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Sailor Today Tv

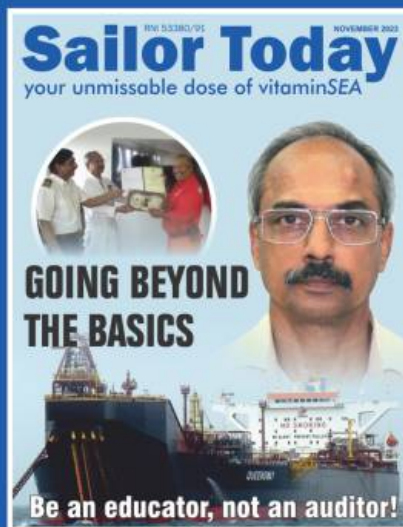
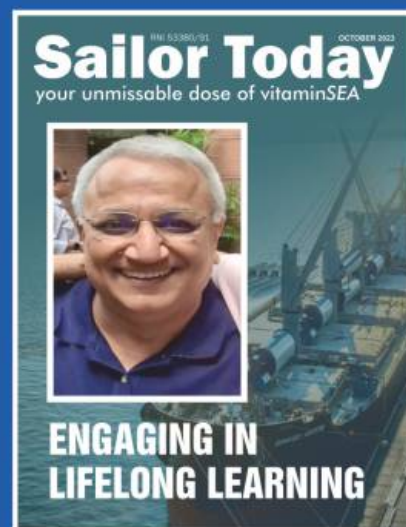
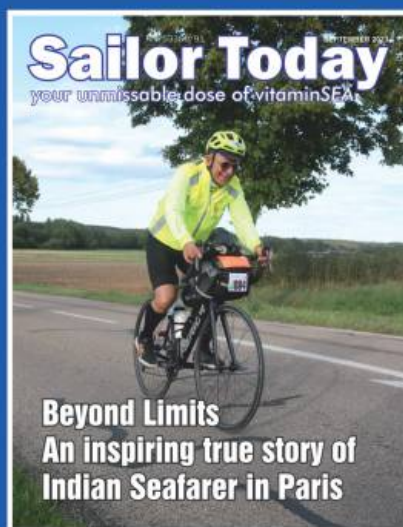
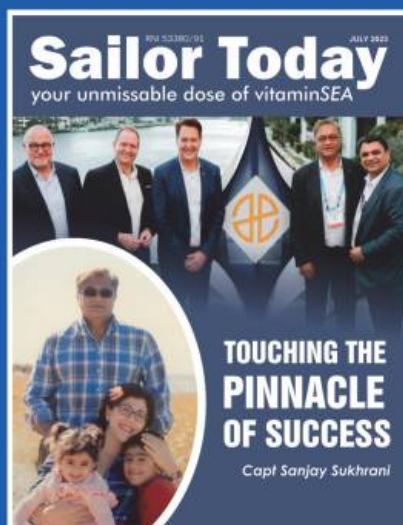
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WISTA MID-TERM CONFERENCE CREATES WAVES

April 9, 2025



The WISTA International Mid-Term Executive Committee Conference marked a historic milestone as it was held in Mumbai, India, for the very first time on April 9, 2025. Hosted at the prestigious World Trade Centre, the event brought together an impressive assembly of global delegates and prominent Indian shipping professionals under one roof.

With the theme “Navigating Change: The Future of Sustainable Shipping,” the conference featured a series of dynamic panel discussions, thought-provoking debates, and collaborative dialogues. Industry leaders and change-makers explored strategies for driving sustainability within maritime operations, emphasizing the urgency for transformation in a rapidly evolving global landscape.



WISTA International President Epi Petraki, in her inspiring opening address, underscored the critical importance of collaboration and diversity as catalysts for sustainable progress in the shipping industry. Adding a powerful voice from India, Sanjam Sahi Gupta—WISTA International Executive Committee member and Founder of Maritime SheEO—highlighted the country's growing leadership in sustainability. She praised the increasing number of women playing pivotal roles in advancing green shipping practices.

Adding to the event's vibrancy, Sailor Today International Maritime Radio hosted an exclusive lucky draw that created a buzz among attendees. Two participants walked away with exciting goodies, bringing an extra dose of cheer to an

already high-spirited gathering. The lucky draw not only added an element of fun but also celebrated the spirit of community and camaraderie that events like these foster.

The conference was further enriched by the presence of industry stalwarts such as Mrs. Riware. Her presence underscored the importance of legacy and leadership in shaping the maritime industry's future.

Participants left the event with renewed enthusiasm and valuable insights into the future of sustainable shipping, praising the conference for its flawless execution and content-rich sessions.

The momentum continued the following day, as WISTA Executive Committee members visited the Anglo-Eastern



Maritime Training Institute. The visit centered around engaging with future maritime professionals and discussing initiatives aimed at encouraging more women to pursue seafaring careers—further cementing WISTA's commitment to diversity and inclusion at sea.





Charting the Course: Shri Shyam Jagannathan's Vision for Indian Maritime Excellence and Seafarer Empowerment

First part of the two-part series

**Compiled by Capt. Ramji S Krishnan
Sloan Fellow, London Business School**

COMPREHENSIVE EXPOSITION OF TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP, GUIDANCE, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

During a significant Seafarer India online webinar on 17 Apr 2025, Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping (DGS), delivered a compelling and multi-layered address aimed at maritime cadets, second mates, and young seafarers. His remarks masterfully blended innovative

DGS initiatives for seafarer welfare and maritime sector modernization with practical career advice, poignant personal

anecdotes from his 28-year IAS journey, and a forward-looking vision for Indian seafarers in a dynamic global industry. This

exposition offers an enhanced analysis of his contributions, guidance, and enduring message. This is the first part of the two-part series of his exposition on various issues related to cadets, merchant marine, policy making etc.



TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVES BY THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING

Shri Jagannathan, IAS detailed a suite of groundbreaking initiatives spearheaded by the DGS, designed to tackle the challenges

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confronting seafarers, streamline examination procedures, and elevate India's maritime standing globally. These efforts underscore a deep commitment to safety, security, sustainability, and technological progress, positioning India at the forefront of the maritime domain.

a. Sagarmay Yog: A Holistic Wellness Paradigm

A flagship program, Sagarmay Yog, represents a comprehensive wellness initiative meticulously crafted for the physical, mental, and social well-being of seafarers. Acknowledging the demanding nature of seafaring—marked by extended contracts, isolation, and the inherent unpredictability of the sea—Shri Jagannathan, IAS explained how these factors strain well-being. Sagarmay Yog confronts these challenges through ten structured sub-components, fostering holistic balance:

- **Physical Fitness:** This module employs a scientific approach, integrating cardiovascular training, flexibility exercises, and strength conditioning. Shri Jagannathan underscored how physical health is crucial for demanding tasks like climbing pilot ladders, handling equipment, or emergency responses (e.g., firefighting), enabling greater endurance and reducing accident risks, even in limited onboard spaces.
- **Mental Fitness:** Addressing prolonged isolation, multicultural crew dynamics, and high-pressure decisions, this component builds emotional resilience, stress management skills, and mental

clarity. He noted its vital role in maintaining morale and decision-making capacity during long voyages or crises, incorporating mindfulness and coping strategies.

- **Communication Skills:** Essential in multinational crews, this module trains seafarers in effective verbal and non-verbal communication, including body language, to foster integration and teamwork, preventing isolation and misunderstandings.
- **Financial Wellness:** Recognizing the lucrative yet potentially precarious nature of seafaring income, this component imparts crucial knowledge in budgeting, investment, and financial planning, equipping young seafarers to secure their long-term future responsibly.
- **Continuous Learning:** With the maritime industry rapidly evolving (e.g., transitioning to alternative fuels like ammonia or methanol), this module champions lifelong learning. Shri Jagannathan urged seafarers to acquire new competencies to remain competitive, promoting access to courses and certifications.
- **Additional Sub-Components:** Implied modules further address aspirational goals, team dynamics, personal growth, and wellness practices rooted in yoga, ensuring a truly holistic approach encompassing professional development and personal fulfilment.

Linking Sagarmay Yog to India's ancient yoga tradition, bolstered by the Prime Minister's advocacy for International Yoga Day, Shri Jagannathan positioned the

program as a global benchmark in holistic seafarer support, designed for both novices and veterans.

b. Championing Seafarer Welfare and Rights

Shri Jagannathan strongly emphasized the protection of seafarers' rights and the enhancement of their welfare, tackling persistent issues like harassment, shore leave barriers, and grievance handling. Key measures include:

- **24/7 Grievance Helpline:** A dedicated, round-the-clock helpline empowers seafarers to report issues like bullying, discrimination, or unfair practices directly to the DGS, ensuring immediate redress and acting as a safeguard against retaliation.
- **Shore Leave Facilitation:** Through collaboration with multiple ministries (External Affairs, Home Affairs, Ports, Shipping, and Waterways), the DGS is streamlining shore leave and developing dedicated welfare facilities at ports (clubs, rest areas, ATMs, internet, stores), funded by the Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society, to ease the strain of long voyages.
- **Maritime Single Window:** Implementing the IMO's FAL Convention, this digital platform simplifies vessel documentation

(crew/cargo manifests), reducing administrative burdens, minimizing delays, and enhancing transparency for crew members.

- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Working with port authorities and the Ministry of Home Affairs, the DGS is upgrading facilities at FRROs and immigration checkpoints to ensure seamless, efficient transitions for seafarers, enhancing their experience at Indian ports and bolstering India's reputation.



These initiatives reflect a comprehensive strategy to create a supportive, dignified, and secure environment, making seafaring a sustainable and rewarding career.

c. Modernizing Examination Reforms with Technology

Addressing concerns about fairness, transparency, and stress in seafarer

certifications, Shri Jagannathan detailed significant reforms leveraging technology:

- **Digitalization of Examinations:** Piloted since April 1st with the National Testing Agency (NTA), online exams feature question papers mapped to IP addresses (preventing leaks) and online viewing of answer sheets, enhancing transparency and trust.
- **Multifactor Authentication:** Facial

recognition and QR-scanned admit cards streamline entry, enhance security, and reduce reliance on physical IDs, aligning with global best practices.

- **Elimination of Human Bias:** Written exams on all-in-one desktops with external, scanned evaluation, alongside recorded oral exams and candidate feedback mechanisms on examiners, ensure objectivity. Shri Jagannathan vowed "the harshest of actions" against any demonstrated bias.
- **Improved Exam Facilities:** Centres are being upgraded with lockers, refreshment areas, comfortable seating, and better amenities, creating a conducive environment managed to NTA standards (akin to IIT-JEE centres) to reduce candidate stress.
- **Feedback Mechanism:** A system for candidates to report concerns about centres or examiners ensures accountability and continuous improvement.

These reforms aim to create a fair, efficient, and candidate-centric assessment process, fostering confidence and motivation.

d. Advancing Gender Inclusion

Shri Jagannathan announced plans to integrate 24 gender-specific measures into Sagarmay Yog, signalling a strong commitment to diversity and equity. This initiative seeks to make the maritime sector more inclusive for women by addressing unique challenges through tailored facilities and support, positioning India as a progressive maritime nation.

e. Demystifying Policy Formulation

Addressing perceptions of arbitrary decision-making, Shri Jagannathan outlined the DGS's structured, transparent policy formulation process:

- **Grounded in Global Standards:** Policies adhere to international frameworks like the STCW convention.
- **Driven by Stakeholder Consultation:** Engaging shipowners, seafarers, and training institutes ensures policies are practical and relevant.
- **Focused on Eliminating Arbitrariness:** Robust processes minimize subjective influence, emphasizing continuous improvement.
- **Guided by Core Principles:** Policies like vessel age norms (promoting newer, safer, sustainable ships despite pushback), enhanced pilot ladder safety protocols (following recent incidents), and casualty investigations (leading to safety advisories) are driven by safety, security, and sustainability.

This structured approach fosters trust and ensures policies advance India's maritime interests responsibly.



GUIDANCE FOR THE VOYAGE AHEAD: ELABORATED ADVICE TO CADETS AND YOUNG SEAFARERS

Perhaps the most resonant part of Shri Jagannathan's address was his direct, deeply insightful, and highly practical advice to the cadets and young seafarers. Drawing parallels with his own formidable challenge of clearing the UPSC examination and integrating lessons from his extensive administrative career, he provided not just tips, but a holistic philosophy for navigating both academic hurdles and the demanding professional journey ahead. This guidance was structured around navigating examinations effectively, building profound resilience, embracing technological shifts, and cultivating professional excellence imbued with national pride.

a. Mastering Examinations: The Five Pillars of Preparation and Performance

Acknowledging the immense pressure associated with maritime competency examinations (like the Second Mate or MEO Class IV exams), which are critical gateways to career progression, Shri Jagannathan distilled his successful UPSC strategy into five actionable pillars. He presented these not as rigid rules, but as guiding principles adaptable to individual needs, designed to optimize preparation, manage stress, and maximize performance.

