

ASPECTS

HOUSE JOURNAL OF THE ASP SHIPS GROUP

ISSUE: **April 2024**





From the desk of
David Borcoski
Group Managing
Director & CEO

Since the last edition we have continued to be kept busy including managing surveys and dockings across our fleets and this year is passing quickly again as we enter the end of the first quarter.

Vessel performance remains high on our agenda as we look at various options to reduce CO₂ emissions and improve CII ratings.

The introduction of our Vessel Dashboard system will also assist, through continuous monitoring, in highlighting vessel performance opportunities.

We continue to address various issues within our industry including equality, diversity and inclusion and I am pleased to confirm we are now Members of the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) representing a significant milestone in our commitment to upholding ethical standards within the maritime sector.

You will see that we continue to have interesting stories across our Crew Management and Training divisions as well as an update on travel news from Mariner Travel.

As always, please keep providing us with your stories and experiences.

Enjoy the read!

ASPECTS

House Journal of the ASP Ships Group

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Cover Image:

ASL Leban

taken by
Janarathanan Sengottaian,
Chief Officer

ASP introduces DASHBOARDS



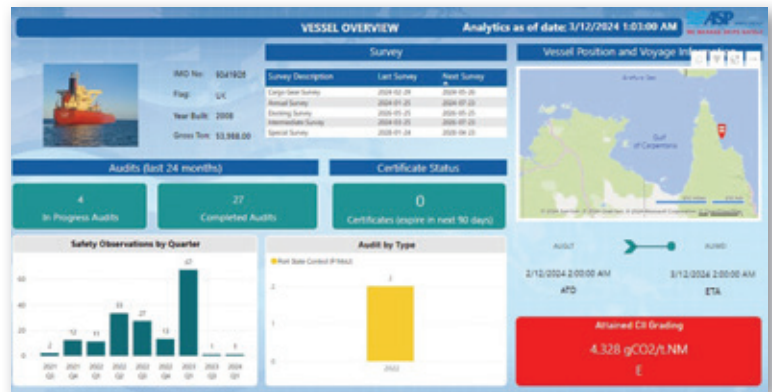
ASP Ships Group are excited to announce the introduction of Vessel Dashboards.

The new dashboard system offers a comprehensive high-level overview of vessel performance, safety, crewing and finance, making it simple to understand data in a visually compelling way.

The dashboard system will allow monitoring of owned and managed vessels and proactively address performance opportunities as well as management of audits, surveys, crew changes, financials and have a high-level overview of the vessel safety status.

The overview page shows the vessel position together with survey dates, audits and safety observations and the attained CII rating for the current year.

Project Manager, Andrew MacLeod, said: **“We are looking forward to making the system available fleet wide soon as we progress the launch, currently operational for *Sandro* and *Meissa*, in order to achieve maximum potential and benefit of the product.”**



From here you can navigate to Vessel Performance, Safety, Crewing and Operational Expenses.



IWI BLESSING of bunker tanker *Kokako* in Wellington

On the 19th of March, 2024, crew and invited guests assembled on-board *Kokako* for an Iwi blessing. The blessing was carried out by Mr. Peter Jackson (*pictured above*) representing Te Atiawa Taranaki Whanui. Peter provided an outline of the blessing and then proceeded to bless the vessel and her crew, through a Karakia which are prayers to acknowledge and affirm spiritual guidance and protection.

ASP Australia CEO, Mark Patman (*inset*), then thanked Peter for the blessing, the Maritime Union of New Zealand for their arrangements on the day, all assembled stake holders for their support of the vessel and in particular, our valued client BP Marine for their vision to bring a bunker tanker service to Wellington.



Mark concluded thanking the vessel's crew for their efforts and ongoing commitments to ensuring that a safe and efficient bunker tanker service is provided.

Peter then concluded the Iwi blessing and lunch was enjoyed with the crew. We acknowledge and thank the Marine Union of New Zealand for supplying the lunch and the vessel's crew for their arrangements on the day.



AUSTRALIAN CREW CONTRACT for LNG tanker *Woodside Goode*

ASP Ship Management in Australia has signed a crew management agreement with Woodside Energy and Maran Gas Maritime of Athens to supply up to 75 Australian crew to the LNG tanker *Woodside Goode*.

