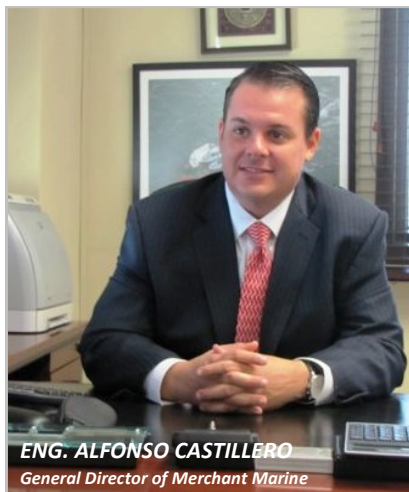




Message from the General Director of Merchant Marine



ENG. ALFONSO CASTILLERO
General Director of Merchant Marine

Upon completion of the year 2011, full of ineluctable challenges for the maritime community, we are pleased to have achieved the goals set by our Administration, through the Directorate General of Merchant Marine, however, these accomplishments would have been impossible without the trust and loyalty of our clients, as well as the continuous and arduous effort of every collaborator, whom I deeply appreciate.

In this new year that begins, we reaffirm our commitment to address these and other challenges ahead, which I am confident we can undertake while maintaining and improving the optimism and skills that have always characterized our seat as the world's leading registry and flag of excellence.

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Panama was re-elected as member of Category "A" in the IMO

Panama was re-elected as a Category "A" member of the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), during the celebration of the 27th Assembly of this international organization in London, England.

A high level delegation from the Panamanian government led by the Panama Maritime Authority Administrator, Roberto Linares and the Ambassador of Panama in London, Ana Irene Delgado, participated in this General Assembly of the IMO, which on November 25th, 2011 planned the electoral process in order to choose the 10 countries that integrated Category A members, the 10 countries of Category B members and the 20 countries of Category C members.

The Panamanian delegation was formed by the General Director of Merchant Marine, Mr. Alfonso

Castillero, the Public Relations Director, Mr. Valerio Abrego Jimenez and the Panamanian representatives of Panama to the IMO in London.

According to Linares, the visit to London had a great importance since it maintains continuous contact with the member States of the IMO as well as with distinguished sectors, which are the main characters of the international maritime industry.

Panama held a very important reception for all member States of the IMO.

As mentioned by Mr Linares: "We are very confident that Panama will be re-elected as Category A member of the IMO which is highly important for our nation in order to continue strengthening our position as a world maritime power".



New Secretary-General of IMO receives Panamanian delegation in London

Koji Sekimizu, the newly elected General-Secretary of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), received a Panamanian delegation in London participating in the 27th General Assembly of this organization.

Roberto Linares, Administrator of the Panama Maritime Authority,



Ana Irene Delgado, Ambassador of Panama in England and Alfonso Castillero, General Directorate of Merchant Marine were personally received by , who expressed his gratitude for their visit.

"We are full confident of the labour to be carried out by the Secretary-General Sekimizu within the IMO

and we have come to express our support and desire to continue working jointly in order to keep the great prestige of our country within the international maritime industry", as said Roberto Linares.

Koji Sekimizu took the opportunity to present his Working Plan to the Panamanian delegation, as well as his interest to strengthen the maritime industry with the participation of all the member countries.

In this sense, the 27th General Assembly of the IMO marked the last meeting conducted by the previous Secretary-General, Efthimios Mitropoulos, who left his post in December, giving way to the new management of the Secretary-General Koji Sekimizu.

Re launching of Segumar New York

With the purpose to certify our registry under high quality standards and also to offer the users of the Panamanian Registry quality services and more personalized attention; it was decided during 2007, the establishment of two (2) new international technical offices in Tokyo, Japan and Piraeus, Greece, strategically located in order to provide coverage to the North of Asia and Europe.

Moreover, in 2011, after more than (3) years of satisfactory results and the search for continuous improvements as well as the satisfaction of the Panamanian Registry clients and most importantly, at the easy reach of the northern area of our continent, the Directorate General of Merchant Marine decided to re-launch the services of the Segumar technical office in New York city, U.S. and include all the Segumar offices within the System of Quality Management ISO 9001:2008, granting such office the same functions carried out at other offices.



White List of Paris MOU

Panama Merchant Marine Renews Certification ISO 9001:2008



The Directorate General of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA), which is in charge of managing the world's largest fleet providing an international service, continues to enjoy the trust of Lloyd's Register Quality (LRQA), as it renewed the Quality Certification ISO 9001:2008 for this Directorate and also for its International offices located in Piraeus, Greece, New York, U.S.A. and the Permanent Mission of Panama to the International Maritime Organization in London, United Kingdom.

The certification represents the consolidation of our image at an international level, providing us with multiple benefits since it reassures us

as leading country within the registry of vessels worldwide. Also, with such certification, we promote the increase of our maritime fleet as well as the economic benefits that may derive from this.

The standard ISO 9001:2008 pursues the documentation of all processes, customer satisfaction, a more objective administration, consistent with the development of the world trade, as well as the training of the human resource committed to continuous improvement.

The LRQA enterprise is the world's leading certifying company, a subsidiary entity of the Lloyd's Register com-

pany created in 1760 which guarantees the quality and safety not only of the maritime traffic but also of the high risk land facilities, for which it has created its own standards adopted and accepted by all the countries in which it operates.

Lloyd's Register, conducts periodical verifications of the certification granted to the Quality Management System of the Merchant Marine to ensure the documentation of the requirements and processes stated in the regulation.

During the audit conducted for the re-certification, the

external auditor in charge of the verification Mr. Jose Wong, mentioned that the operative and supporting processes were reviewed and showed a high level of commitment from all the involved personnel.

For Panama, it is very important to count with a quality system which allows us to keep a verifiable control of the services provided to our customers.

In this sense, Mrs. Zulma Castro thanked every Quality System liaison of the Directorate General of Merchant Marine for the hard work towards the renewal of the certification.



PMA personnel receives training on Maritime Labour Convention, 2006

Personnel from the Directorate General of Merchant Marine and the Directorate General of Seafarers of the Panama Maritime Authority, received special training from instructor Mr. Chris Desmond, of External Affairs Manager of Lloyds Register Ltd. (RLNA), who traveled from the main RLNA headquarters in London, United Kingdom to Panama to lecture on the Requirements and Implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

This training was given to a total of forty (40) collaborators and had a duration of forty (40) hours. Its main objective, was to provide every participant with new knowledge as well as reinforcing their future practices related with the follow up and implementation of the 2006 Maritime Labour Convention (MLC, 2006).

One of the main objectives of the Convention, is to improve the working conditions of seafarers through one sole unique and coherent document, all the updated regulations contained in the conventions and International recommendations on current maritime labour, as well as the main principles stated in other international labour conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO), focusing always in promoting decent working conditions for all seafarers around the world.



Civil Marriage onboard Panamanian Flagged Vessels

Marriage on International Waters! A new proposal for all Panamanian Flagged Vessels.

The Panama Maritime Authority in accordance with Panamanian law No. 57 of 6th August, 2008, has authorized Captains to celebrate civil marriages on board vessels while on open sea.

The marriage celebration will be conducted by the Captain of the vessel himself after a formal application is completed. The requirements and procedures for couples are simple and have been implemented by Resolution No. 106-38-DGMM of June 20th, 2011.

People of any nationality may now celebrate their marriage on board. Those interested, must provide the following: two (2) witnesses, valid passport for both the couple and witnesses, have the couple, the witnesses and captain execute the Civil Marriage Minute Form and, inform the domicile or country of residence (where the Marriage Certificate will be sent) .

Congratulations and Enjoy!





White List of Paris MOU

32 Countries agree to fight piracy



Representatives of 32 countries including Panama, participating in the “Regional Workshop on Maritime Protection and LRIT System”, agreed that the member States of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), must have greater participation in the implementation of the standards and recommended practices to protect ports, vessels and their crew. It is a fact that piracy creates considerable losses for the maritime trade traffic and it seriously obstructs many commercial activities, which is reflected in the statistics showing 752 cases of maritime piracy including hijacking, robbery and attacks to merchant ships transiting problematic areas such as the Gulf of Aden, located in the Indian Ocean near the coasts of Somalia. From these cases, 48 vessels were Panamanian flagged.