PILLAR 1: DISCIPLINE AND A FOUNDATION OF WELL-BEING:

The Body as an Instrument: He stressed that peak mental performance is inextricably

linked to physical health. Dedicating 20-30 minutes daily to physical activity – be it brisk walking, jogging, yoga, basic calisthenics feasible even in confined spaces, or a sport if accessible – is not a luxury but a necessity. Exercise enhances blood flow to the brain, improves concentration, reduces stress hormones like cortisol, boosts energy levels, and improves sleep quality – all critical for sustained periods of intense study. He urged cadets to view their physical health as maintaining the primary instrument needed for academic success.

The Restorative Power of Sleep: Countering the pervasive "hustle culture" myth that sacrificing sleep equates to greater productivity, Shri Jagannathan advocated for 8 hours of quality sleep. He humorously acknowledged potential scepticism but insisted on its feasibility with effective time management. During sleep, the brain consolidates memories, processes information learned during the day and rejuvenates cognitive functions. Chronic sleep deprivation severely impairs concentration, memory recall, problem-solving ability, and emotional regulation, making effective study and exam performance nearly impossible. Establishing a consistent sleep schedule is crucial.

Hydration and Nutrition: Simple yet vital, staying adequately hydrated supports optimal brain function. Dehydration can lead to fatigue, headaches, and difficulty concentrating. Similarly, nourishing the body with balanced meals, rather than relying on sugary snacks or excessive caffeine, provides sustained energy for study.

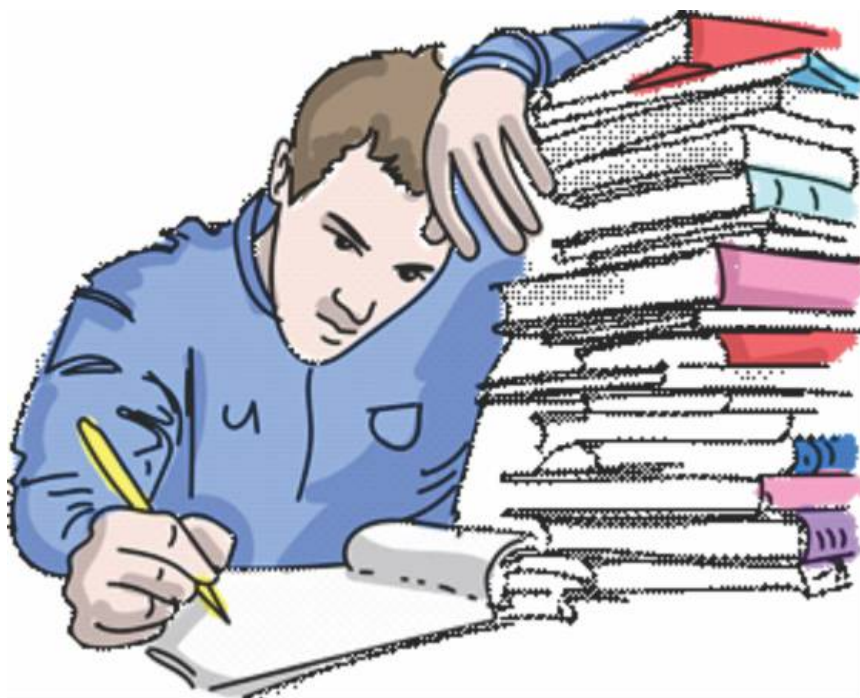
Minimizing Detrimental Distractions: He

explicitly advised avoiding alcohol and other substances that impair cognitive function and disrupt discipline. While relaxation is important, reliance on such crutches during intense preparation phases is counterproductive. Equally important is managing digital distractions – setting boundaries with social media, gaming, or excessive entertainment during dedicated study periods requires conscious effort and discipline. Creating a focused study environment is key. His light-hearted mention of avoiding "five cans of beer" served as a memorable anchor for the broader point about maintaining clarity and focus through moderation and

minutes continuously. Attempting marathon study sessions without breaks often leads to diminishing returns, mental fatigue, and poor retention (often referred to as cognitive overload).

Strategic Breaks for Optimal Learning: The advice, therefore, was to break study sessions into short, intense bursts (akin to the Pomodoro Technique, though not explicitly named). Study diligently for 15-20 minutes, then take a short, refreshing break of 3-5 minutes. Crucially, these breaks should involve shifting mental state – stand up, stretch, walk around, get fresh air, splash water on your face, have a healthy snack like an apple, or engage in a brief, non-

demanding activity like playing with a pet. This cycle prevents mental exhaustion, allows the brain to process information passively, and helps maintain high levels of concentration over longer overall study durations. This technique transforms studying from a daunting endurance test into a series of manageable sprints. Adapting this for different subjects – perhaps longer bursts for problem-solving and shorter ones for dense theoretical reading – allows personalization.



discipline.

PILLAR 2: HARNESSING THE POWER OF ATTENTION SPAN:

The Science of Focus: Shri Jagannathan astutely pointed out that the human brain typically maintains peak focus on a single, demanding task for only about 10-15

PILLAR 3: THE EFFICACY OF REPETITIVE, DEEP LEARNING:

Building Understanding Incrementally: Confronting complex technical or regulatory material (like collision regulations, cargo work calculations, or marine engineering principles) can be

overwhelming at first. Shri Jagannathan advocated for multiple readings or engagements with the material. He suggested that a single read might yield only a small percentage (e.g., 5%) of true comprehension. However, revisiting the material systematically – perhaps five times or more through different methods – can dramatically increase understanding (e.g., to 45-50% or higher).

Beyond Rote Memorization: The emphasis was not on mindless repetition but on deepening comprehension with each pass.



The first read might provide a general overview. Subsequent reviews could involve actively taking notes, creating summaries in one's own words, drawing diagrams or concept maps, teaching the concept to a study partner (active recall), or attempting practice problems related to the topic. Making the process engaging – perhaps by relating theoretical concepts to practical onboard scenarios – enhances retention. The goal is to build a robust mental model of the subject matter, not just temporarily memorize facts for the exam. This approach fosters long-term retention essential for applying knowledge

effectively in a professional context.