The vessel is operated by Maran Gas and is on time charter to Woodside Energy for the carriage of LNG cargoes from North West Australia.

Woodside CEO Meg O'Neill said the agreement for the time charter of the vessel would support the security of supply that underpins Woodside's reputation globally as a reliable supplier of LNG, while also providing employment opportunities for Australian-based seafarers.

"This agreement reflects our shared interest with unions in ensuring continued opportunities for employment across all aspects of the LNG industry, including shipping and recognises the Australian Government's interest in strengthening maritime supply chains," Meg said.

The National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia, Paddy Crumlin said: **"LNG shipping has provided many Australian seafarers with rewarding and fulfilling employment, working in the national economic and strategic interest of all Australians, for many decades, the skills and employment base that the LNG trade provides our industry cannot be understated, and we look forward to building on this and offering more Australian workers the chance to pursue a life at sea."**

The Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers Federal President Martin Byrne welcomed the agreement and said the parties have also agreed to hold further discussions in good faith with an intent to explore expanding the agreement across future marine operations. **"This is an agreement which lays the foundation for long-term future co-operation in the offshore maritime sector,"** he said.

The Australian Maritime Officers Union Executive Officer Mark Davis said: **"The continuity of employment for highly skilled and experienced LNG ships' officers will benefit all parties to the new arrangement and the opportunity for new trainees to gain international gas ship experience will be invaluable."**

ASP are currently working with Woodside, Maran Gas and the three Maritime Unions on a thorough recruitment and selection process of crew for the vessel.

Once selection is completed, officers will attend the Maran Gas training centre in Athens to undertake competency assessments and simulator training as well as other vessel through training such as Bridge Resource Management, ECDIS, Engine Resource Management etc.

ASP looks forward to working with Woodside, Maran Gas and our crew for the successful and safe operations of the LNG tanker, *Woodside Goode*.

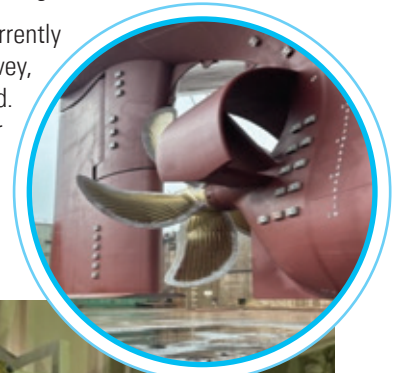


RTM WEIPA 3rd Special Survey – Qingdao



The *RTM Weipa*, which is an ASP Singapore managed and Rio Tinto owned vessel and is engaged in the Bauxite trade between the ports of Weipa, Amrun and Gladstone in Australia, successfully completed her 3rd Special Survey at the Qingdao Beihai Shipyard in China from the 20th of July to the 25th of August 2023.

During the 36 day docking of the vessel, concurrently with the scheduled repairs of the 3rd Special Survey, two main retrofitting projects were also completed. The first was the installation of a new ballast water treatment system by Techcross and the second was the installation of new energy saving devices to the vessel like the new Nakashima GPX propeller with a propeller boss cap fin and the Mewis duct (*inset*).



This was the second vessel in the series of the ASP managed and RTM owned fleet that underwent its 3rd Special Survey in 2023. Mr. Max McColl who is the Ship Manager for the vessels and is based in the ASP Gladstone office, together with the Fleet Manager Mr.

Ankush Khanna who is based in the ASP Singapore office, spearheaded the project and were assisted by Mr. Leeping Kang and Mr. Du as Owner's Representatives in China. The ship's team was led by Capt Michael Bender and Chief Engineer Karl Grime.

RIGHT: New Ballast water treatment system by Techcross.



Apart from the completion of the Special Survey, the other tasks involved hydro-blasting and painting of the entire hull, tail shaft removal, standard cargo gear maintenance and overhauling, steel repairs, installation of a new gyro, main and auxiliary engine overhauls, boiler survey, a complete boiler tube stack renewal, new carpeting and re-tiling of all the wash rooms in the cabins.



X-PRESS KAVERI 3rd Special Survey – Tersan

The *X-Press Kaveri* is a container vessel with a nominal capacity of 1,577 TEU, delivered from Imabari Shipyard on the 18th of September 2008. Owned by Eastaway and chartered by X-Press Feeders, the vessel is under full management of ASP Ship Management Pte Ltd, Singapore. She is flagged under Singapore and classed with ABS.

