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PRESS RELEASE

Port State control seminar in the Indian Ocean region

The Third seminar for the port State control officers in the Indian Ocean region was held in Kolkata, India from 11 to 13 March, 2015. This seminar was jointly organized by the Directorate General of Shipping, India and the Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding (IOMOU) Secretariat under the AusAID, AMSA Public Sector Linkages Programme and the IOMOU Technical Cooperation Fund.

Seventeen participants from the Authorities of Bangladesh, Kenya, Mozambique, Mauritius, Oman, Sudan, India and one observer from Riyadh MOU attended the seminar. Few representatives from the Industry also attended the seminar as observers.

The three days of the seminar focussed on a wide range of topics, including the following:

- recent activities of the IOMOU
- activities of the port State control (PSC) in India
- Impact of PSC on shipping industry- Ship Owners perspective
- International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water & Sediments Convention
- The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships
- Latest developments in the International Conventions- PSC Perspective
- Case studies pertaining to review cases
- Enhanced survey programme
- Recognition Organisation (RO) Code
- IMO Implementation of IMO Instruments Code(III Code)
- Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
- Draft guidelines developed by the IMO pertaining to PSC
- PSC on passenger ships/High Speed Crafts and Non- Convention ships
- PSC perspective on ECDIS
- Interactive session with the Indian Ocean Computerised Information System (IOCIS) managers
- Outcome of the Concentrated Inspection Campaigns (CIC) on STCW Hours of Rest and Propulsion and Auxiliary Machinery and Introduction of STCW Manila Amendments.

The seminar was inaugurated by the Chief guest, Mr. B. R. Sekhar, Chief Surveyor cum Addl.DG (Engg) and the ceremony was presided over by Mr. S. K. Sinha, Principal Officer cum Jt.DG(Tech), Mercantile Marine Department, Kolkata. Mr Sinha welcomed the gathering and stated that he looked forward for a meaningful seminar which will help the PSCOs of the region.

Mr. Mehrotra on behalf of the IOMOU Committee expressed his sincere appreciation to the Directorate General of Shipping for hosting the third PSCO seminar under the AusAID and AMSA Public Sector Linkages Programme and the IOMOU Technical Cooperation Fund.

He said that today, port State control has become one of the most important performance indicators for owners, classification societies and flag States, alike, providing statistics which are useful. As such PSCOs plays an important role in identifying sub-standard ships as well as to ensure safety, security and environment protection. He further said that the new challenge for the PSCOs will be once Ballast Water Management Convention comes into force. It's a matter of time before the BWM comes into force. Currently, only a further 2.46 per cent of world tonnage is required to trigger its entry into force. He also informed that over the years, detention % has been reducing in the region.

Mr. B.R.Sekhar, Chief Surveyor-cum Addl. DG(Engineering) and the Chief Guest, in his address recounted the difficulty encountered by a PSC Officer and also the apprehension of the ship-owner. He allayed the reasons for fearing a PSC inspection, and stressed upon the need to maintain the ship in a sea-worthy condition with trained, certificated and medically fit sea-farers at all times.

He complimented Mr.S.K.Sinha for the initiative to have a few representatives from the industry participate in the seminar as observers and hoped that they shall find the seminar fruitful and value to their organization in the longer run.

Mr. B.R.Sekhar attributed the qualitative improvement in the PSC inspection to the expert mission training and other training initiatives of the IOMOU. Furthermore, he commended the progress and achievement of the IOMOU over the years.

Mr. B. R. Sekhar expressed optimism, that by the end of the three days, all the participants would gain a good deal of knowledge that would bring in a remarkable change in their approach and attitude, enabling the PSCO to conducts himself, in a very professional and transparent manner. Mr. B. R. Sekhar complimented the IOMOU for preparing a detailed and comprehensive PSC manual for the benefit of all the PSCOs.

He also stressed the importance of the PSC seminar and the topics included thereof, and wished for success of the seminar and hoped all participants would have a enjoyable stay in Kolkata.

During the three days seminar, there was a good interaction among the PSCOs and the trainers were excellent in the deliverance of the topics mentioned above.

The speakers at the seminar were as below:

Mr. D. Mehrotra, Secretary IOMOU Secretariat;

Mr. Ranjit Singh, CEO Essar Shipping, representing Indian Shipowners Association;

Mr. Amitava Banerjee; Ex. Chief Surveyor, Directorate General of Shipping,

Mr. Ajithkumar Sukumaran; Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Cochin,
Mr. A. B. Dutta, Engineer & Ship Surveyor-cum-Deputy DG (Tech), Directorate General
of Shipping, Mumbai,

Mr. Philippe JANVIER, Head of Division Ship Safety – Quality, France;

Mr. Subimal Chakrabarti; Ex. Principal Officer, Directorate General of Shipping,

Mr. Rajendra Ukirde, Scientist, National Informatics Centre,

Mr. Aji Vasudevan, Dy. Chief Ship Surveyor, Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai,
Capt. A. K. Azad, Nautical Surveyor, Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai, Anil
Kumar, Principal Surveyor/Area Marine Business Development Manager- South Asia,
Lloyds Register of Shipping.

During the closing ceremony, Mr Dilip Mehrotra Secretary of the IOMOU Secretariat, thanked speakers for their excellent presentations and the participants for their active participation. He thanked Captain L.K. Panda , Nautical Advisor-cum Add. DG(Nautical) for sparing his valuable time for gracing the closing ceremony. Mr Mehrotra reminded the participants not to forget to share the useful information, materials and knowledge obtained with their colleagues after returning back home so as to make the seminar more effective. Mr S.K. Sinha, Principal Officer in his closing remark stated that he is sure that the seminar was very meaningful and hope to have more such seminars in future.

Mr. MD Shafiqul Islam, Principal Officer, Bangladesh spoke on behalf of the participants and expressed their appreciation for the hosting of the seminar and hoped that more such training programme will be organised.

Chief Guest handed over the certificates to the participants and expressed congratulation for the success of the seminar.

Mr Vikrant Rai Engineer & Ship Surveyor cum DDG(Tech.) proposed the vote of thanks.

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