PILLAR 4: APPLIED COMPREHENSION THROUGH PRACTICE AND RESOURCES:

Understanding the Exam's Language:

Excelling in exams requires not just knowing the material but also understanding how knowledge is assessed. Shri Jagannathan strongly advised practicing extensively with previous years' question papers and standard question banks. This familiarizes candidates with the format of questions, the style of examiners, common pitfalls,

and the specific areas frequently tested.

Analyzing why certain answers are correct and others incorrect is crucial learning.

Leveraging the Digital Ocean of Knowledge:

He highlighted the incredible power of modern technology as a learning resource.

Platforms like Google, specialized maritime forums, online tutorial websites (like YouTube channels dedicated to maritime subjects), digital libraries, and online assessment tools offer virtually limitless potential. Cadets can find explanations for complex topics, watch animations of machinery operations, participate in discussion groups, access diverse question banks, and even use online simulators for certain skills. He urged them to be proactive and resourceful in utilizing these tools to supplement their formal training, effectively tapping into a global repository of knowledge.

PILLAR 5: WORKING SMART – STRATEGIC PREPARATION AND MINDSET:

Strategic Prioritization: Recognizing that covering 100% of a vast syllabus with equal depth might be impractical or inefficient, Shri Jagannathan shared his own successful UPSC strategy: focus intensely on the high-yield areas (e.g., the 70% of the syllabus most likely to be heavily featured in the exam), while ensuring a foundational understanding of the remaining topics. This requires analyzing past trends, understanding the syllabus weightage, and making informed decisions about where to invest the most study time. This strategic allocation maximizes the chances of success by concentrating effort where it matters most.

Pacing Over Cramming: He strongly advocated for pacing preparation over several months, rather than attempting frantic, last-minute cramming. Spaced learning allows for better consolidation of knowledge, reduces stress, and builds confidence gradually. Creating a realistic study schedule, breaking down large topics into smaller milestones, and adhering to it instils discipline and ensures steady progress. Cramming often leads to superficial learning, high anxiety, and rapid forgetting after the exam.

Managing Exam Anxiety: Implicit in the 'Work Smart' approach is managing the psychological aspect. Proper preparation builds confidence, which is a powerful antidote to anxiety. Techniques like visualization (imagining oneself successfully navigating the exam), positive self-talk, and practicing relaxation exercises can also be



beneficial in the lead-up to and during the exam.

Next month we shall see a continuation of his profoundly insightful address, wherein Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, offered far more than a status update. He delivers a compelling vision for the future of India's maritime sector and its most valuable asset – its seafarers.



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Your comments are most welcome - particularly on improvements that can be made.

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Capt. Ramji S Krishnan, Sloan Fellow, London Business School.

PS: Errors are my own



Dockendale Unveils World-Class Maritime Training Academy

New facility in Mumbai to drive excellence in safety, operations, and seafarer development

Mumbai, India – (April 24, 2025) - Dockendale Ship Management FZCO (Dockendale), a leading global provider of ship management services proudly announces the launch of the Dockendale Training Academy (DTA) at its Mumbai office. This state-of-the-art, in-house center of excellence is designed

to equip maritime professionals with the knowledge, skills, and mindset required to navigate the rapidly evolving landscape of global shipping.

Combining advanced simulation technology with expert-led instruction, the Dockendale Training Academy offers both classroom and online programs that meet the highest standards of operational safety and technical performance. The Academy is a reflection of Dockendale's enduring commitment to innovation, fostering a robust safety culture, and supporting the maritime industry's shift towards more sustainable shipping practices.

Equipped with cutting-edge simulators and tailored curriculum, the Dockendale Training Academy provides specialised training courses across a range of crucial areas, including:

- Ship maneuvering simulator
- Full-mission engine room simulator
- ECDIS training
- Steering practice, testing, and certification



- Liquid cargo handling (Oil & Gas, LPG & LNG)
- Alternate fuel training (Methanol & LNG)

Several company executives and industry leaders shared remarks at the launch event:

Shri. Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping, India

remarked: "The Dockendale Training Academy marks a significant milestone in maritime education and capacity building. With its emphasis on advanced simulation and emerging skills like alternate fuel handling and ECDIS operations, this initiative aligns well with India's aspirations to become a global maritime training hub. By investing in future-ready training, Dockendale is making a valuable contribution to strengthening our nation's maritime capabilities. I commend them for taking this proactive and timely step."

Mr. Robert Muirhead, Chairman, MUR

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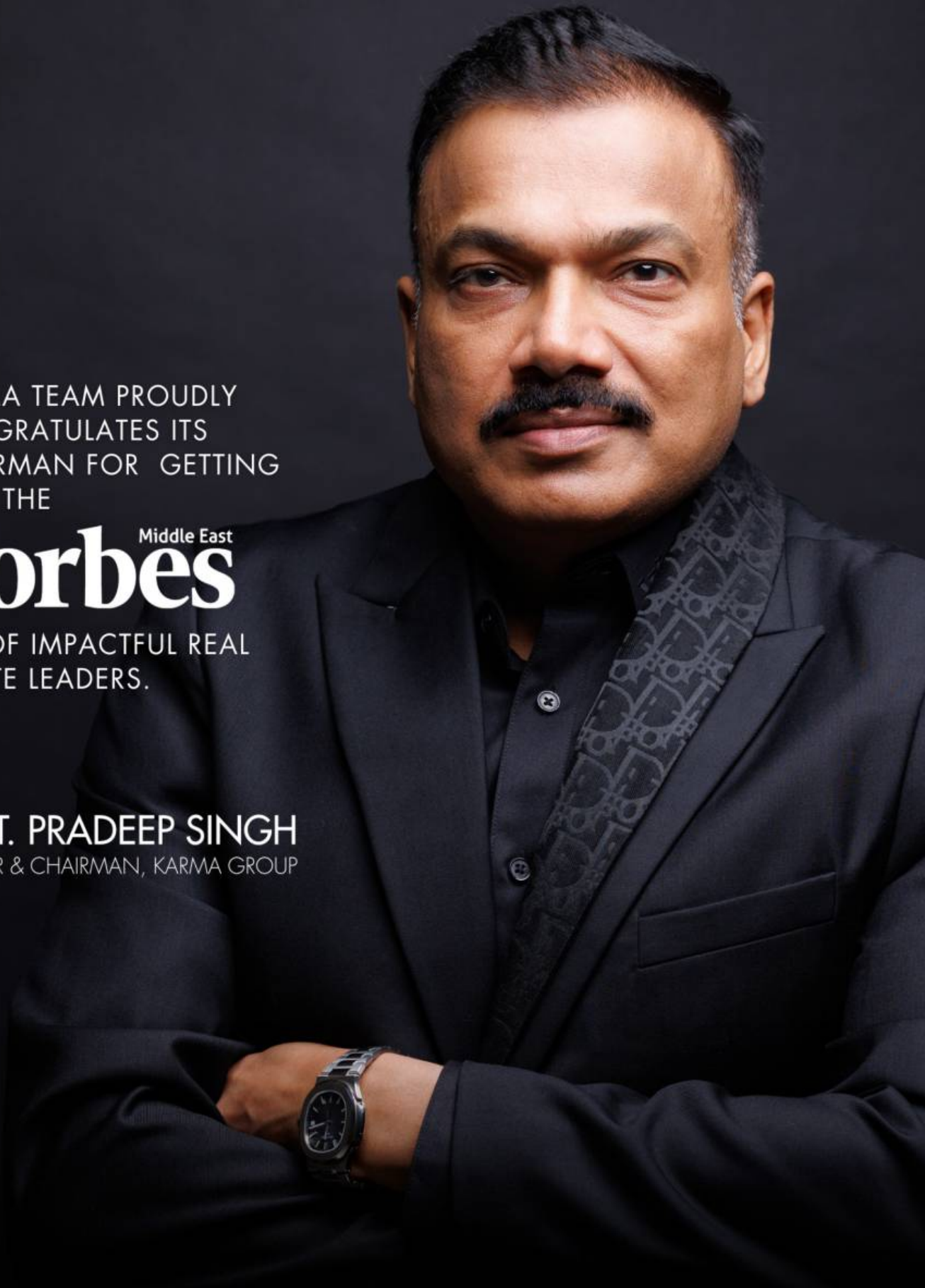
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A portrait of Capt. Pradeep Singh, a middle-aged man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a black suit jacket over a black shirt with a patterned scarf. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. His arms are crossed, and he is wearing a silver watch on his left wrist.

