

# FLAGSHIP

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**NEWS FROM  
THE WORLD'S  
LEADING SHIP  
REGISTRY**

## Liberia provides lead on BWM convention amendment

The Liberian Maritime Administration is leading a proposal to allow certain ships additional time beyond 2020 to install adequate ballast water management systems as required under the Ballast Water Management Convention, which comes into force in September 2017.

The current IMO guidelines are not sufficiently detailed to ensure that BWM systems have been adequately challenged to provide the necessary confidence that they will meet the required discharge performance standard. Liberia and other industry representatives at the October meeting of the IMO Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) in London were able to garner sufficient support to re-visit the installation deadline through alternative proposals to amend the convention.

David Pascoe, Senior Vice-President, Operations & Standards at the Liberian Registry, says, "The revised approval guidelines are expected to be roughly aligned with the robust type-approval regime of the United States. But there are no BWM systems currently approved by the U.S., and it could take several years for equipment approved under the new IMO guidelines to be readily available for installation. In the meantime, tens of thousands of ships may be

required to install existing systems that may not fully comply with the convention standards.

"In order to allow more time for new systems to become available and for shipowners to decide which system to invest in and install, Liberia has proposed that shipowners may decide if they wish to renew a ship's IOPP certificate earlier than scheduled in order to have an additional 4-to-5 years to see if new equipment becomes available.

"It is by no means certain that adequate new systems will be commercially available in sufficient quantities within this period, and the dockyard capacity to fit systems on board ships will fall well short of peak demand, expected to occur in 2020-2021.

"It would therefore seem reasonable not to require continued installation of BWM systems which have not been approved under the new guidelines and to allow certain ships additional time beyond 2020 in order to ensure that adequate new systems are commercially available, along with the necessary dockyard space for installation."

The next MEPC meeting, at which Liberia's proposal will be considered, is scheduled for the first-half of 2017.

## New LMA Commissioner appointed



**Dr. James F. Kollie Jr.** has been appointed Commissioner of the Liberian Maritime Authority. He most recently served as Deputy Minister for

Fiscal Affairs at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning of the Republic of Liberia. Other government positions he has occupied include Deputy Minister for Revenues (2012) and Acting Deputy Minister for Regional and Sectoral Planning (2011).

Dr. Kollie possesses a unique combination of practical experience of the private, non-profit, and public sectors.



## Liberia showcases electronic ORB in Germany

There was an impressive turnout in Hamburg when the Liberian Registry showcased its new and innovative electronic oil record book software, e-ORB. Leading members of the German maritime community who attended the presentation exhibited a high level of interest in the software, the development of which underlines once again Liberia's position as the world's most innovative ship registry.



LISCR CEO Scott Bergeron attended the recent naming and delivery ceremony for the bulk carrier "Kang May", the first of six Foremost Group vessels being built at Oshima Shipyard in Japan and flagged with Liberia.

## Liberia says flag states must be more than certification factories

**A**lfonso Castellero, Vice-President of the Liberian Registry, told a recent Port State Control seminar in Tokyo, "In the current difficult market conditions, flag states can no longer afford to regard themselves as mere factories for issuing registration certificates. It is necessary to evolve and to embrace new challenges. Shipping registers need to combine quality and innovation with tradition, experience, reputation and flexibility."

The objective of the seminar, which was attended by representatives of the Australian Maritime Safety Agency (AMSA), was to promote among clients of the Liberian Registry a clear understanding of the Port State Control process in Australia, so that owners, operators, and managers can achieve full compliance with – and facilitate efficient inspections under – Australia's PSC regime.

Benson Peretti, Managing Director of the Liberian Registry's Singapore office, outlined for the seminar the Liberian Registry's PSC results for the year to date, showing a major reduction in detentions in China, Australia, and the United States, thanks in large part to the free compliance assistance programmes being implemented by Liberia. And Takeshi Okamoto, General Manager of LISCR Japan, explained how and why the Liberian Registry is leading the global campaign to seek an extension to the implementation date for the Ballast Water Management Convention.

The seminar was attended by over one hundred industry professionals, including Liberian flag clients and potential clients looking to switch flags or register new vessels under the Liberian flag. The mood of the seminar was summed up by the chief executive of one leading Japanese shipowner who emphasised, "We must comply with all international regulations, and that is why we need a flag that will always stand beside us."

## LET LIBERIA INTERVENE

★ When a three-year-old, 33,000 gt Liberian-flag bulk carrier was recently detained in a French port, one of the Registry's inspectors boarded the vessel in order to verify or challenge the on-board non-conformities which had been noted. Liberia's inspector was able to prove to the satisfaction of Rightship inspectors that the detention was not valid, and the vessel was duly released, with its five-star rating restored.

