

Global Maritime Education & Training Association

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Activities in Philippines, Singapore and India, Nov-Dec 2011

Philippines

15 November

The International Federation of Ship Masters Associations (IFSMA) led a one-day seminar *Train Safer Seafarers: Enhancing Professional Standards with Effective Maritime Resource Management*, in which several delegates from GlobalMET member institutions participated, including Chairman Capt Tim Wilson who delivered a presentation on *Future MET: What needs to be done*.

Following opening statements to the effect that 'we are at a crossroads', key MET issues discussed were the difficulties of effectively implementing the Manila Amendments, on-board training and its assessment, shipboard difficulties with leadership, teamwork and management, the need for greater industry confidence and devotion to MET, some IMO model courses no longer fit for purpose, the gap between MET delivery and industry needs; viz:

- regulation: overall, standards have slipped - many regulators are hamstrung with respect to effective implementation - some flag states are out of touch with industry needs;
- MET providers: we're teaching the wrong things and much of what we teach is of little relevance to the industry- incompetent teaching - how to ensure recruitment and retention of competent teachers and assessors - simulators and/or manned models should be used for relevant teaching and assessment - need to 'drive lecturing out of MET';
- industry: does not demand competence, many employers do not give training adequate priority and see it as a cost rather than an investment;
- on-board training - at least one third should be done on board - on-board culture often does not support quality training and assessment - how to change this culture? - how to integrate on-board and on-campus training?
- use of more blended learning and web-based learning materials.

During the afternoon, Capt Tim Wilson, Capt Vinayak Mohla of Anglo-Eastern and Rod Short met Asian Development Bank Vice President Lakshmi Venkatachalam and discussed possible collaboration on a proposed project to raise the status of the Asian seafarer, particularly through improved maritime education and training.

16-17 November

The well attended 12th Asia Pacific Manning & Training Conference *Recruitment, Training & Retaining Competent Seafarers: Strategies for the Future*, which included a number of presentations by GlobalMET Members, as well as a GlobalMET Panel Discussion *Analysing maritime education and training going forward*. In addition to the major concerns about piracy and criminalisation, opening speakers stressed the need to address the poor image of the industry, the need to discover new ways to deal with the shortage of competent officers – “it must not be business as usual” – “there must be a long term view of training and development” – there is need for a “cloud system of protection” – including a “cloud for distance learning and social communications”.

The conference concluded with the following statement of outcomes:

In line with last year's statement of outcomes, this year's Conference endorsed the need for a collaboration and partnership between governments and industry to encourage action and to identify relevant goals and shortfalls which must be addressed to ensure a high-level of new recruits to the industry and the necessary associated retention levels.

We have heard from the Philippine Government representative, Honourable Secretary Dimapilis-Baldoz, how they are seeking industry support to implement successful recruitment and training strategies for the benefit of the whole international shipping community.

We know what we are aiming for: Doris Magsaysay showed us an enlightened view of the future and the 'manning cloud' while other speakers have highlighted the successful industry initiatives and individual approaches to manning and training which are in operation already throughout the shipping industry.

Yes there are industry concerns, which need to be addressed. We need to tackle some tough issues: piracy, criminalisation, the low-key and sometimes negatively presented image of shipping. We know our industry needs to work harder to recruit, train and retain high quality personnel both at sea and on shore and that we must ensure we introduce, measure and maintain our own high performance standards.

Moving forward it is pleasing to announce firm action: Manning and training strategies for the shipping industry for the long, short and medium term will be presented to the International Maritime Organisation's Maritime Safety Committee (MSC90) early next year. In respect to education and training the Global Maritime Education and Training Association (GlobalMET) will ask IMO that a group of knowledgeable stakeholders be appointed and tasked with providing leadership, direction and advice on behalf of both our Conference and the wider shipping community. They go with our thanks and encouragement and a strong commitment from this Conference to continue to support our seafarers at all levels. On your behalf we will put together some key action points for dissemination throughout the international shipping industry.

We thank you all for your participation and support.

The GlobalMET Annual General Meeting 09/11 was held at the Manila Yacht Club on the evening of the 16th and the Board of Directors 18/11 meeting was held in the conference venue as soon as conference concluded on the 17th. The unconfirmed minutes of the AGM have been distributed to all members.

18 November

The half day GlobalMET Seminar *Developing a Strategy for Ensuring Effective MET for Future Ship Operations*, held at the Manila Yacht Club attracted 45 participants. The three objectives of the seminar:

- Clarification of the need for a critical review of existing MET, how to conduct the review, what to do with the findings and GlobalMET's potential role, particularly with respect to industry and IMO;
- Input into STW 43 and/or MSC 90;
- Raising awareness of the GlobalMET Structured Shipboard Training Programme Record and Activity Books

received thorough consideration, resulting in general agreement with the proposed GlobalMET actions. Participants were also advised of the SEA Project, in which GlobalMET, the Nautical Institute and the World Wide Fund for Nature are to collaborate to raise Seafarer Environmental Awareness.

