GlobalMET charts a course for the future

MLC and STCW amendments discussed in “Year of the Seafarer”

[Mumbai, 23 November]

Firmly believing that seafarers were the pillars of the shipping industry and underlining the International Maritime Organisation’s (IMO) declaration that 2010 would be a special ‘Year of the Seafarer’, the organisers of GlobalMET conducted a topical conference in the city on November 20. In collaboration with the Nautical Institute (NI), the 11th one day seminar from the GlobalMET India Chapter chose ‘Year of the Seafarer – Charting a New Course’ as its theme. Captain James Robinson, President of NI, flew in especially from Ireland to participate in the seminar that was held at the scenic Shipping Corporation of India’s Maritime Training Institute in the suburb of Powai.

On behalf of the India Chapter, Captain Keri Deboo, Director and Principal of the Anglo Eastern Maritime Training Centre (AEMTC) warmly welcomed the participants for a day of intense deliberations. GlobalMET’s efforts in enhancing Maritime Education and Training received much food for thought during the meet.

Delivering the keynote address was Captain Rod Short, Executive Secretary of GlobalMET. The organisation has an observer seat at the IMO, and Capt Short described the Manila Amendments to STCW and detailed its implications. He stated, “There is need to ensure that training is amended to meet convention requirements and certificates issued from 01st January 2012 should be certified in accordance with the new convention.”

The Guest of Honour, Dr Sujata Naik-Tolani, Vice Chairperson, Tolani Maritime Institute, spoke in her turn about efforts that should be made in instigating awareness about the profession to the younger generation. “One must start interacting with the girl students and students in class nine and ten and shift focus from the metropolises to the interiors,” she accentuated.

Discussions began with Mr A Banerjee, Chief Surveyor with the Directorate General of Shipping, chairing the first session that was coordinated by Captain S Savant, Training Superintendent, Wallem Maritime Training Centre. Captain Robinson introduced NI, highlighted its role in providing continuous professional development and then updated the audience on...
NI’s next five year strategic plan.
Mr Martin Hernqvist, Managing Director of The Swedish Club Academy, enlightened the gathering on the concept of Maritime Resource Management, which is meant to develop individuals for safer shipping and organisations. He said, “We all there should be adequate growth opportunities for officers and ratings. “Discipline should be maintained at all levels as seafarers are ambassadors for India,” expressed a concerned Dr Agnihotri. Before concluding, he informed the delegates that necessary measures had been

Asif Nigam, who described recent developments in e-teaching, Mr Nigam informed the gathering about software developed by him that customises learning methods for every student based on their strengths and weaknesses.

Mr H Chandwani of Don Bosco

presentation on how India would implement the latest STCW amendments.

Describing in length the challenges of going paperless with the implementation of ECDIS on ships was another specialist Captain S Sule, Superintendent – Training, AEMTC.

In his closing remarks, Captain Short urged the Indian shipping community to support and assist the implementation of changes and to take a collective approach to address the full range of maritime education and training and associated human element issues. He urged that these matters be given priority and action essential to the successful and timely introduction of the amendments be taken.

Captain Y Sharma, Head, International Maritime Training Centre, proposed the vote of thanks.

Pay for the consequences of an accident, so we have to prevent it. We believe resource
management is an essential part of safe working practices.”

Explaining the Bill of Rights for seafarers, Captain JS Loney, General Manager, SQE, Torm,
Shipping made an elaborate presentation on the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) that included its implementation, regulations, main areas, certification processes and scope, to name a few. In conclusion, Captain Loney felt, “The convention puts forward an action plan for ship-owners that caters to the following areas, namely: inspections against ILO C92 and ILO C133 for existing vessels, development of comprehensive onboard complaint procedures, ship’s staff awareness of MLC 2006 requirements and Master’s regular inspections of his ship.”

At the end of the first session, Dr SB Agnihotri, Director General of Shipping and the Chief Guest for the day, told the gathering that taken to ensure that maritime education and training in India is in sync with the amended STCW convention.

Prior to lunch, the India Chapter held its fourth ‘Honouring Living Legends’ ceremony that bestowed Lifetime Achievement Awards to Captain Vincent C D’Paiva and Mr S Mukhopadhyay for their selfless service to maritime education and training. These awards have become a significant part of the GlobalMET India conferences.

BUILDING POSITIVE ATTITUDES

The post-lunch session kicked off with Mr JK Dhar, Director of the Mumbai Campus of the Indian Maritime University (IMU) chairing and Captain T Panda, Bernhard Schulte Ship Management coordinating. The first speaker in this session was Dr Yatsal Singh from NI’s India West Branch, who communicated new means and approaches used to build positive attitudes among seafarers towards learning. Following him was the Chief Executive from Dynamind, Mr

Maritime Academy coordinated the last session, inviting Captain MC Yadav, Director, Foreign Owners Representatives and Ship Managers Association (FOSMA), to update the audience on India’s implementation plan for STCW 2010. Captain Yadav, an expert on this topic, exhibited a detailed

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