

PRESS RELEASE - AMETIAP IN INDIA
CONFERENCE ON MARITIME EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- "WHAT IS WRONG? WHAT TO DO?" - APRIL 2005

The India members of the Association of Maritime Education and Training Institutions in Asia Pacific (AMETIAP) organized a conference on Maritime Education and Training – “What is wrong? What to do.” The conference was held at the Convention Centre of Renaissance Hotel, Mumbai on the 16th of April, 2005. The conference was attended by over 150 participants from India, China, Singapore, Hong-Kong, Japan and New Zealand. Many prominent members from Shipping companies also attended the conference. Capt. Rodney Francis Short, Executive Secretary - AMETIAP, Prof. Imazu, Chair-person of AMETIAP and Capt. Pradeep Chawla, vice Chair-person were also present on the occasion.

Mr. D.T. Joseph, IAS, Secretary to the Government of India was kind enough to grace the occasion as the chief guest. The seminar commenced with a short welcome address by Capt. K.N. Deboo, General Manager (Principal), Anglo Eastern Maritime Training centre. This was immediately followed by the inauguration of the conference by lighting of the lamp and a recitation of the Saraswati Vandana by Miss Sandhya and Miss Madhu (OERC). Capt. Rodney Short then opened the conference with an opening address.

The shipping industry is changing continuously and along with it, its requirements. It is for this reason that it becomes essential to continuously sharpen the skills of Maritime personnel. Hence, maritime education and training (M.E.T.) are a very important part of the maritime industry. A negative statement has been used as a theme of the conference, “what is wrong” – this was to elicit response and vociferous debate amongst the delegates. It was a continuation of the deliberations at the AMETIAP conference held in Shanghai in November 2004.

The keynote address was given by Mr. S. Hajara (Director, Personal and Administration), Shipping Corporation Of India, in which he addressed the human element, Indian shipping history, the employment scenario, different types of training and the shortcoming of this sector in particular the human aspect, commercial aspect, physical aspect and communications.

Mr. Tim Wilson, Director, New Zealand Maritime School, continued the conference in a presentation where he worked out the short comings of training and the problems that are being experienced world wide, based on the observations made during their work carried out in Asia, Pacific region, Europe and during visits to south and North America.

Prof. Hideki Hagiwara, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, then spoke of training institutions in Japan and their contribution to the maritime industry.

During the second session, Capt. K.V. Pradhan, Elite Mariners Pvt. Ltd., addressed the issue of Pre-Sea training. He discussed the future requirement of seafarers, owner’s preferences, the syllabus and how to make it better.

Capt. Pradeep Correa, Great Eastern Shipping, was short and quick in his address, but he ensured he had made his point with regard to Post-Sea training. He also compared the STCW 78 to the amended version of STCW 95, post ISM effects on training and the lacunae in the system.

The topic of On board training was very aptly taken up by Capt. J. Patwardhan and Mr. Atul Dighe, both presently sailing as Master and Chief Engineer respectively. As present seafarers, they could highlight the various issues of on board training and suggested solutions for improvement.

Capt. V. Baijal, Dy. Nautical Adviser cum Sr. Dy. DG (Tech), Directorate General of Shipping, spoke on Assessment. Having been with the Administration, he very nicely addressed the issues of evaluation, its criteria, competence, simulator training, the present status and improvements that are possible.

A question and answer session between the audience and the speakers was followed by an address by the chief guest. Mr. D. T. Joseph spoke very eloquently and mentioned that to learn and know oneself one has to seek within. He also in his matter-of-fact style mentioned that while the seafarers undergo a lot of courses, there is no mandatory course for the superintendents, office managers and for that matter the Secretary of Shipping! His speech was followed by the release of the book “If the Learner Has Not Learnt, the Teacher Has Not Taught” written by Capt. Ajay Achutan.

The third session was commenced by Capt. M.C. Yadav, Director – Training FOSMA, wherein a “Review of Maritime Training in India” was discussed. He spoke on the formation of various institutes in the country, the support of ship owners towards training and various regulations which affect training for all categories of seafarers.

A group discussion was then initiated by Capt. Y. Sharma, Head of IMTC and Capt. A. Achutan, Principal, MASSA Maritime Academy. 15 groups of 10 persons each were made and each group was given a task to mention 5 top priority points on “What was wrong with MET” and 5 points on “What should be done to improve”. This brought about an excellent response from the delegates who very enthusiastically debated on the issues that need to be urgently addressed. The results were collated and presented by Capt. Sharma and Capt. Achuthan prior to the close of the session.

The fourth and final session was commenced by Mr. D. Mehrotra, Engine and Ship Surveyor cum Dy. D.G. (Tech), Directorate General of Shipping, with his presentation on “Ship in Campus”, wherein he explained its concept, objective and scope. He also suggested minimum requirements for such a model.

Next was a presentation by Mr. Swapan Das Sarma and Mr. Anush Ramchandran of Teledata Marine System on IT Solutions and e-learning in Maritime training. This was followed by a presentation by Mr. Amit Ray, Area Manager, DNV Sea Skill Asia, on Human Element in Shipping. Finally Capt. Sanjay Bugnait, Director, Core Competency Inc. spoke on CBT and its impact on Maritime training.

During the course of the conference, mementoes were presented to the speakers, chairpersons and some prominent members of the industry.

The sessions were chaired by Mr. Ajoy Chatterjee, Chief Surveyor with the Govt. of India cum Additional DG Shipping (Technical), Capt. M.M. Saggi, Nautical Advisor to the Govt. Of India cum Additional DG Shipping (Nautical), Capt. Rod Short, Executive Secretary, AMETIAP and Capt. H. Subramaniam, Principal, ECAL.

The Conference was concluded by Capt. Rodney Short with a short concluding address and finally ended with a “Vote of Thanks” by Mr. Dipak Raut of OERC.

Many important items thrown up at the conference in a free and fair manner, it is hoped AMETIAP will take a leading role to support and drive excellence in Maritime Education and Training in India.