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OWNER & CHAIRMAN, KARMA GROUP

rests on the foundation of a well-prepared crew. As India continues to rise as a key maritime hub, we are proud to support Dockendale's leadership in ship management, which has been instrumental in driving excellence across the industry. The launch of Dockendale Training Academy is a natural extension of this partnership, reflecting our shared commitment to equipping seafarers with the skills, knowledge, and adaptability needed to thrive in an evolving maritime environment. Through this collaboration, we are shaping a future where technical expertise, a deep-rooted safety culture, and innovation converge to ensure that safety and efficiency remain at the core of every voyage."

Mr. Hassan Sallaum, Director, Sallaum Lines: "Dockendale has been a trusted partner in providing highly skilled,



professional crews to our vessels, consistently demonstrating excellence in every aspect of their operations. The launch of the Dockendale Training Academy further reinforces their dedication to continuous improvement and talent development. We are confident that this initiative will not only elevate operational excellence but also make a lasting contribution to the broader maritime industry, setting new standards for safety and performance."

Mr. Aseem Malik, Principal, Dockendale Training Academy: "At



Dockendale Training Academy, we're not just delivering courses—we're shaping the next generation of maritime professionals. Our focus is on empowering seafarers with both the technical expertise and the mindset needed to adapt to new technologies, embrace sustainable practices, and uphold the highest standards of operational excellence."

About Dockendale Training Academy

Dockendale Training Academy (DTA) is a future-focused maritime learning centre committed to shaping the next generation of seafarers. Combining advanced simulation technology with expert-led instruction, the academy delivers specialised training programs that reflect the evolving needs of modern, sustainable shipping. Designed to promote innovation, safety, and operational excellence, the academy plays a vital role in preparing maritime professionals for the challenges of a rapidly transforming global industry.



About Dockendale Ship Management

Dockendale Ship Management FZCO (Dockendale) is a global ship management services provider specialising in the dry bulk shipping segment. Founded in 1973, Dockendale has built a strong legacy grounded in technical excellence and deep seafaring expertise. Our operations are powered by the collaboration of over 2,000 dedicated seafarers and more than 100 onshore maritime professionals working together to deliver safe, efficient, and responsible ship management services. Dockendale is headquartered in Dubai with additional offices in the Philippines, India and Hong Kong to support our global operations.

Navguide Solutions and i.safe MOBILE Singapore Announce Strategic Collaboration to Elevate Maritime Training and Inspection Readiness

Singapore – April 2025 — In a bold stride toward revolutionising onboard safety and competence, Navguide Solutions, a Singapore-based company and a global pioneer in reimagining maritime learning, has announced a strategic collaboration with i.safe MOBILE, the industry and world market leader in intrinsically safe mobile devices. The collaboration promises to redefine how ship staff engage with inspections, learning, and mentorship, especially under demanding regimes like SIRE 2.0 and RightShip.

This collaboration brings together Navguide's innovative Guide2Inspections™ App—ClassNK-approved and actively deployed on hundreds of vessels—with i.safe MOBILE's durable ATEX and IECEx-certified tablets, ensuring frontline maritime professionals can access world-class learning and self-assessment tools, even in explosive hazardous environments.

"Our collaboration with i.safe MOBILE isn't just about hardware meets software," said Capt. Debashis Basu, Founder of Navguide Solutions. "It's about enabling real-time mentoring, practical insight, and autonomous learning at sea—especially where traditional mentorship is vanishing."

Unlike conventional platforms that digitise checklists, Navguide's approach is profoundly human-centric. Every tool, from microlearning videos to interactive training scenarios, is designed to address the real challenges faced by modern seafarers—short attention spans, limited mentorship, rising inspection complexities, and psychological readiness. This collaboration now makes these resources fully functional on i.safe MOBILE's intrinsically safe devices, a critical leap for high-risk zones like tanker decks and engine rooms.

Setting New Standards in SIRE 2.0 Preparedness



As the industry pivots toward SIRE 2.0, which emphasises behavioural insights and observation-based assessments, ship staff must move beyond rote compliance. Navguide's Guide2Inspections™ doesn't just check boxes—it guides users to see what a seasoned inspector sees, understand why it matters, and adopt a proactive mindset.

Through the “mentorship-on-device” philosophy, junior officers can now receive consistent guidance anytime, anywhere—bridging the massive mentorship vacuum onboard.

“The beauty lies in the synergy,” shared Capt. Robert Vaz, COO of Navguide. “While i.safe MOBILE brings the physical resilience, we bring the psychological edge.”