The *X-Press Kaveri* was scheduled to undergo its 3rd Special and Docking Survey in September of 2023, however, it was decided that the vessel would go in for an early docking for change in her liner service route to Europe and then be followed by the US East coast.

After getting quotes from various Turkish yards, it was decided to carry out the docking at Tersan Shipyard, Turkey. The vessel arrived at Tersan Shipyard, Turkey on the 26th of June 2023.

The major works were hull painting (Silicon), cargo hold painting, main deck upgrade, hatch cover steel and seals renewal, crane sheaves and wire renewal, bow thruster 5 yearly service, main engine overhaul and servicing (BMS, governor, pneumatic system, and alpha lubricator 5 yearly). New installation of an Alfa Laval ballast water treatment system and energy savings devices (PSV, PBCF and rudder bulb). The stern tube and bow thruster seals were changed to Bio-seals and Bio-lubricating oils so that the vessel could trade in US waters.

Even with the challenges faced during the stay at the shipyard, the jobs were completed to the satisfaction of ABS. We are pleased to inform that the project was completed with no LTI or other incident in the whole period of docking which took a total of 51 days. The ship crew worked relentlessly to complete all other maintenance during this downtime including all the machinery CMS Surveys.

The vessel sailed out from the yard and was delivered to the owners on the 15th August 2023 and subsequently delivered to the Charterers on the 17th August at Piraeus, Greece.

ASP premier client: ABO SHOTEN LTD.



Freshly painted *ASL Luna* leaving Ruitai shipyard.

Being a Ship Manager for a Japanese ship owner has always had a special significance in the maritime industry for the operational standards and ethics observed.

Abo Shoten's motto 'Trust is our Treasure' flashes as soon as their web page is opened.

ASP India has been managing bulk carriers of Abo Shoten for over six years.

Docking of *ASL Luna*

On 18th September 2023, *ASL Luna* was dry-docked for the 3rd Intermediate Survey, routine repairs and maintenance. Ruitai shipyard at Nantong was chosen after deliberations. The docking was completed as per schedule, in a 15 day period and within budget.

The Owner's superintendent, Mr. Karni Sing and Mr. Tatsuhiro Teraoka san, attended the docking along with ASP Ship Manager Mr. Bharat Shriram which was of great help.

Owners' visits on-board

During vessel calls to Japanese ports, the ASL team has been taking time out from their office duties and visiting the vessels.

These visits have been very valuable and contributory in every sense. The involvement of the ASL team has not only been inspiring but morale boosting for the Master and his crew.

Recent visits to *ASL Era* and *ASL Luna*

The Owner's team visited *ASL Era* on 6th February 2024 at Mizushima. They inspected the ship and interacted with the ship staff at length.

Within a short span of time, the Owner's team also visited *ASL Luna* on 26th February at Tokuyama. Their presence along with a service engineer for Hatch Cover packing inspection was of immense help.



Upcoming projects

ASL Leban is expected to be dry-docked in May 2024 for the 2nd Special Survey and *ASL Era* is expected to be dry-docked in April 2024 for its 2nd Special Survey too, when an Exhaust Gas Cleaning System/Scrubber will be retrofitted.

AMVER News

The United States Coast Guard has awarded *ASL Luna* for its invaluable support for the AMVER system, providing a worldwide safety network to assist search and rescue coordination in responding to emergencies at sea.



The vessel contributed another record-breaking year at AMVER. ASP takes pride in the commitment of its officers and crews to the safety of life at sea.

BELOW: *ASL Luna* – from Left; Capt Rajesh Kattalath, C/E Bui The, Ms. Teruyo Morikazu san, Service engineer Mr. Miyazaki san and Mr. Yuri Wada san.



LEFT:

ASL Era – from left; Mr. Yuri Wada san, Ms Yukari Kashino san and Ms Teruyo Morikazu san. In the centre, Capt Mathew in overalls and headgear next to Ms Jing Zhou san, Supt. Mr. Bharat Shriram, Ch. Eng. Mr Gokulnath Prabhu along with the good team of *ASL Era*.

Langh Ship NEW BUILDING PROJECT for ASP Crew Management Philippines

ASP CMS Manila has embarked on a significant journey by teaming up with Langh Ship to manage the first IGF (Dual Fuel) 7,800 DWT Newbuild, *MS Lovisa*. The naming ceremony for this vessel took place at Wuhu Shipyard on November 1, 2023, where our takeover team, led by Chief Officer Franciss Saron (*inset*), had the privilege of witnessing this momentous occasion.

A few months after acquiring *MS Lovisa*, we celebrated another milestone with the naming ceremony of *MS Olivia* (*RIGHT*), the second vessel in Langh Ship's series of three 7,800 DWT multi-purpose vessels, attended by Vitalii Chaika, ASP Ships Group Crewing Director on January 22, 2024.

Once again, ASP Philippines Crew Team led by CO Saron attended the ceremony at Wuhu Shipyard, further solidifying our partnership with Langh Ship and marking a new chapter in our collaboration.

These remarkable events serve as a testament to the enduring relationship we have cultivated with Langh Ship, highlighting our commitment to mutual success and cooperation. As we prepare for upcoming takeovers, we eagerly look forward to strengthening our ties and fostering even deeper collaboration for the future.



Embracing a NEW VOYAGE

by Chief Officer Franciss Saron

For the past thirteen years, I have traversed the busy streets of Quirino and L. Guinto, marking the course of my seafaring career from a young cadet to a management-level deck officer. These streets have borne witness to the progression of my professional journey.

In a pivotal moment, I assumed the role of Chief Officer aboard one of Langh Ship's vessels, *M/S Christina*. A routine change on the vessel, initially perceived as a challenge, but ultimately revealed as a fortuitous blessing.

An email from the Owner of Langh Ships unveiled the next chapter in my career, a summons to partake in the New Building vessel in China as the Chief Officer.

Venturing beyond my comfort zone was no small task, and the weeks of contemplation during my vacation were filled with reflection until I received a call from Ms. Sheena Suganob of ASP. Her approachability and seamless discussions set the stage for a significant shift in my career.

The transition to ASP Crew Management materialized as I crossed the threshold of their Manila office, evoking a profound sense of connection and mutual trust that permeated the atmosphere. Stepping into their office and engaging with the staff, I encountered a tangible aura of warmth, teamwork, and common purpose.

May favourable winds and calm seas accompany us all as we embark on this new chapter brimming with success, growth, and shared accomplishments. May the path ahead be as promising as the horizon that stretches out before us.



Langh Ship naming: OLIVIA

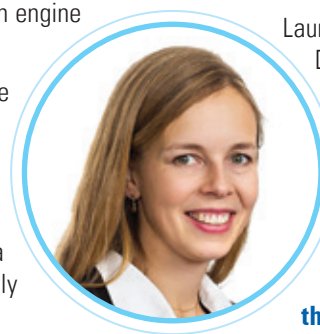
Vitalii Chaika, ASP Ships Crewing Director attended the naming ceremony of the second vessel of Langh Ship’s series of three 7,800 dwt multipurpose vessels on 22nd January 2024. The vessel was named *Olivia* during the naming ceremony that was arranged in Ningbo in China. The vessel’s godmother, Miss Natalie Ella Olivia Toivola, had the honour of cutting the ribbon to release the champagne bottle. Natalie is the god-daughter of Langh Ship’s Managing Director Laura Langh-Lagerlöf.

Olivia is built at the Wuhu Shipyard in China. The modern technology and advanced solutions for reducing emissions make the vessel a forerunner and support Langh Ship’s goal to offer zero emission sea transports. The vessel *Olivia* is equipped with a BWMS (Ballast Water Management System), developed by Langh Tech for preventing the spread of invasive species through the ballast water, which is carried in the vessels tanks. The vessel features one 9L34 dual-fuel main engine from Finland’s Wartsila, as well as FGSS from Korean maker Gas Entec.

This series of three vessels is dedicated to Langh Ship’s longstanding trade of carrying steel coils from Finland to central Europe for Finnish stainless-steel producer Outokumpu. Return cargo is recycled stainless steel and other products in bulk. The tailored cargo carriage solutions for steel coils are developed in house by Langh Ship. Through the introduction of the cradle tween decks already over 20 years ago the safety of sea transport of steel coils changed dramatically. The cargo is carried safely and without damage.