## LISCR-sponsored Dragon Boat Race raises GOSH funds



A team from the Liberian Registry recently put in a very creditable performance while competing in the OSCAR Dragon Boat Race 2016 in London, an event which the Registry also co-sponsored. The OSCAR campaign is a fundraising partnership uniting the international shipping community to raise funds at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) and the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health (ICH). The event brought in £125,674 for the OSCAR Campaign, which has now raised a total of over £1.5m. Liberia's team may not have won the event, but everybody was a winner on what was a very enjoyable day.



Hilary Spilkin, Managing Director of the Liberian Corporate Registry, updated attendees at the recent Liberian Corporate Seminar in Athens, Greece, on issues involving the OECD Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for tax purposes. Guest speakers at the seminar included Margaret Ansumana, Senior Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs & Deputy Corporate Registrar, Steven Hollander, Watson Farley & Williams LLP, and Michalis Pantazopoulos, Senior Vice-President, LISCR Piraeus.



Hara Gisholt, the Liberian Registry's VP of Business & Legal Affairs, and Hilary Spilkin, Managing Director of the Liberian Corporate Registry, attended Marine Money's 17th Annual Ship Finance Forum in New York City recently. Hara is pictured introducing Jay Goodgal, Managing Member at Castalia Advisors LLC. Photos courtesy of John Galayda.



Pictured is the newly built LNG carrier "Maria Energy", the most technologically advanced LNG newbuilding registered with Liberia. The vessel was built by Hyundai Heavy Industries Co Ltd in South Korea, and was recently delivered to its principal owner, Tsakos Energy Navigation.



The Liberian Registry was this year's Gold Sponsor for the Hansa Forum which took place at the Grand Elysee Hotel in Hamburg, in November. This year's forum was well-attended by national and international guests and was a great platform from which to demonstrate the Liberian Registry's support for the worldwide shipping community. Pictured left to right are: LISCR Hamburg's Merle Stilkenbaeumer, Director Business Development & Quality Assurance Hamburg, and Antonia Kirchmann, Deputy Manager Business Development & Client Relationship

## Liberia trials class and statutory e-certificates on ClassNK ships

The Liberian Registry has launched operational trials for electronic certificates covering both statutory and class regulations.

Having initiated the practice of issuing electronic statutory certificates such as Minimum Safe Manning, Civil Liability Convention and Registration Certificates for several years, the Liberian Registry has now started trials on ships classed by Japanese classification society ClassNK for the statutory certificates that it issues on behalf of Liberia. The new e-certificates will have a two-fold benefit for owners and operators. They will significantly reduce the administrative burden associated with handling and managing traditional paper certificates, while facilitating the onboard retrieval of certificated data.

The Liberian Registry began issuing electronic certificates in respect of regulatory compliance in a format developed in accordance with the updated

*Guidelines for the Use of Electronic Certificates* issued by IMO. Once again, it provided an industry lead in this respect, as it has done now with the extension of the e-certificate initiative to include class requirements.

Scott Bergeron, CEO of the Liberian International Ship & Corporate Registry (LISCR), the U.S.-based manager of the Liberian Registry, says, "Liberia's intention is always to make regulatory compliance easier and more cost-effective for shipowners and operators. Look at what we have been doing for years in terms of harmonizing ISM and ISPS audits, for example.

"Starting to move towards a system based on the use of e-certificates which can be verified online is the logical next step in the technological transformation of ship registration, and indeed of shipping generally. It will also help to reduce the incidence of fraud and manipulated data.



The Tokyo seminar was led by Alfonso Castellero, representing the Liberian Registry.

## Liberia hosts shipmanagement seminars in Japan

A number of leading shipowners, managers and operators attended three recent ship management seminars in Japan organised jointly by the Liberian Registry, RightShip and ClassNK. The seminars were held in Tokyo, Kobe and Imabari.

LISCR's presentations covered every aspect of the Liberian Registry's services, including the extended drydocking programme, the recent initiative on China port dues, and the new oil record book software. RightShip was able to provide an update on predictive analysis and its next-generation vetting tool, RightShip Qi, as well as Greenhouse Gas Emissions Rating. ClassNK, meanwhile, covered topical issues arising out of the Port State Control regime.

## Another successful ISM/ISPS auditor course in Greece

The Liberian Registry completed another back-to-back ISM/ISPS Flag Auditor and MLC 2006 Flag Inspector Course in Piraeus, Greece, where 27 candidates trained to become ISM-ISPS Auditors, and 25 to become Maritime Labour Inspectors. Participants in the courses constituted new and current inspectors from Australia, New Zealand, USA, Uruguay, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Ivory Coast, Taiwan, Philippines, Pakistan, China, Brazil, India, Luxembourg, Egypt, Mexico, and the UAE.

