

Regional Director's Report - Middle East

For the board member's meeting on Sunday 13th June 2010, preceding the AGM

Dear Board member's,

Here is an update on the activities of the newly formed IIMS UAE branch from it's inception following the Dubai conference held in December of 2009.

All of you are aware having read the December/January edition of "The Report" which showcased the very first attempt by an IIMS region, with the active support of its members and the supporting shipping community, the successful execution of the "marine insurance and claims conference". The conference impressed the regional marine community and gave a "steroid", "shot in the arm" boost to the membership influx. As we stand today we have already achieved the 2010 goal for membership increase. Our focus now is on retention and bringing along a guest for each of the meetings scheduled for every two months.

Jan 26th, 2010 was a milestone for IIMS and for the members in the region particularly these members (show the certificates, present them to the president to sign). These are proud founder members of the 2nd IIMS branch which was established on the day. A vote for 3 office bearers was taken by an attendance and proxy count, with at least 35% members in attendance for the meeting on the day which we had preceded with voluntary participation from the members. The usual suspects were the front runners, the appreciation and success of the December conference was the motivation for:

1. Capt. Khalid Humail of Marsh (Branch chairman) - 2 yr term
2. Captain Peter Valles (Branch treasurer) - 2 yrs term (default entertainment officer)
3. Captain Gopal Khanna (branch Secretary) - 2 years term

These three honorary office bearers were elected and declared to the members of the region in a meeting minute. This was graciously accepted by all, following which the branch officials have had 2 branch meetings including one training workshop on IMDG requirements and local UAE regulations.

The following has been discussed during these meetings. It is note worthy to mention that my personal involvement in these meetings has been nothing more (or less) than that of a regular member. (I mention this as it was utmost important to make the 3 office bearers feel a sense of independence and motivate them to run the branch on their own steam)

The important outcome of the branch open meetings were:

1. It was agreed to pursue the patronage offer from Abu Dhabi DOT and NTA for making and approach to one of the important federal ministers for patronage, provided

IIMS branch office is officially registered in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. This was agreed although majority of the membership base was from Dubai.

2. Captain Jaafar of EIMA (Emirates International Maritime Academy) was approached by our branch chairman and myself for tying up for the Diploma programs. For this we need the consent from Mr. John Lawrence, which I will hopefully receive before my departure and a follow up letter, to present to EIMA. This will enable us to take the diploma course to the next level in the Middle East region. Currently there are several IIMS diploma students and a couple of members who have recently successfully completed the first diploma course albeit through the U.K.. Most of the IIMS full members and senior surveyors had agreed to extend their time and availability for conducting monthly (or bi monthly) classroom/field training for the students and fees collected may be partly contributed towards the running of the branch.
3. A branch meeting schedule to meet every 2 months was agreed. (on the 1st Saturday of every second month). If any board members or important mentor personalities are traveling to our side of the woods we would like to host them as a guest of honor for our future meetings.
4. During these meetings besides having visitor it was also suggested that presentations by any of the members would be welcome in helping develop and build each individual's knowledge base.
5. We need money to run the branch; and 50% of membership fees (we now have 21 members including corporate support) will go a long way with the remainder of the conference participation fees and sponsorship fees. This will assist us adequately to cover operating expenses.
6. When these funds are available, we as a Branch, intend to support the Indian conference financially by sponsoring one of the aspects of the on goings if not already taken up by other sponsors.
7. We intend to host another conference in 2011 around the end of November (let this be posted on the site and broadcasted at earliest), we shall try to come up with a date and a topic which we shall try to schedule around the Dubai Rugby 7's.)

The ME Region focus appears to have slipped a little of recent, however I personally intend to step up to the challenge of renewing interest in the region during the remaining half of 2010.

A statement of accounts from our Treasurer Captain Peter Valles has been submitted for review to the CEO. Founder member certificates need to be signed by president, Please. Thank you & Regards,
Captain Zarir S. Irani, Regional Director (IIMS-Middle East)