



MEDIA RELEASE

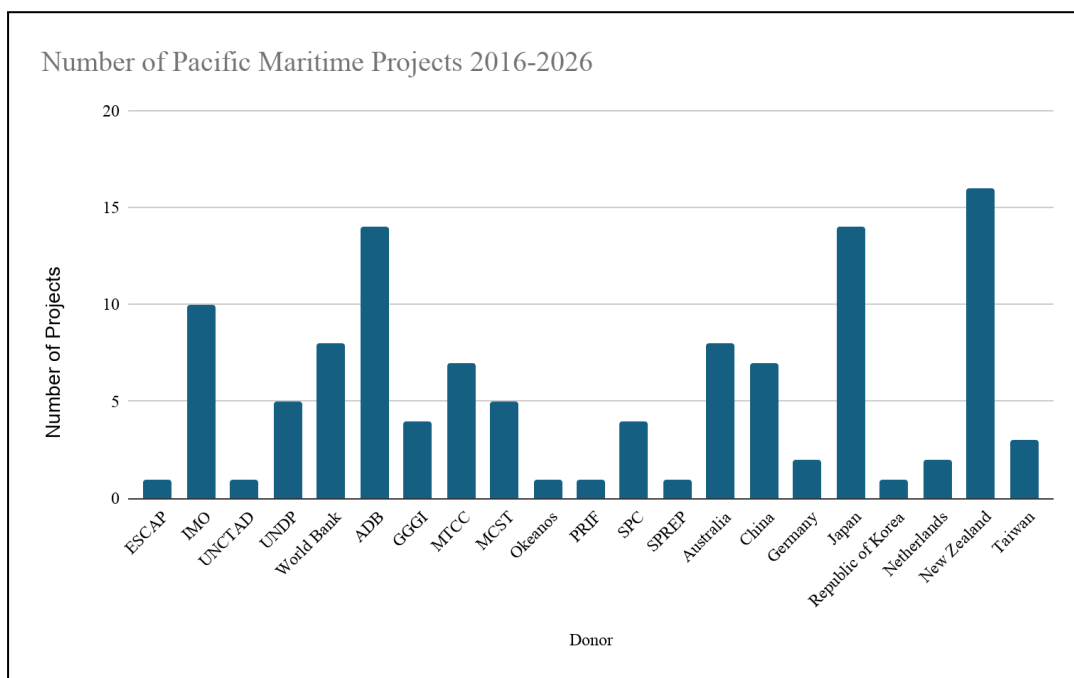
For Immediate release

30/07/2026

MCST Launches Database Tracking Maritime Investment Across the Pacific

The new knowledge platform captures a decade of maritime investment in the region.

The Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport (MCST) has launched the **Pacific Maritime Database Project**, an initiative that provides a comprehensive picture of maritime investment across the Pacific.



Graph 1: Number of Pacific Maritime Projects between 2016 & 2026

Developed with support from long-standing research partners at the University College of London's Energy Institute, the new database is a tool for tracking and analysing investment funding for maritime projects in the Pacific from multiple donor and external agency sources.

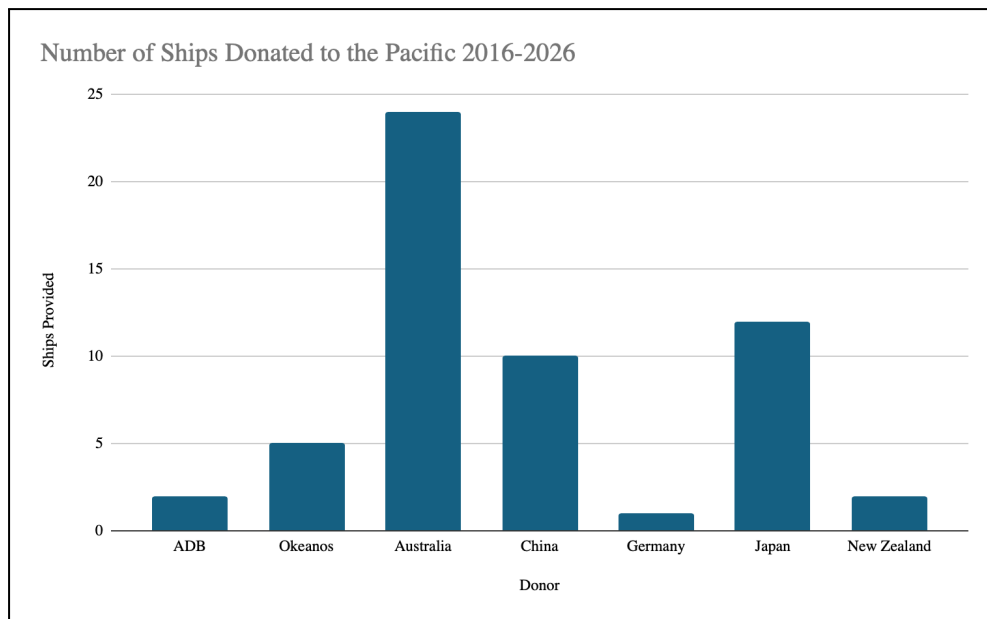
Using publicly available data for the decade between 2016-2026, the **Pacific Maritime Database Project** indicates an overall estimated spend of US\$3.7bn across 115 maritime projects. Within this overall spend, more than 95% of funds were directed to infrastructure, capacity development and new ships for the region. Australia was the largest donor in the region, largely due to its US\$1.5bn Guardian Class Patrol Vessel project, followed by the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and the Government of Japan. The database also features tables and visual charts highlighting a range of other important data points and trends.

MCST has generated the Pacific Maritime Database Project to support a range of stakeholders, including Pacific policy makers and planners, researchers and development partners to better understand the scale and financial cost of investments into maritime projects in the Pacific. The database also aims to inform the planning pathways and decisions of Pacific and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as they work to decarbonise their transport ecosystems. This new database also reflects MCST's ongoing commitment to being a knowledge portal for sustainable transport in the Pacific, especially for SIDS.

This is a working project that will be updated and expanded over time. MCST is currently working with the various regional donors and stakeholders listed to complete data validation. MCST welcomes all external corrections and contributions and encourages those who wish to make contributions to contact the Center for more information (see footnote for MCST contact details).

Since its establishment in 2015, MCST has played a leading role in advancing sustainable transport research in the Pacific, especially for the maritime sector. Over the past decade, the Center has supported Pacific governments and institutions through policy development, technical research, capacity building, and advocacy on issues including maritime safety, energy efficiency, climate resilience, and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction in shipping.

MCST's work has contributed to improved understanding of Pacific maritime transport challenges and solutions, while amplifying the voices and priorities of island nations in regional and international forums. The upgraded Reference Library represents another important milestone in MCST's mission to promote sustainable transport solutions in the Pacific region and beyond.



Graph 3: Number of ships donated to the Pacific 2016-2026

The new database is now available to the public:

<https://mcstrmi.org/pacific-maritime-database-project/>

END

For further information, contact:

Pacific Maritime Database Project Lead (wbowden@mcstrmi.org)

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>