Singapore

29 November

During wide-ranging discussions with Assistant Director (Training Standards) in the Maritime and Port Authority and with the President, Singapore Maritime Officers Union, support was sought for the three objectives considered at the seminar in Manila on 18 November and was informally expressed.

India

3 December

The GlobalMET in India Annual Conference *Training to Meet the Needs of the Y-Generation*, organised by the GlobalMET India Chapter, hosted by the Tolani Maritime Institute, Pune, on 3 December, attracted 170 participant registrations. It was characterised by high levels of participation and quality presentations addressing the needs of Y-Generation seafarers and of MET overall. Particularly pleasing was the input by young seafarers and cadets about to go to sea. This included very helpful addresses by a 2nd Officer and a 3rd Engineer and also a panel comprised of eight serving officers and cadets. As a result, it was suggested that, for a future GlobalMET in India Conference, the situation be reversed and the panel be comprised of eight G-Generation (G for geriatric!) MET providers responding to questions from members of the Y-Generation!

The conference concluded with agreement on the following statement of outcomes, to link with the statement of outcomes agreed earlier in Manila:

We, the participants in the GlobalMET in India 2011 Conference Training to Meet the Needs of the Y-Generation, organised by the GlobalMET India Chapter and hosted by the Tolani Maritime Institute, Pune, on 3 December, are pleased to express our support for GlobalMET's efforts to assist the development of MET overall and, in particular, express strong support for:

- *submission to IMO of a proposal for an industry representative group of experts to review implementation of the Manila Amendments and the implications for the effectiveness of MET in meeting the operational needs of ships over the foreseeable future, and to make recommendations;*
- *submission to the Asian Development Bank of a concept document whereby a project to raise the status of the Asian seafarer through enhanced MET could be initiated;*
- *the Nautical Institute, World Wide Fund for Nature, GlobalMET poster project – the SEA Project – to raise seafarer environmental awareness.*

6 December

The seminar in New Delhi on 'e-Navigation – the Human Element' held in collaboration with the Nautical Institute, received keynote addresses by Capt MM Saggi, Nautical Adviser to the Government of India and Mrs Kirsti Slotsvik, Director General, Norwegian Coastal Administration. There were also addresses by representatives of the IMO e-Nav Correspondence Group, the Nautical Institute and GlobalMET. A feature of the seminar was the presence of trainees, the emphasis on the learning needs of young people entering the industry and the serious need for the MET providers to make the changes necessary to address those needs.

Following discussions with the members of the IMO e-Nav Correspondence Group, on behalf of GlobalMET the following was submitted for inclusion in the Group's report to STW 43:

The implications for training of the development of e-navigation and state-of-the-art communications are very significant, particularly with respect to training addressing the use of and the procedures associated with e-navigation.

Given the global, multicultural industry nature of maritime transport there is need for:

- *harmonisation of the e-navigation equipment and associated training;*
- *integration of the e-navigation training into holistic training for all aspects of navigation;*
- *standardisation of the training curricula, delivery and assessment;*
- *training the leads to greater overall efficiency and safety.*

10 December

The well-attended, half-day seminar held in Chennai, organized by the Nautical Institute (South Branch), addressed the theme 'Training for Future Ships', ranged over likely developments, especially those resulting from the impact of the technological revolution on shipboard operations. Presentations covered anticipated changes in bridge and engine room operations and the implications for the associated MET. As in Pune and New Delhi, it was clear that the gap between industry requirements and the MET provided is growing, especially in view of the changing learning needs of young people entering the industry. Every effort must be made to deal with the gap, including the critical analysis of MET being proposed by GlobalMET.

In addition to the high standard of the presentations, the overall quality of this seminar was enhanced by the presence and contributions of Capt S Krishnamurthi, President Designate of the Nautical Institute and of Capt A Crawford, on behalf of the International Association of Maritime Institutes (IAMI). GlobalMET, the NI and IAMI are pursuing further collaboration.

Comment

The expressions of support received in the Philippines, Singapore and India for GlobalMET's proposed actions to support the development of MET were very encouraging. The drafting of the submissions to IMO and to the Asian Development Bank is in hand. Both submissions have major potential to change MET so that it reflects the changes occurring in the industry and addresses the needs of the young people entering the industry with every effort being made to ensure the submissions receive the necessary support.

It is a pleasure to express thanks to GlobalMET members in The Philippines, Singapore and India for their efforts in organising and contributing to the very worthwhile activities outlined above. We look forward to the continuation of such strong support.

Rod Short
Executive Secretary
14 December 2011