



## NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

### Section 1: Applicant Details:

**Name:** Connie Ka Yan NG

**Date:** 02/11/2025 11:56:07

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

**Nominated position:** Board of Directors (2 x Open Positions)

**Professional affiliations:** (1) Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), People's Republic of China (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, Wildlife Researcher and Organization Manager

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

17 (for research and conservation; and for a tenure professional position of the Hong Kong Government & at HKMM)

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

ISTS in 2010, 2011, 2018, 2022 and 2024.

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

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, co-chaired the “Social, Economic and Cultural Studies” session in the 38th ISTS, and assisted the workshop on science decolonization in the 42nd ISTS. Besides, I was one of the student judges in the 42nd ISTS and served on the Nominating Committee of the ISTS (2016-2019, 2024-2025). Through these occasions, I aimed to reinforce connections among members of different regions, to translate science into tangible outcomes and to empower the youth community in our society 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?**

Being active in my roles as the Regional Co-Vice Chair for the East Asia Region of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group in the IUCN and a member of the Ocean Sustainability Committee of the International Congress of Maritime Museums, and the Working Group on Marine Plastic Pollution of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), I have fostered cross-cultural collaboration among diverse stakeholders and enhancing collective impact through numerous publications and regional conferences. Since 2009, I have conducted research and conservation work on sea turtles in China and the East Asia region. My Ph.D. study engaged local community knowledge, identified key habitat use and threats to green turtles, shaping China's national action plan.

As the Head of the Marine Discovery Centre at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, I have improved the ocean literacy and marine conservation through an interactive approach and interdisciplinary collaboration with a diverse group of stakeholders and the community (please check out the museum's social media to find out more). I also aim to gather more resources and new initiatives for the ISTS by leveraging my network

in the International Congress of Maritime Museums.

More importantly, I have devoted my committed efforts and gained insights into the Society through multiple roles as a nominating committee, student judge and co-chair of themed oral session in the symposia. Additionally, I have a strong command of written and spoken English, Mandarin Chinese, and Cantonese. By serving on the Board of Directors, I pledge to work diligently and apply my skills and knowledge to advance the mission and vision of ISTS. I envision creating new initiatives to support the ISTS and its symposia, leveraging my multilingual skills, extensive organizational development and governance experience, and resourceful international network. With your support, I aim to drive innovative collaboration for ocean and sea turtle protection globally, while promoting inclusivity, diversity, and youth empowerment within ISTS.

Hong Kong Maritime Museum website for your interest:  
<https://www.hkmaritimemuseum.org/swire-marine-discovery-centre>

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

I am dedicated to using the platform provided by the Symposium and the International Sea Turtle Society to promote a greater focus on sea turtle conservation and research in China and the East Asia region, which I have noticed to be underrepresented and therefore deserves concerted efforts from the diverse professionals within the ISTS network.

**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 empowering the youth, 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 and equally representation.

**Please include a 250-word bio**

Dr. Connie NG (aka Dr. Connie) has dedicated 17 years to advancing nature conservation through public education, scientific research, stakeholder engagement and youth empowerment. As a marine scientist, she led impactful initiatives in habitat protection and species recovery within the Hong Kong Government. Dr. Connie has focused on sea turtle research in East Asia since 2009. Her Ph.D. study engaged local community knowledge, identified key habitat use and threats to green turtles, shaping China's national action plan.

As Regional Co-Vice Chair for the IUCN's Marine Turtle Specialist Group, Ocean Sustainability Committee of the International Congress of Maritime Museums and Working Group on Marine Plastic Pollution of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization, Dr. Connie has fostered cross-cultural collaboration among diverse stakeholders and enhancing collective impact through formulating publications, regional conferences and joint educational events. As Head of the Marine Discovery Centre at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM), she has improved ocean literacy and marine conservation of the public through interactive education and interdisciplinary collaboration (see HKMM's website to know more!).

Dr. Connie has gained insights into the International Sea Turtle Society (ISTS) from her roles as a nominating committee, student judge and co-chair of symposium session. She envisions creating new initiatives to support the ISTS and its symposia, leveraging her multilingual skills, extensive organizational development and governance experience, and resourceful international network. With your support, she aims to drive innovative collaboration for ocean and sea turtle protection globally, while promoting inclusivity, diversity, and youth empowerment within the ISTS.

**Photo:**

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1zGzps07xBPkfYNdAe\\_R1C2MYUnEXEklw](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1zGzps07xBPkfYNdAe_R1C2MYUnEXEklw)

## **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:** undefined

**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.***

Connie NG