For instance, a tool employed in Panama to fight piracy, was the implementation of the Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) system, which functions the 365 days of the year (24 hours) monitoring more than 7 thousand ships under the Panamanian Registry, as explained by the Panama Maritime Authority, Merchant Marine Deputy Director, Mr. Juan Pablo Fabrega.

The IMO jointly with other international organizations, has developed a set of mandatory and recommended instruments which are part of a comprehensive vision looking to establish a

very delicate balance between the facilitation and the maritime security. Some additional recommendations taking place during the Workshops were the use of technology for the exchange of electronic information, the establishment of agreements for the exchange of such information, the implementation of a “single window” to carry out all processes, optimize the exchange of information and the human resources, among other suggestions.

Moreover, within the frame of the Workshop, all participants had the opportunity to visit the offices of Absolute Maritime Tracking Services (AMTS) where the LRIT system operates. They received an explanation on the benefits of this system as well as its effectiveness. In addition, they also visited the Miraflores Locks as well as the area of the expansion for the Panama Canal. Among some of the participating countries were Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Haiti, Guyana, Dominican Republic, Cuba, United States, Grenada, Chile, Bolivia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



World Maritime Day Parallel Event 2011

Modern piracy is complex and has become a strengthened phenomenon which makes it almost impossible to be effectively prevented solely by a single organization. The United Nations, governments, military forces, shipping companies, ship-owners and their crews have an important role focused to eradicate this crime through the elaboration of an ampler world-wide answer with the aim to end this problem. In this sense, the “World Maritime Day Parallel Event” was celebrated in Rome, Italy from November 12 to 16, 2011.

The Republic of Panama, aware of its responsibility within the shipping industry joined the IMO efforts in the fight against piracy, through the participation and development of multiple activities

against these types of acts both at national and international levels. In this sense, we highlight the following participations in the fight against this flagellum:

To implement Resolution 1950 (2010), Panama in accordance with Resolution’s 1814 (2008), 1816 (2008) and 1846 (2008) of the Safety Council regarding piracy acts and armed robbery against ships that provide humanitarian help to Somalia, has subscribed Agreements of Protection to Panamanian flagged ships with Denmark, France, Norway, Malta, among others, within the World Food Program (WFP) of the United Nations. Likewise, the Panamanian Maritime Administration participated in the 89th Committee of Maritime Safety, where a set of Recommendations for the proper armed safety personnel on board vessels, were adopted (MSC.1/Circ.1405/Rev.1 and MSC.1/Circ.1406/Rev.1) which requires of an additional protection to the ship and its crew while navigating in high risk areas for piracy attacks and armed robbery. Panama also recommended the use of BMP 4 recently disseminated by IMO (MSC.1/Circ.1339).

All of this, combined with the use by our Administration since 2007 of the Long Range Identification and Tracking System (LRIT), through which ships under the Panamanian registry that are in danger zones can be located in real time together with the naval centers of mari-

time traffic control, such as the Maritime Security Centre-Horn of Africa (MSC-HOA) of the EU, and the Maritime Trade Organization of the United Kingdom (UKMTO), which has enormously facilitated the coordination of the naval support to the ships transiting high risk zones.

The Panama Maritime Authority, also has been actively participating in the meetings of the Contact Group against Piracy in the Coasts of Somalia and in Meetings of the Committee of Maritime Safety of the IMO.

In this sense, with all these actions and measures, the Panamanian Administration reaffirms its commitment and responsibility with the maritime community of the world based on the seriousness that has always characterized its management as Flag State, Port State Control and Coastal State. It is also engaged in continuing complying with the international conventions of the IMO, and identifies itself with the fight against any act that threatens the security of navigation, the safety of human life at the sea, as well as the conservation of the marine environment.





White List of Paris MOU

Panama participates in the Marine Accident Investigators' International Forum (MAIIF)

With the purpose to promote, develop and maintain a cooperative relationship among the international maritime researchers of the Marine Accident Investigators' International Forum (MAIIF), as well as improving maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution through the dissemination of information obtained during the investigation process, the Third Marine Accident Investigators' International Forum (MAIIF) was carried out, under the sponsorship of the Directorate General of the Maritime Territory and Merchant Marine of the Chilean Navy in Valparaiso, Chile during September 2011.

