

# AMFUF Ocean Innovation Challenge (AOIC 2026)

## *Call for applications*

### 1. Overview

- Title: 2026 AMFUF Ocean Innovation Challenge (AOIC 2026)
- Main theme: *AMFUF: From Ideas to Ocean Solutions*
- Hosted by Korea Maritime & Ocean University (KMOU)
- Organized by AMFUF Secretariat Office & KMOU International Affairs
- Sponsored by KMOU Regional Innovation System & Education Project

### 2. Competition Structure

This competition will be conducted in the following stages:

- 1) Preliminary Round → 2) Final Round → 3) Outcome Dissemination (Award)

### 3. Eligibility

- Undergraduate students who are enrolled in the AMFUF member institution
- Participation in teams of two (2) students

### 4. Presentation Topics

- Applicants may select any topic related to oceans within the following tracks:
  - **(Subject 1)** Smart Maritime Logistics & Digital Shipping Transformation
  - **(Subject 2)** Green Marine Energy & Maritime Decarbonization
  - **(Subject 3)** Marine Environment Protection & Sustainable Ocean Management
  - **(Subject 4)** Maritime Safety, Security & Digital Risk Management
  - **(Subject 5)** Maritime Policy, International Law & Global Governance
  - **(Subject 6)** Marine Bio & Blue Food Industry Innovation

- **(Subject 7)** Maritime Education, Talent Development & Industry Innovation

※ Applicants may propose any ocean-related topic beyond the examples above.

## 5. Application Guideline

- Submission via email to [cofa@kmou.ac.kr](mailto:cofa@kmou.ac.kr) (AMFUF Secretariat Office)
- Required Documents
  - 1) Application Form
  - 2) Presentation Abstract (Minimum 3 pages, in English and MS Word file)
  - 3) Personal Information Consent Form
  - 4) Certificate of Enrollment (issued by the applicant's home institution)
- **Deadline: June 10th (Wednesday), 2026**
- Guideline for Writing the Abstract
  - 1) The abstract must be written in English and clearly present the main idea of the proposed topic.
  - 2) The content should include background, objectives, methodology, expected outcomes, and significance in a well-structured manner.
  - 3) The proposed idea should demonstrate originality, logical coherence, and relevance to maritime issues.
  - 4) Applicants are encouraged to present practical and feasible solutions with potential contributions to industry or policy.
  - 5) The abstract must be a minimum of three (3) pages and follow the prescribed format.
  - 6) Use of clear and concise language is strongly recommended to ensure readability and effective communication.
  - 7) All submitted work must be original, and proper citation is required when referencing external sources.
  - 8) All citations and references to external sources must be listed on a separate page.

9) Submissions that do not comply with the guidelines may be subject to disqualification or score deduction.

## 6. Preliminary Round

- Evaluation based on submitted abstracts
- Evaluation Criteria (Total: 100 points)
  - Problem-Solving and Idea Development: 40 points
  - Feasibility and Contribution: 25 points
  - Relevance to the Topic and Global Perspective: 15 points
  - Quality of the Abstract: 10 points
  - English Proficiency: 10 points

## 7. Final Round ※ for preliminary round finalists only

- Period: September 14<sup>th</sup> (Monday) to 18<sup>th</sup> (Friday), 2026
- Venue: Korea Maritime & Ocean University, Busan city, Republic of Korea
- Program
  - Final presentations before a review panel
  - Networking sessions and ocean field study
  - Student discussion and adoption of a joint declaration
- Documents to be submitted for Final Round Participants ONLY
  - 1) Updated Presentation Abstract
  - 2) Presentation Slides (MS PowerPoint in English)
    - AMFUF Secretariat will contact final round participants with details later.

## 8. Support for Finalists

KMOU will provide **Round-trip airfare, Accommodation and meals, Local transportation and field tours.**

## 9. Awards

- Grand Ocean Award by AMFUF Chair / 1 team
  - Ocean Excellence Award by AMFUF Secretary-General / 2 teams
  - Ocean Innovation Award by Dean, Graduate School / 5 teams
  - Rising Ocean Leader Award by Dean of International Affairs / 7 teams
- ※ All participants will be recognized as AMFUF Student Ambassadors

## 10. Notes

- All submissions will not be returned
- Copyright of submitted materials will belong to AMFUF Secretariat
- All presentations must be conducted in English
- Each team must consist of two participants

## 11. Contact Information

- For further inquiries, please feel free to contact as followings:

Mr. Lee Ilhyung, AMFUF Coordinator

E-mail: [cofa@kmou.ac.kr](mailto:cofa@kmou.ac.kr)