ABOVE: Miss Natalie Ella Olivia Toivola, the vessel’s godmother.



Laura Langh-Lagerlöf, Managing Director at Langh Group said to *ASPECTS*: **“We have cooperated with ASP Ships Group already for several years and will now deepen the cooperation on the newbuildings where ASP will provide crew members from the Philippines”.**



Group image ABOVE:

Standing (from left to right) – Able Seaman Iman Merlin Pacho, Vitalii Chaika (ASP Group Crewing Director), Capt Olli Vesanto, Chief Engineer Jarmo Jylhä, Chief Officer Franciss Saron, 2nd Engineer Andrew Del Socorro and Bosun Jose Marte Saagundo.

Down Below (from left to right) - Chief Cook Ernesto Suganob Jr., 2nd Officer Ian Albert Nayga, Ms Laura Langh-Lagerlöf (Langh Ship Managing Director), Able Seaman Charles Brian Ido, Electrician Climaco Mercado Jr.

LEFT: Vitalii and his wife Anna joined *Olivia* and Capt Olli Vesanto during a Singapore bunker call en route to Europe.

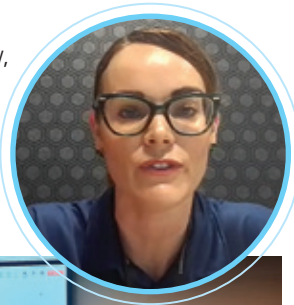


RIO TINTO ASP Sea Staff Conference

A two-day Sea Staff Conference was held in Melbourne at the Pullman-Albert Park on the 6th and 7th of March, 2024. The conference was attended by 16 sea staff from the ASP managed Rio Tinto Marine (RTM) fleet. Senior members from RTM Management and ASP Group Management staff also attended the conference.

A diverse range of topics tailored to address concerns and challenges faced by the sea staff were discussed. While placing a strong emphasis on fostering a culture of safety and resilience at sea, the seminar also focused on leadership, workplace culture, inclusivity, and the mental wellbeing of seafarers.

In his welcome address, Adrian Whatley, ASP Group Commercial & Finance Director, thanked the sea staff for their efforts and dedication which is a key factor in the safe and efficient operation of the fleet.



Hollie Scoon – General Manager Marine (*inset*), Santosh Kalyanaraman – Manager, Fleet and Dan Jenkins – Fleet Management Supervisor from RTM addressed the gathering.

Santosh Kalyanaraman said, **“The crew seminar proved to be a vibrant and engaging forum, where participants eagerly shared their insights and perspectives. In-depth discussions on the Safety Maturity Model not only provided valuable insights into its fundamental principles and practical applications but also ensured that every attendee departed with a comprehensive grasp of its significance and effective implementation strategies. Additionally, the seminar allowed us to express heartfelt appreciation for the dedicated efforts of our staff, reinforcing our shared commitment to achieving ‘Zero injuries’. This reiterated the necessity of cultivating a culture of vigilance and proactive measures to safeguard the well-being of all crew members”.**

Topics over the two-day seminar included presentations on Workplace Culture by Chris Egan (Partner, HWL Ebsworth Lawyers) and on Attraction & Retention of Indigenous Workforce by Jodi Sampson (Corporate Culcha).

Jake Blenkinsop of Hunterlink (ASP’s Employee Assistance Provider), Melanie Parker of MP Safety and Reuven Blecher of Insignia Financial also added to the wide range of topics discussed.

The Safety Maturity Model (SMM), Vessel CII ratings and vessel performance was also discussed.

The seminar, through the many interactive sessions provided a conducive environment for sharing of thoughts and providing feedback.

Voyage to China for RTM WAKMATHA

RTM Wakmatha left the coast for an international voyage to China in its efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions.

The *RTM Wakmatha* was nominated for a Bauxite export voyage to China. She left the Australian coast and her normal operations area in the first week of October 2023.

One of the main purposes of the voyage was to improve the vessel's CII rating and to align the vessel's emission reductions with the Rio Tinto CO₂ reduction goals.

Long voyages are highly favourable in the CII calculation because they result in fewer voyages in a given year, and therefore less time in port where the ship emits CO₂ from the generators but does not accumulate miles run in the denominator of the CII equation.