A Vision Shared Globally

From presenting at IMO HTW-11 in London, to being selected as a finalist at The Captain's Table in Hong Kong, and building active collaborations in Greece, the Philippines, Hong Kong and Singapore—Navguide's vision of organic, device-enabled upskilling is gaining global traction.

This collaboration is expected to further bolster industry engagement, offering fleet managers and HSEQ teams a comprehensive, inspection-ready toolkit that ensures learning is not just certified—but internalized.

About Navguide Solutions

Navguide Solutions is a digital solutions company that pioneers modern methods

of competence development through visual learning, data-backed microlearning, scenario-based games, and real-time mentorship that translates to measurable improvement in SIRE 2.0, Rightship, Port State Inspections and various audits. With flagship solutions like Guide2Inspections™ and clients across Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, Navguide continues to redefine onboard performance.

About i.safe MOBILE

i.safe MOBILE is the world market leader and one of the most innovative developers of mobile communication devices for use in hazardous areas. Its products are designed to meet global safety standards while ensuring seamless connectivity and data access in extreme environments.



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- Monitor equipment and operational procedures for efficiency and security.
- Good communication and problem-solving skills.
- Work closely with team members to ensure operations run smoothly and efficiently.
- Ensure compliance with company standards and procedures.

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Preamble: This series of articles from Navguide Solutions, one every month, will focus on Rightship Inspection requirements, eventually going deeper into the subject and helping the industry phase into the RISQ regime.

RISQ Series | Article 16 | April 2025

“ONE LANGUAGE SETS YOU IN A CORRIDOR FOR LIFE. TWO LANGUAGES OPEN EVERY DOOR ALONG THE WAY.”

Author: Capt. Robert Vaz, Chief Operating Officer, Navguide Solutions

Jack Jones was a newly promoted chief officer who was invited by the company for a training course in Cyprus. After Jack settled at his hotel, he saw the ambience and facilities of his beach-facing hotel, and he texted his wife, **“I’m having a wonderful time. I wish you were her.”** Phew, you could imagine how furious the wife was and hysterically texting back, Who is ‘her’? Who is she? Who are you with? Poor Jack candidly admitted in a hurry that he forgot to check the typo. **It’s not her, but here.**

Well, communications have improved leaps and bounds; just an “emoji” or a “GIF” could actually convey a feeling.



As seafarers, the English language is very important to us, as at various levels, regardless of the various degrees of fluency, it is the most widely used language in the maritime industry. Surely, English is not the first language for most seafarers.

However, it is essential that they are fluent in conversational. Maritime English. Basically, Maritime English contains standardised marine vocabulary and phrases that ensure understanding and efficiency in day-to-day ship operations and, more importantly, proper understanding and the correct response in an emergency.

Learning Maritime English is not just about mastering vocabulary and grammar; it's about gaining a new lens through which we can communicate easily in the maritime industry and see the world.

We work with seafarers from around the world, many of whom come from remote provinces. Before coming on board, they complete a maritime course, go through an agent, or take a simple English test. Then, some of them are in for a rude shock, as at times, a few have to be sent back due to poor communication skills and a lack of understanding.

Maritime English is an integral part of our profession as seafarers; a few important reasons are listed below.

- The maximum maritime accidents and incidents are due to miscommunication
- A good command of English improves intercultural communication and, in turn, harmony onboard
- Makes planning and preparation for emergencies and day-to-day inter and intra-department coordination easier
- Interacting during berthing/unberthing, bunkering, interacting with pilots, surveyors, auditors, PSC inspectors, Sire and Rightship inspectors, VTS and other VHF communications, the list goes on
- Rightship inspectors and Sire inspectors do make a note of the level of English proficiency of the crew onboard

Keeping the above in mind, Navguide solutions have launched scenario-based games, an interactive training tool. It is developed in such a way that every sefarer finds the language very simple to understand. These games are available for all ranks and include most questions asked by Sire/Rightship/Flag state and PSC inspectors.

These games are both attitude and knowledge-based, and they instil a sense of confidence amongst seafarers. The best part is that, in case you click the wrong answer, you will be guided on how to answer the question. A seafarer could try different sets, and on the day of the inspection, he/she is very confident in communicating with the inspector.



As senior officers onboard, it's our responsibility to ensure we mentor our juniors and instil in them a sense of confidence.

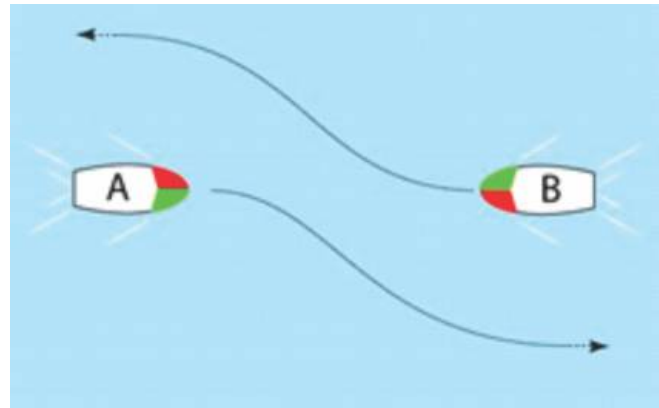
Yes, I do agree that hectic

voyages, increased workload, cultural differences, lack of teaching skills, and ego issues can make mentoring and teaching very challenging and demanding as a result mentoring doesn't happen, that's when many young officers and rating just don't care and give a damn. At times, the young seafarers are least interested in learning; in fact, they are not even interested in their work.

I remember Chief Officer Jack, when he was a second officer, he used to teach the able seamen on watch. He was very animated, used lots of role-play, simple models, etc. and the AB actually could answer any question regarding collision regulations.

I often hear some seniors say, "This officer or crew just cannot be taught". I feel we must be a bit more empathetic and try to teach them in a way that is simpler for them to understand.

At Navguide Solutions, we have designed an application called "Guide2inspections". This app serves dual purposes: any ship safety inspection can be conducted, including preparation for a



Rightship/Sire/Flag state or a PSC inspection. It can also be used to carry out ISM/ISPS/Navigation/Engineering/Mooring, and Cargo audits. Additionally, it functions as a dynamic 24/7 training tool. Each question includes various levels of guidance, with guidance notes, photographs, and actual videos that simplify understanding. This application is designed with the consideration that officers and crew have varying levels of English proficiency. The questions are structured so that nothing is left to doubt or imagination, allowing the ship staff to take a holistic approach when preparing the vessel for an inspection.



and can clearly communicate while carrying out their duties. Surely there will be many who are extremely good at English; well, that's an added bonus, I must say.