As with previous courses, the ISM-ISPS course discussions and lectures were facilitated by both Mike Symons and Al Romero. The ILO-MLC 2006 Inspector Course, meanwhile, was conducted by Cedric D'Souza and Al Romero. Overall, the objective of providing efficient and supervised training to Liberia's inspectors and auditors was successfully met.

## ON THE REGISTER

The Liberian Registry has made strategic new appointments in a number of key areas within its global network of offices.



Chief Marine Surveyor with the Virgin Islands Shipping Registry.

**Gerard Kenny** has been appointed Technical Manager of the Liberian Registry's **London** office, where he will primarily serve as a technical adviser to Liberian delegations to the IMO.

Gerard was most recently



**Rafael Cigarruista** has been appointed Manager of the Registry's regional office in **Panama** which, in common with other flags, Liberia established to provide direct services to ships transiting the Panama Canal.



**Pinar Saglam** has been appointed Corporate & Registrations Co-ordinator for the Liberian Registry's office in **Istanbul**. She will be closely involved in daily operations and will also serve as a Special Agent for the Registry.



In the **U.S.**, meanwhile, former USCG inspector **Josiah Toepfer** has been appointed Manager, Vessel & Company Compliance in the Registry's Virginia headquarters. His chief role will be to ensure compliance with Port State Control regulations. And



**Kevin Smith** has been appointed Manager for Vessel Compliance in the Registry's Houston office. Kevin will oversee the regulatory compliance of vessels and managers operating in the Gulf of Mexico.



# NEWS FROM THE WORLD'S LEADING SHIP REGISTRY

## THE LIBERIAN REGISTRY WORLD-WIDE OFFICES

### HEADQUARTERS: VIRGINIA, USA

Mr. Adam Cohen  
LISCR Co-Chairman  
Tel: + 1 703 251 2408

Mr. Elan Cohen  
LISCR Co-Chairman  
Tel: + 1 703 251 2408

Scott Bergeron  
Chief Executive Officer  
Tel: +1 703 790 3434

#### New York, USA

Tel: +1 212 697 3434  
Greg Maj, General Manager  
registration@liscr.com

#### Monrovia, Liberia

Tel: +231 77 000 400  
Joseph Keller, Executive Vice President  
info@liscr.com

#### Singapore

Tel: +65 6323 1048  
Benson Peretti, General Manager  
info@liscr.sg

#### Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Tel: +9714 3452541  
Sunil Jaitly, Regional Director  
infoDubai@liscr.com

#### Panama City, Panama

Tel: +50767809332  
Alfonso Castillero, Vice President  
infoPanama@liscr.com

#### Tokyo, Japan

Tel: +81 3 5419 7001  
Shigeki Fukuda, President  
Takeshi Okamoto, Managing Director  
info@liscr-japan.com

#### Hamburg, Germany

Tel: +49 40 35 00 4660  
Carsten Gierga, Managing Director  
info@liscr.de

#### Piraeus, Greece

Tel: +30 210 452 9670  
Michalis Pantazopoulos, Senior Vice President  
info@liscr.gr

#### Zurich, Switzerland

Tel: +41 44 250 8650  
Felizia Lieber, Corporate Manager  
info@liscr.ch

#### Hong Kong

Tel: +852 2810 1068  
Gerry Buchanan, Managing Director  
liscrfe@liscr.com.hk

#### Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Tel: +55 21 9978 72736  
John Goes, Regional Representative  
infoBrazil@liscr.com

#### Istanbul, Turkey

Tel: +90 216 688 37 56  
Erhan Esinduy,  
Regional Representative  
infoTurkey@liscr.com

#### Seoul, South Korea

Tel: +82 70 7518 9139  
Chelios (Chi-Hun) Lee, General Manager  
info@liscr.kr

#### After Hours

**Emergency Contact**  
Tel: +1 703 963 6216  
DutyOfficer@liscr.com

#### London, UK

Tel: +44 (0)20 7702 4752  
Kostas Ladas, General Manager  
info@liscr.co.uk

#### Shanghai, China

Tel: +86 21 5258 8082  
Alex Ye, General Manager  
infoShanghai@liscr.com

#### Editorial consultants

Merlin Corporate  
Communication

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**LIBERIAN REGISTRY**

8619 Westwood Center Drive, Suite 300, Vienna, Virginia 22182 USA

[www.liscr.com](http://www.liscr.com)

