

# Abstract

## SESSION 3:

From Vision to Reality: Aligning the Global Agenda with Local Benefits

## WORKSHOP 3.3:

Blue Economy Development: Where are we now? Where are we headed?

## Blue economy investment opportunities in Malaysia: A focus on green ports and shipping

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Being a country surrounded by seas, Malaysia depends heavily on the sea to facilitate much of its trade and economic growth. For instance, about 95 percent of the country's international trade is carried by seaborne transport alongside the national ports as key gateways to this trade. Ports and shipping are essentially recognised as essential contributors in facilitating Malaysia's trade and are therefore crucial to its economic prosperity. The tremendous growth of ports and shipping activities in the country over the years underlines the value of the maritime sector to its economic well-being and of the seas to the lives of its people. Alongside, the seas also generate a host of supporting economic activities, such as port operations, shipbuilding and ship repair, logistics, financing, and many others that generate income, employment, investment and other multiplier effects to the nation's economy. This study emphasises on Malaysia's maritime sector by assessing its contribution to the nation's economy and well as future investment opportunities, especially in the ports and shipping sector towards achieving environmental sustainability through green practices. This study concludes that the nation's ports and shipping sector is poised towards greater benefits that could be gained through green development. These would however require astute planning, optimal resource allocation and good policies to address current and future challenges in the sector within the realm of national, regional as well as global considerations.



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## Global Targets Local Benefits

Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

### **About Cheryl Rita Kaur:**

Cheryl Rita received her MSc in Marine Science, Policy and Law at the National Oceanography Centre Southampton, University of Southampton, United Kingdom and completed her BSc (Hons.) in Marine Biology at University Malaysia Terengganu. She joined the Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) in 2006. MIMA is a policy research institute set up by the Malaysian Government to look into matters relating to Malaysia's interest at sea, and to serve as a national focal point for research in the maritime sector. Cheryl's research interest is in the areas of ocean governance, natural resources, marine protected areas management, and marine pollution. Her research findings and views on coastal and marine environmental issues have appeared in various publications. Cheryl has also participated and presented papers at national and international events. In addition, she was awarded an Asian Conservation Fellowship (2006-2009) by the Earthwatch Institute of Australia. More recently, she undertook a placement with the government Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) in Lowestoft, UK in 2011 where she worked on the European Union's framework on Monitoring and Evaluation of Spatially Managed Areas; and as a Visiting Scientist at Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan in 2012. Cheryl is currently a member of several national working groups under the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), and active in regional environmental initiatives including the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) and the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME) programmes. She was earlier involved in the UNEP/GEF project on Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand.