



Press Release, 15 May 2025

## **Celebrating Women in Maritime: Interferry Spotlights Thai Maritime Leader ahead of May 18th, 2025**

*In recognition of the International Day for Women in Maritime on May 18th, 2025, Interferry is proud to spotlight Mrs. Supapan Pichaironarongsongkram, board member of Interferry and Chairperson of Chao Phraya Express Boat Co., Ltd., Bangkok, Thailand as a shining example of female leadership in the maritime industry.*

As a third-generation female leader in maritime family business, Mrs. Supapan has been instrumental in modernizing waterway transportation services across Bangkok, making Chao Phraya Express Boat Co. a cornerstone of sustainable urban mobility. The family business has been servicing maritime transportation for over 104 years. Currently with a combined fleet of 85 boats across Chao Phraya Express Boat Co. and affiliate companies, the group provides service for over 10 million passengers annually.

The International Day for Women in Maritime, marked annually in the global maritime calendar, celebrates the vital contributions of women in the sector and aims to drive progress in recruitment, retention, and long-term employment. Mrs. Supapan's leadership and advocacy for gender diversity align seamlessly with Interferry's commitment to a more inclusive maritime industry.

"The International Day for Women in Maritime is not just a celebration—it's a call to action," said Mrs. Supapan. "True progress comes when we empower women at all levels and recognize their ability to lead with resilience, vision, and empathy."

Under Mrs. Supapan's leadership, more than 50% of Chao Phraya Express Boat Co.'s workforce is female, including a significant number of women in technical and operational roles—10% of the company's captains are women, a remarkable milestone in a traditionally male-dominated industry. "Creating an inclusive organization is about more than policies. It's about building a culture where women are seen, heard, and given opportunities to grow," she added. "We invest in tailored training programs, flexible working conditions, and mentorship opportunities so women can thrive in all aspects of our operations."

As an Interferry board member, Mrs. Supapan sees her role as both representative and advocate: "My aim is to ensure that voices from Asia and from underrepresented groups are heard in shaping the future of ferry transport globally."

The fact that the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the Annual Interferry Conference, Interferry2026, is in Bangkok and will be hosted by Chao Phraya Express Boat Co. and Mrs. Supapan as Interferry President, underlines her commitment to the association.



Looking ahead, Chao Phraya Express Boat Co. plans to expand and modernize its fleet, strengthen its public transport integration, and continue to develop its human resources to actively engage more women and a new generation in the maritime field.

“I’m most excited about the next generation of women in maritime professionals. With their keen eyes and attention to detail, they will reshape the industry in ways we never imagined,” Mrs. Supapan shared.

“As Interferry continues to spotlight stories of transformation and inclusion across our global network, Mrs. Supapan stands as an inspiring reminder of what’s possible when tradition meets innovation—and when women have the opportunity to become leaders in the Maritime Industry. We are very proud that she is sharing her extensive leadership experience with us as a board member of Interferry,” stated Mike Corrigan, CEO of Interferry.









**Interferry** is a highly respected global ferry trade association with consultative status at the International Maritime Organization and similar influence at the European Union as well as many other maritime governance authorities. With membership exceeding 280 companies and representing plus 2,200 individuals in more than 40 countries, its primary purposes are to represent the ferry industry on regulatory and policy matters including safety and sustainability; to speak on behalf of the worldwide ferry sector which provides transport for over four billion passengers and 370 million vehicles annually; and to facilitate networking and communications among its members.

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