In fact, after sailing for many years and visiting regular ports, we pick up several words and phrases in that language. This certainly serves as an icebreaker and establishes a connection between the ship staff and the shore staff. ***“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.”***

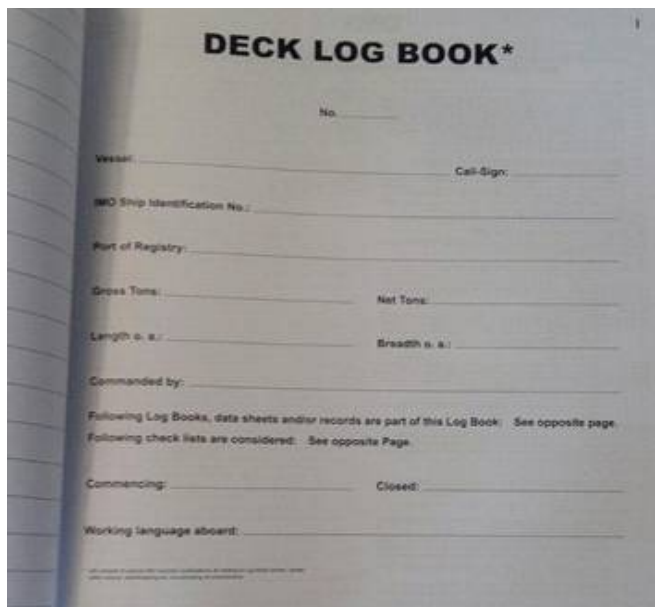
To conclude, the importance of Maritime English is indisputable in the marine industry. Together, let's ensure there are no language barriers, a common working language onboard, and this is clearly stated in the logbook.

As seafarers, we sail the seven seas, and we have a way to communicate irrespective of our nationality, culture or language and get the job done. Cheers to our seafarers.

CONCLUSION

As we began, we saw the typo that Chief Officer Jack made. So yes, as senior officers, it's very important for us to ensure we read all the messages thoroughly prior to sending them to managers, charterers, and others. As officers and crew, it's important to ensure we are all good at Maritime English, which includes conversational English.

As superintendents and senior officers, while making appraisals, we must ensure that we don't judge the officers and crew on how they write but on their ability to understand conversational Maritime English



ENGLISH

WELLATSEA CHAMPIONS MENTAL RESILIENCE AND TEAM HEALTH IN MARITIME SECTOR



**GISA PAREDES
WELLATSEA**

In an industry where operational excellence depends on the strength and stability of its crew, WellAtSea, part of OneCare Group, is leading the way with a holistic health and wellbeing programme designed specifically for seafarers. Going far beyond basic health monitoring, WellAtSea's digital platform delivers a transformative onboard experience that addresses the mental, physical, and social health of maritime

professionals—empowering crews, improving safety, and strengthening retention for vessel operators worldwide.

At the heart of the programme are three critical goals: increasing mental resiliency, improving the physical state of health, and enhancing team dynamics and socialisation on board.

“The maritime industry has long focused on physical safety and compliance, but the next frontier is mental and emotional wellbeing,” said WellAtSea Managing Director Gisa R. Paredes, M.A., RPsy. “With isolation, cultural diversity, and long contracts still defining the seafaring experience, it's time we help crews thrive—not just cope.”

WellAtSea's unique model emphasises socialisation by encouraging stronger onboard relationships, gamification by making wellness goals enjoyable and interactive, and rewards by offering tangible recognition and incentives for participation.



**MARINOS KOKKINIS,
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
ONECARE GROUP**

This design fosters genuine connection among crew members—turning vessels into more supportive, unified environments. Team activities, mindfulness exercises, guided physical workouts, and reflective practices provide seafarers with a diverse toolkit to stay well—both mentally and physically.

“OneCare Group is deeply committed to a holistic approach to crew wellbeing, and our partnership with WellAtSea reflects that dedication,” said Marinos Kokkinis, Managing Director of OneCare Group. “Their programme aligns seamlessly with our focus on supporting the physical,

mental, and emotional health of seafarers. Together with our 24/7 telemedicine and mental health crisis lines, we're creating a comprehensive support system for life at sea.”

For employers, the impact is immediate and measurable with higher retention of crew members who feel valued and connected, improved safety from engaged crews who are more alert and collaborative, and reduced conflict as a result of programmes that bridge cultural gaps and boost mutual respect.

For seafarers, the benefits include immediately accessible tools to manage stress, including meditation and teambuilding, fitness routines with personal goal tracking, smartwatch and mobile syncing for easy health monitoring, and a gamified system that makes staying well fun, with rewards for themselves or their families.

“Seafarers are at the core of global trade, and we owe it to them to create an environment that supports their whole wellbeing,” Paredes said. “WellAtSea is designed to empower crews, one vessel at a time.”

As the maritime industry looks to the future—with increasing digitalisation, decarbonisation, and operational demands—programmes like WellAtSea are proving that a resilient crew is a company's greatest asset.

METHANOL AS THE FUTURE OF MARINE FUEL: IMEI AND METHANOL INSTITUTE HOST SEMINAR ON DECARBONIZATION PATHWAYS



March 27, 2025 | Mumbai, India – The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) (IMEI), in collaboration with the Methanol Institute (MI), successfully hosted a seminar titled “Methanol as a Marine Fuel:

Pathways to Decarbonization” at IMEI House, Nerul, Navi Mumbai. The event brought together maritime professionals, government representatives, classification societies, and technical experts to explore methanol's growing role in sustainable shipping and India's energy transition.

The seminar began with a welcome address read on behalf of Mr. David Birwadkar, Chairman of IMEI Mumbai

Branch, by Mr. Saanjeev V Mehra, Hon. Secretary IME(I) Mumbai Branch assuring of IME(I)'s commitment to conduct such seminars on relevant topics to increase awareness regarding issues of concern, current developments and new regulatory orders approved. This was followed by a safety briefing by Mr. Mohan Singh Pal, Director IME(I) who outlined emergency procedures and venue safety protocols, ensuring a secure and well-coordinated experience for all attendees.

Chief Guest Mr. Ajithkumar Sukumaran, Chief Surveyor-cum-Addl. DG(Engg.), DG Shipping delivered an engaging and forward-looking keynote address. He



shared insights into India's evolving maritime regulatory landscape and took several audience questions, leaving participants with practical takeaways and a renewed sense of urgency for embracing cleaner fuels.

