

SECRETARY GENERAL'S MONTHLY REPORT

October 2013

INTRODUCTION

This month has been a diversion from the normal with no meetings at the IMO this month. There has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes in the HQ office and a major clearance of materials and redundant furniture.

This has further been advanced in the costing of the various parts making up this project. This is explained in full later in this report.

IMO

Although there have been no meetings at the IMO for this month there has been a lot of communication in respect of the position of the IMO and its place as understood by seafarers.

This has been a problem and the IMO is now reviewing how to put its message across and have a more positive understanding by seafarers. The feedback so far received from various sections of the maritime industry has been that seafarers have a very negative attitude to the IMO and its function. The Secretary General and his staff are setting out to reverse this attitude by making sure that their message is understood and supported by seafarers.

SEAFARER REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

This month Roberta has attended the following events on behalf of IFSMA. These were:-

10-October – Service of Thanksgiving organized by the Maritime Foundation at All Hallows by the Tower and 16-October – Annual National Service for Seafarers at St. Paul's Cathedral.

These are important events to commemorate those who have lost their lives working on board ships.

MEETINGS

NGO GROUP MEETING

4 – December - 2013

At IFSMA HQ

The next meeting of this group will take place at lunchtime on the above mentioned date where a number of topics will be discussed. The membership has increased, but a few of the member organizations will not be able to attend. The meeting will be held at lunch time between morning and afternoon sessions of the IMO.

VIDEOTEL

There has been no movement with VIDEOTEL during this month. This has been due to the amount of other work that has been progressed in other areas.

PUKKA FILMS

On-going and progressing a potential project on the Criminalization of the Seafarer. This will take time and has to be looked at carefully from all angles. This is still in the design stage and all potential producers will be looked at when this venture moves to production.

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SEAFARERS' RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL (SRI)

This is an on-going and open ended relationship between both organizations. One of the topics is the project to produce a DVD or equivalent on the subject of the "Criminalization of the Seafarer".

Others topics that are being progressed are criminal cases such as The Master of the Maas Trader in jail in Panama. The Master in jail in Spain who has terminal cancer and was trying to have his sentenced commuted on humanitarian grounds has now been released and is at home with his family. There is also the matter of 2 Masters in prison in Sao Tome and Principe (Gulf of Guinea) – Both Masters were released and repatriated, one ship released but there is still an on-going problem for the crew of the other ship. The Ocean Centurion at Togo – The Master is in jail accused of working with the pirates without verification of legal proceedings.

SRI and IFSMA are working on a number of cases and these are updated regularly in an effort to maximise the effect of both organizations in such matters.

There is also the matter of progressing human rights of seafarers throughout the maritime industry.

Maritime Piracy: Human Response Programme (MPHRP)

All quiet on this front. The only contact has been in connection with the Ocean Centurion case.

NAUTICAL INSTITUTE (NI)

All quiet. There has been no further contact with the NI on possible joint ventures.

GlobalMET

Christer Lindvall, the President of IFSMA, will be attending the GlobalMET meeting after the M&T Conference in Manila at the end of the month. It is hoped to have a report for next month's report.

There are discussions on-going with GlobalMET in respect of a possible one day conference/seminar immediately after the M&T Conference. This would be in conjunction with AMUSOP; updates will follow as this is firmed up.

On 29 October, the President of IFSMA presented a letter of support to GlobalMET to be included in the dossier for presentation to the Asian Development Bank. IFSMA has also given its support to GlobalMET for the project titled "The Human Resource Development in the Maritime Sector in Asia and the Pacific".

INTERNATIONAL MARINE PILOTS' ASSOCIATION (IMPA)

IMPA and IFSMA are exploring how to work together on different matters and support each other where appropriate. This will have to be re-defined in line with the decision reached by ExCo as per the meeting of 24-25 September.

Safety4Sea Forum

This was a successful event and a lot of networking and meetings took place. It is hoped to have Greek Masters as members by the end of the year. This breakthrough is separate from the current Master Mariner Association in Greece.

At this forum the Project MARTHA was presented and placed on the organiser's website for interrogation and links.

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Hanson Wade Conference – Security in Challenging Environments (28-31 October)

IFSMA has been invited to speak at and also take part in plenary sessions at this conference which is being held in London. Development on speaking papers and this matter will be circulated later.

This has now been set back to January 2014 due to demand for attendance. Updates will continue until the conference takes place.

Ship Master Professional Indemnity Insurance

As a result of the ExCo meeting this is not to be progressed and Willi Wittig Vice President will continue with this matter. It is hoped that this project can come to fruition as it is apparent that criminalization of the seafarer and in particular the Shipmaster is increasing. It is hoped that regular updates will be presented so that progress can be monitored by members.

Project MARTHA

IFSMA is now a stakeholder in this project which will move the agenda of the Project Horizon onto the next level. The IFMSA Sec Gen is the contact person and will report on the progress of this project and any input made.

As stated above, the presentation of the project was made at Athens at the beginning of the month.

MEMBERSHIP

Malta

This is now being progressed and will be on-going over the next few months. This will never be a large branch, but it is important to have a presence with Malta being one of the largest flags.

Venezuela

IFSMA has been approached by Masters from Venezuela to initiate negotiations in respect of the Master Mariners Association in Venezuela to join IFMSA. These negotiations are at an early stage and it is hoped that the negotiations can be successful.

Panama

There has been an approach from a member in Panama about reconvening the branch there. There has been some communication but currently everything has gone quiet. We will wait and see and pursue this after the summer.

Union of Myanmar (Burma)

There has been sporadic correspondence with this organization and all that can be done is to see if it will move forward or not. The Secretariat have done all that they can in respect of this matter.

Outstanding Fees

As of the end of September there is only one outstanding Association. This has been dealt with at the ExCo Meeting of 24 and 25 September and will appear in a separate report.

AGA 40 - Sandefjord, Norway

The date has been set for 5 and 6 June 2014. It is recommended that everyone who wishes to attend should ensure that Head Office is informed of your intention to attend. Arrangements for travel and costs are being set up and this will be circulated to all to ensure that they are aware of the implications before attending.

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There will be a lot to cover at this AGA, with all of the ExCo members standing down and all positions open for voting on. Some of the current members have expressed that they will be putting themselves forward for re-election.

A Call for Papers was made on 15 October. It is hoped that there will be a positive response to this request. An early response was requested so that the papers can be presented to the ExCo meeting in February 2014 for final selection.

Review of Statutes and Bye-Laws

There will be no review and updates to the Statutes and Bye-laws and they will remain the same as before.

Renovation of HQ

This will be moving forward at this time cost and time will be found before a final plan is presented to the Executive Council for approval.

The proposed planning of this major work has been brought together with the final meetings being held on the week beginning the 28th October. The ExCo members are being given a copy of the breakdown of the costs and IFSMA's final contribution for the work. CIRM are prepared to make a major contribution to this work to reduce IFSMA's outlay.

The major points in this project are structural changes to the office; complete redecoration; complete renewal of flooring. New electrical installations/wiring; updating communications for fibre optic broadband and telephone lines. Replacement office furniture

There will also be a seating area for members visiting the office.

No work will be commenced without the relevant approval being received.

RETIREMENT

It is with sadness that Mrs Roberta Howlett will be retiring in December after a number of years with IFSMA. Roberta has been the powerhouse behind the organization's administration and daily running of the office. Her workload has been varied and she has met every task given to her from organizing the recent Honorary Members' lunch and the on-going ExCo meetings to registering members for attendance at the IMO.

I would request everyone to send a short message to Roberta thanking her for all the support she has given to everyone over the years with IFSMA.