

The Republic of Fiji and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are serving as Co-Chairs of the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership and will jointly lead the meetings.

Speaking ahead of the meeting, the Marshall Islands' Presidential Special Envoy for Maritime Decarbonisation, Albon Ishoda said the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership represents a transformative opportunity for Pacific nations to collectively shape the future of maritime transport in the region. “The Pacific depends on shipping for our survival, our trade, our

connectivity, and our economic development. As custodians of one of the world’s largest ocean region, we must ensure our maritime future is sustainable, resilient, affordable, and aligned with our climate ambitions. The Pacific has worked hard over many years to drive a transition for international shipping, the PBSP is our blueprint for our domestic transition”.

Pacific States for the past decade spearheaded International Maritime Organization (IMO) negotiations over decarbonising the international shipping sector, and are widely acknowledged as being catalytic to driving ambition for global change. Now is the time to ensure that the States advocating for a just and equitable transition at the IMO are not left behind at home. The Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership aims to provide a coordinated and collective multi-country approach to ensure Pacific member nations achieve a full maritime transition by 2050.

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Caption: The Wind-hybrid cargo ship *SV Juren Ae* under sail in the Marshall Islands (Image: Chewy Lin / GIZ LCST)

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About PBSP

The Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership (PBSP) is an ambitious country-driven initiative for a large-scale climate finance investment to catalyse a regional transition to sustainable, resilient, and low carbon shipping.

Website: <https://mcstrmi.org/projects/pacific-blue-shipping-partnership/>

About MCST

The Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport (MCST), a Marshall Islands government owned research center, is dedicated to promoting sustainable transport solutions in the Pacific region and beyond. MCST collaborates with various stakeholders to address the challenges of climate change and support the transition to a low-carbon future.

Website: <https://www.mcstrmi.org>