**Ocean Engineering Community:**

**Role of Learned Professional Societies**

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**Abstract**

Learned professional societies offer a variety of essential services to the community, including ensuring safe and technically and economically sound national and international regulations on (in the marine domain), e.g., shipping, offshore oil & gas, marine minerals, and marine renewable energy; accrediting and maintaining the highest standards in academic and training programs; supporting the continuing professional development of their members; introducing students and newly qualified colleagues to their professional world; and providing networking and refereed presentation and publication opportunities. These and other services are illustrated with practical examples from the work of The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology, (www.imarest.org) the first and oldest (1889) international learned professional society for ocean engineers in the world.