The United States hosted the 2009 IMO World Maritime Day Parallel Event, with celebrations being held in New York City on Friday, 16 October, including a conference on the theme for World Maritime Day, 2009. Several other public outreach activities continued throughout the weekend of 17 and 18 October, including an industry exhibition, vessel tours, a student science fair and a design competition.

The Parallel Event was co-sponsored by the Department of State, Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency, Maritime Administration, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Various other ports throughout the United States hosted simultaneous events in their location.