The technical session featured expert presentations by Mr. Kjeld Aabo, Senior Technical Advisor – Maritime Transport, and Ms. Prakriti Sethi, Chief India Representative, Methanol Institute. Highlights included:

- E-Methanol and Bio-Methanol Developments: Updates on global and Indian projects showing rapid scaling of renewable methanol production.
- Engine and Retrofit Options: Practical

insights into the adoption of methanol-compatible engines and ease of conversion for existing vessels.

- Bunkering and Safety Protocols: Presentation of methanol-specific handling guidelines, standards (ISO/CD 6583), and crew training requirements.
- India-Specific Outlook: Developments in Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh aimed at reducing import dependency and fostering domestic green methanol infrastructure.

A highlight of the session was the special address by Mr. Alexander Döll, Chief Operating Officer of the Methanol Institute, who offered a global industry perspective and a historical analogy:





"The energy transition presents complex challenges for shipowners, requiring a flexible and pragmatic approach to fuel choices. This period of transformation is reminiscent of the industry's shift from coal to marine liquid fuels. While the path to zero-carbon fuels will take time to settle, the collaborative efforts and strategic decisions being made today will define the future of sustainable shipping."

The seminar concluded with a "Vote of Thanks" by Mr. Shobhit Kapoor, Head of the IME(I) Mumbai Branch Technical Sub-Committee, who acknowledged the valuable contributions of the speakers, dignitaries, and participants for making the event impactful and solution-oriented.



BW LPG and Oceanly forge partnership to drive operational excellence in LPG shipping

Oceanly, a leading provider of digital solutions for the maritime industry, is proud to announce a strategic partnership with BW LPG, the world's leading owner and operator of LPG carriers, aimed at enhancing fleet performance through advanced vessel reporting and performance monitoring. This collaboration marks a significant shift towards improving

data quality, particularly in noon reporting processes, to increase fleet efficiency and operational accuracy.

The project, initiated in December 2024, saw the implementation of Oceanly's Performance Base and Performance Lite systems across BW LPG's fleet, successfully completing this rollout by the first quarter of



2025. The Performance Lite system, tailored for chartered vessels, provides a streamlined reporting solution that operates without onboard installations, making it an excellent option for vessels under time-charter agreements.

Meanwhile, the Performance Base system, which has been installed across BW LPG's owned fleet, provides a robust suite of tools essential for comprehensive fleet monitoring and reporting.

With the Performance Base system, crew members gain access to detailed analytics and receive timely operational alerts from all connected workstations onboard, significantly improving workflow efficiency. The Performance Lite system, designed for rapid deployment, can be operational within just 30 minutes via a web browser, catering to time-chartered vessels seeking minimal investment in permanent infrastructure.

In response to a specific request from BW LPG, Oceanly has also developed a customised Parcel Management module to optimise bunker operations management. This module plays a pivotal role in the effective management of fuel consumption and remaining onboard (ROB), critical for improving fuel economy and operational cost-efficiency.

Virginia Aste, Oceanly's Project Manager, shared her experience working with the BW LPG team, noting, "The collaboration has been exceptionally smooth and professional. Their focus on enhancing data precision has been a key driver in tailoring our technology to meet their specific needs."

Ingela Mandl, Sales Director at Oceanly, commented on the partnership, stating, "Supporting BW LPG with our Performance Base and Lite systems is a privilege. This initiative not only underscores the trust that industry leaders have in our technology but also emphasises our commitment to advancing maritime operations through enhanced data collection and quality."

Prodyut Banerjee, Vice President and Head of Operations at BW LPG, shares, "Implementing Oceanly's tools has clearly improved data quality and operational accuracy while reducing the susceptibility to errors. The system is user-friendly, the transition has been smooth, and feedback from our crew is very positive."

Kevin Knott, Senior Manager, Fleet Performance at BW LPG, adds, "Without doubt the amount of onboard form validation, whether it's the auto-calculated fields or data field allowable parameters is starting to show a large reduction in re-work, both ashore and afloat. As familiarity with the system grows, I would only expect this to reduce further. In particular, the bunker parcel ID's, fuel ROB's, and consumptions are much improved as compared to pre-Oceanly VRT."

A key aspect of this partnership is the integration with DNV Veracity, which significantly enhances data validation and operational integrity. This integration ensures the highest standards of data accuracy and reliability, reinforcing best practices in maritime data management.

JAMAICA WELCOMES PROGRESS ON GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION

- Director General Maritime Authority of Jamaica



The agreement on a framework to achieve the International Maritime Organisation's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets for the international shipping industry was a historic achievement for Jamaica and member States of the Caribbean Community commonly known as CARICOM.

Speaking after the close of the IMO's Marine Environment and Protection Committee's 83rd meeting (MEPC83), Bertrand Smith, Director General of the Maritime Authority of Jamaica, remarked: "Although the final draft text of the amendments to the MARPOL Convention do not reflect our original position it is a step in right direction".

Commenting on the meeting's progress he highlighted: "Jamaica is a member of the IMO Council with significant flag, port and coastal interests, and has always taken a balanced view to the negotiations to implement IMO's 2023 Strategy on the reduction of GHG emissions from ships. At all times we were mindful of the need to ensure that the draft amendments to MARPOL addressed three primary issues – namely, the promotion of the energy transition, incentivising the fleet, and facilitating a just and equitable transition".

It is in the latter area that Jamaica, as a member of the CARICOM group and in collaboration with Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS), made proposals to ensure that SIDS and developing countries

would not be left behind as the shipping industry took significant steps to decarbonise. This was critical as decarbonisation will come at a major cost to SIDS which are already incurring relatively high transport costs and are having to make significant amounts of expenditure to replace infrastructure damaged by extreme weather events.

A recent example is Hurricane Beryl, an early season Category Four hurricane which, in the space of a few hours, left damage to agriculture and infrastructure amounting to 1% of the total GDP of Jamaica.

The incorporation of economic measures leading to the establishment of a Net-Zero fund were an area of focus for CARICOM SIDS, who at all times negotiated in good faith and in the true IMO spirit and yielded in some areas in order to achieve a text that could be accepted by the majority of member States.

Mr Smith added: "Notwithstanding the historic achievement, much work is left to be done in finalising the several guidelines which will support the draft text – which is expected to be adopted at MEPC 84 in autumn this year. What was, however, made clear at the end of the negotiations was that Caribbean and Pacific SIDS, regardless of their small populations, are now a major force to reckon with in the efforts to adopt mandatory provisions to incorporate IMO's mandate to decarbonise the international shipping industry by or around 2050."



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