

**Dear Guest,**

**Dear Professors and Academic staff,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Welcome to Romanian Naval Academy and welcome to Romania, for our esteemed friends coming from abroad!

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all at the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the SEACONF International Scientific Conference, an event that has already become a traditional landmark for our Academic community. As proved during the last decade, the SEACONF event has strengthened its soundness and prestige with each passing year, becoming, as we like to think, an important and authorized forum for the scientific exchange of innovative ideas in the academic environment on both, national and international levels. We are grateful to count in this forum a consistent auditorium, as in the previous editions or even more, with many attending academics and researchers from Romania, but also from other countries as Türkiye, Poland, Norway, Lithuania or Republic of Moldova, attending if not in person, but alternatively, submitting their valuable paperwork. Considering the valuable assistance as in today's assembly, we expect for interesting and innovative debates, the scientific exchanges having also the active role of opening new research opportunities, offering the occasion for the development of successful partnerships.

Due to the nature of its mission, the Romanian Naval Academy continues to pay a special attention to the scientific research as a significant support for teaching and training activities and as an important vector for international development, that ultimately defines us as a soundness and high-quality academic pole in the Black Sea region and on European level. Combining the research with the education in a unitary approach, we always seek to guide and to stimulate our students to get involved in the scientific activities and in different areas of the research projects, under our teaching staff coordination, heading to value their intellectual potential for innovation, always foreseen as our best investment for the future. We consider this approach as being proper for developing future researchers, providing in the same time, a great opportunity to strengthen our institutional impact in the international academic environment, as a consistent support for further technological and technical actual shifts. We are therefore fully aware that the research will remain the core of a solid education, regardless of the field of activity, so we shall continue to build a solid future for our graduates and future professionals in the maritime and engineering area of knowledge, as dedicated teachers, offering our full dedication to the scientific research enhancement.

Looking ahead for the latest technological transformation, we are further committed not only to build strong personalities and well-trained professionals for the Romanian Naval Forces and for the maritime industry, but also to keep our academic status as a solid reference in terms of scientific research, in our joint efforts toward achieving the excellence in education, training and innovation. It is an imperative goal, difficult to be attained, but not impossible in our consistent endeavor. Today's scientific event is a proof that we are on the right track, being important to maintain this trend with consistency, commitment and continuous perseverance. Moreover, your presence today by submitting your valuable work, at the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the SEACONF

conference, is motivating our community even more, providing a strong confidence in our innovative potential. The great satisfaction of having you by our side on this event, is even greater as, each of you, complementary represents one of our institutional partners, with whom Romanian Naval Academy has initiated and carried out various research and development projects throughout the time.

Not in the last, I would like to notice that each scientific event like today's one or others organized by the partner universities, that we are attending, has a double role: to disseminate the results of our work, but also to address new challenges. Going through some of the registered titles, we are fully acknowledged that the novelties that you have brought at the SEACONF conference are wide and relevant to our joint fields of research.

Ladies and gentlemen, concluding my brief induction in the opening ceremony of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the 2023 "SEA-CONF" Scientific Conference, let me wish you all the best and good luck with your presentations, looking forward to see you always as valuable partners of the Romanian Naval Academy!

Commandant (rector) of the Romanian Naval Academy "Mircea cel Bătrân"

Rear admiral (LH), Professor Eng. Alecu TOMA , PhD