



## NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

### Section 1: Applicant Details:

**Name:** Connie Ka Yan NG

**Date:** 24/11/2024 18:14:10

**Email address:** kayan.ng.connie@gmail.com

**Nominated position:** Board of Directors (3 x Positions)

**Professional affiliations:** (1) Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), People's Republic of China; (2) Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the IUCN

**Country of residence:** Hong Kong SAR, China

**Geographic area of work:** China and East Asia

### Section 2: Applicant Response:

**How would you describe your work with sea turtles?**

Educator, Researcher and Wildlife Manager

**How many years have you worked with sea turtles?**

Sixteen

**Which Annual Sea Turtle Symposia, or Annual Workshops have you attended?**

Five (in the years 2010, 2011, 2018, 2022 and 2024)

**Have you been involved with any Symposium activities?**

Besides having attended the ISTS in 2010, 2011, 2018, 2022 and 2024, I delivered oral presentations at the 31st ISTS in San Diego (2011), the 38th ISTS (2018) in Kobe, and the 42nd ISTS (2024) in Pattaya to provide the scientists and policy makers worldwide with the latest sea turtle research and conservation measures in the China Region. Moreover, serving as the Regional Co-Vice Chair for the East Asia Region of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the IUCN, I facilitated the discussion among members and interested parties in the East Asia Regional Meetings, assisted in session on topic “Social, Economic and Cultural Studies” in the 38th ISTS, and the workshop on science decolonization in the 42nd ISTS. Through these occasions, I aimed to reinforce connections between researchers and conservationists to enhance information sharing for better conserving the migratory sea turtle species. The experiences at the symposia build up my compelling dedication to the mission and vision of the global ISTS.

**What would you like the Nominating Committee, Board of Directors, and membership to know about you as a candidate for your nominated position? In what ways would you like to contribute to the Symposium/ International Sea Turtle Society?**

I am dedicated through the platform in the Symposium/International Sea Turtle Society to promote greater focus on sea turtle conservation and research in China and the East Asia region, which I have noticed to be under-represented and therefore deserves concerted effort by the diverse professionals within the ISTS network. I have experience in China and the East Asia region having conducted research and conservation work on sea turtles since 2009. For instance, I have served as the Regional Co-Vice Chair of the East Asia Region for the Marine Turtle Specialist Group in the IUCN. I was also part of the Working Group on Indicators of Marine Plastic Pollution of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization. Currently, I am the Head of the Marine Discovery Centre at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum where I lead a team to develop and promote public education on ocean literacy, including sea turtle conservation, through an interactive and cross-disciplinary approach. Finally, I have strong command of written and spoken English, Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese as well as having an extensive network in China and the East Asia region. By serving as Board of Directors, I pledge to work my hardest and apply my skills and knowledge to advance the mission and vision of ISTS.

**How do you envision using the Symposium to advance sea turtle biology and promote conservation?**

I am dedicated through the platform in the Symposium/International Sea Turtle Society to promote greater focus on sea turtle conservation and research in China and the East Asia region, which I have noticed to be under-represented and therefore deserves concerted effort by the diverse professionals within the ISTS network. I have experience in China and the East Asia region having conducted research and conservation work on sea turtles since 2009. For instance, I have served as the Regional Co-Vice Chair of the East Asia Region for the Marine Turtle Specialist Group in the IUCN. I was also part of the Working Group on Indicators of Marine Plastic Pollution of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization. Currently, I am the Head of the Marine Discovery Centre at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum where I lead a team to develop and promote public education on ocean literacy, including sea turtle conservation, through an interactive and cross-disciplinary approach. Finally, I have strong command of written and spoken English, Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese as well as having an extensive network in China and the East Asia region. By serving as Board of Directors, I pledge to work my hardest and apply my skills and knowledge to advance the mission and vision of ISTS.

**Why is the ISTS as an organization important to you, professionally and personally? What is your vision for the ISTS over the next 5 to 10 years?**

I believe ISTS is a necessary organization that provides the space and opportunity to bring a diverse group of individuals together to network and collaborate on sea turtle research and conservation. For myself, ISTS has been important professionally in forming collaborative scientific research projects, and personally to expand the network and friendship that last long. Serving as the Board of Directors, I envision creating new initiatives to support the ISTS and the Symposia that will further enhance its inclusivity, promote the global stage of species conservation, and its influential impact by a more diverse representation.

**Please include a 250-word bio**

I have dedicated 16 years to nature conservation through public education, scientific research, and stakeholder engagement. As a trained marine scientist and government manager in Hong Kong, China, I have directed impactful initiatives on habitat management and species recovery. Since 2009, I have been actively involved in sea turtle research in East Asia Region. My Ph.D. study in 2015 adopted a multidisciplinary approach to identify habitat use and threats to Green Turtles, resulting in publications that shaped the national action plan in China. Currently, as the Head of the Marine Discovery Centre at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, I am committed to enhancing ocean literacy and sea turtle conservation through interactive outreach and interdisciplinary collaboration. I believe that integrating science, art, and community

engagement can inspire wider public involvement in conservation efforts.

I have always maintained an active role in sea turtle community. Serving as the Regional Co-Vice Chair for the Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG) of the IUCN since 2016, and the Working Group on Indicators of Marine Plastic Pollution of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization since 2019, I have fostered cross-cultural networks and facilitated collaboration among diverse stakeholders, from researchers to local communities. My role includes co-hosting regional meetings, delivering MTSG regional reports and publications that empower conservationists and enhance our collective impact. ISTS has been vital in forming collaborative research projects and long-lasting friendships. I envision creating new initiatives to support ISTS, enhancing inclusivity and diversity to further advance its global impact on species conservation.

**Photo:**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=17fY37hmAes5y8Snx2TgTEBTjVVFUNTUz>

## **Section 3: Declaration**

**Circle your response to the below statements:**

**I am a current member of ISTS** Yes

**I have read and understand the ISTS by-laws and constitution** Yes

**I have read and understand the terms of reference for the position which I am nominating for:** Yes

**For Board of Directors nominees, I understand that the Annual Board Retreat is usually in the 3rd week of August:** Yes

**For Board of Directors nominees: Please read the following statement and add your initials below to confirm you understand the workload involved:**

***The Board is a working Board. All members of the Board are expected to carry the workload, share the responsibility of assigned tasks, and respond to written communications – this can typically be 40+ hours per year in addition to the Board meeting at the Symposium and the Board Retreat. If a Board member does not maintain their ISTS membership and demonstrate a high level of commitment***

***to the ISTS as described in the Board members' TORs, they will be asked to resign from the Board. High level of commitment is defined as a Board member physically attending a minimum of three mid year retreats during their 4-year Board term, attending online Board meetings consistently, serving annually on multiple Committees, completing assigned tasks, and being responsive to online communications and requests.***

***The 2025 Board retreat is 10th to 15th August 2025 in Washington DC.***

CKYN