Delegations of Canada, the United States, Panama, Antigua & Barbuda, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina as well as a member of the MAIIF from the United Kingdom attended the meeting.

The Chief of the Marine Casualty Investigation Department of the Panama Maritime Authority said: "Let us remember that we have a macro responsibility not only to investigate accidents within the national territory but of the more than 9 thousand vessels that we have registered worldwide, which means that Panama is in right compliance with the International regulations".

The forum encourages greater cooperation among Administrations with respect to the development, recognition, implementation and improvement of international instruments related to cases, sharing experiences and knowledge at international levels. At this version, several issues directly affecting the development of the maritime casualty investigations were discussed.

Research is carried out according to the new Code of International Standards and Recommended Practices for a Safety Investigation into Marine Casualties or Marine Incidents (Casualty Investigation Code) of the International Maritime Organizations (IMO) which is a duty for all registry countries, and it is under this regulation that a common focus is created used as the basis for the different maritime administrations.

During the closing of the Forum, the Chilean representative proposed that Panama be in charge of taking care of the General-Secretary of the Forum in the figure of the Chief of the Marine Casualty Investigation Department of the Panama Maritime Authority, which was unanimously supported by all countries.

As Secretary-General of the Forum, Panama will be in charge of developing a Uniform Process Plan in the field of maritime accidents investigation within the American continent, coordinating the delivery of projects for discussion in the Marine Accident Investigators' International Forum (MAIIF). Besides, it shall promote that the investigations conducted within our region are carried out according to the established in the Code for the Investigation of Marine Casualties and Incidents of the IMO.



Panama Maritime Authority provides training to workers of the Directorate General of Merchant Marine and to members of the international maritime community

The Panama Maritime Authority, aware of the importance of its personnel training and that of the international maritime community members, carried out a series of seminars and workshops on different matters related to the maritime sector such as:

- Loadlines and Tonnage LL;
- Understanding the IMO structure, analyzing and monitoring maritime conventions and meetings;
- Statutory Inspections;
- Regional Seminar on Familiarization with the Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention & Code;

For instance, the Workshop on Loadlines and Tonnage, was carried out by the Central American Commission for Maritime Transportation (COCATRAM) 2011, with a duration of 35 hours by Instructor Eng. Luis Muñoz Vidangossy;

Likewise, the Embassy and Consulate of Panama in Japan jointly with the Panama Maritime Authority, through the Directorate General of Merchant Marine, carried out a Seminar on Maritime Updates in the port city of Imabari and in Tokyo, Japan.

The city of Imabari is a very important port city and shipyard, located 600 kms. to the South of Tokyo and holding since March 2, 1977, the official status of sister city of Panama, given the existing strong maritime connection between both countries.

The purpose was to inform Japanese shipowners about the recent developments within the Panamanian Registry, as well as the future challenges faced by the maritime global industry related to the current uncertainty experienced in the main economies of Europe and the United States.

In this sense, Japan is the number one user of the Panamanian Registry with more than 3,000 vessels navigating under the registry of the Panamanian flag.

The Panamanian delegation led by its General Director of Merchant Marine, Mr. Alfonso Castillero, also included Mr. Reynaldo Garibaldi, Chief of the Maritime Safety and Navigation Department of the Merchant Marine Directorate, Mr. Arsenio Domínguez, Technical Advisor of the Permanent Mission of Panama to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Mrs. Silvana Uribe, Technical Officer of the Segumar Office in Tokyo.

Furthermore, the General Director of Merchant Marine was accompanied by the H.E. Jorge Kosmas Sifaki, Ambassador of Panama in Japan and the Honorable Mr. Alberto Arosemena, General Consul of Panama in Kobe.

This seminar which is celebrated for the first time in Imabari, had the participation of more than 100 shipowners who thanked the participation of the Panamanian delegation and achieved a very fruitful exchange of opinions between the PMA technicians on the maritime services and the Japanese maritime community.