Another purpose of the voyage to China was to clean the hull and propeller effectively and economically. The speed and drag of the vessel can have a significant impact on its carbon emissions. One of the most tangible ways that can improve our vessels' CII rating is by ensuring that they are kept clean and free from fouling. Fouling can cause drag and increase fuel consumption, leading to higher carbon emissions. Reports show that a slime layer could trigger up to 25% increase in GHG emissions. A clean and well-kept hull will not only cut emissions but will also save a lot of money and time.



The *RTM Wakmatha* is fitted with energy-saving devices (new Nakashima GPX propeller with PBCF and Mewis duct which were fitted in the last dry dock in December of 2022) and high-performance paint has been applied in the last dry dock.

The vessel has been using the WATSILA FOS reporting tool which can be used effectively to monitor the vessel performance and emission levels throughout the voyage.

ITF agreement for SEA CRUISER 2

In the dynamic world of maritime operations, the relationship between shipping operators and trade unions affiliated to the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) plays a crucial role in shaping working conditions, ensuring fair treatment of seafarers, and fostering a harmonious maritime industry.

The collaboration between shipping operators and ITF representatives has evolved over the years, reflecting changes in international labour standards, technological advancements, and the global shipping landscape. Understanding this historical context provides insights into the current dynamics of their industrial relationships.

Navigating through challenges such as disputes over wages, working hours, and crew welfare, both parties continually seek resolutions that balance the interests of seafarers and the operational efficiency of shipping companies. These challenges are often amplified by the complex nature of the maritime industry, which spans various jurisdictions and involves diverse stakeholders.

Effective communication and collaboration are vital components of a successful industrial relationship. Regular dialogues, negotiations, and the exchange of information contribute to the development of solutions that strike a balance between the interests of shipping operators and the welfare of seafarers.



Sea Cruiser 2 at port Grimsby, UK taken by Capt Akopyan.



RIGHT: Mr. Christian Roos – International Organizer, ACV Transcom Maritime-Aviation and Capt Robert Akopyan – Master of the *mv Sea Cruiser 2*.

In line with the above said, Mr. Christian Roos, a representative of our partners; Belgium's largest trade union ACV TRANSCOM Maritime-Aviation, paid a visit to our good vessel *m/v Sea Cruiser 2* to sign a new ITF Agreement on February 13, 2024.



The long-time industrial relationships between ASP and ACV is a dynamic interplay of historical context, regulatory frameworks, and collaborative efforts. Navigating these complexities requires a commitment to open communication, flexibility, and a shared dedication to the well-being of the seafaring workforce.

MtS AWARDS 2023

ASP Ships Group continue with their long support of the Mission to Seafarers and were proud Silver sponsors of the annual Seafarers Awards Dinner held in Singapore in November 2023

500 sponsors, supporters and guests attended the 6th consecutive event, the highest number to date, to celebrate and recognise individuals and groups who have made special efforts of dedication to the welfare of seafarers both at sea and ashore.

A captain who saved more than 300 lives, a volunteer who tirelessly ferries crews around, and a provider of affordable connectivity for seafarers were among those who received awards from The Mission to Seafarers at the dinner.

Capt Rob Walker, Chairman of the Mission to Seafarers Singapore, in his opening speech said: **“What an attendance! I am so proud to see such support for this awards program – which seems to grow year on year. It shows that we collectively take seafarer welfare seriously and are passionate to show appreciation to those individuals and groups that go that extra mile to reach out and care.”**



And for the first time, the annual event featured a Special Award given to Oleg Grygoriuk of Ukraine’s Marine Transport Workers’ Trade Union for his tireless efforts at protecting the rights of seafarers in the war-torn country.

Canon Andrew Wright, Secretary General of The Mission to Seafarers, said: **“Since the outbreak of the war, Oleg’s towering personality, passion and deep sense of purpose have been brought to bear in leading on advocacy for Ukrainian seafarers and indeed for their families. His work has made a huge difference, not least in changing Ukrainian government policy allowing seafarers to work and enabling seafarers on contract to return home without fear.”**

Fittingly, Oleg’s award was handed to him by Her Excellency Kateryna Zelenko, Ukraine’s Ambassador to Singapore. Oleg was nominated for the award by ASP, via Vitalii Chaika, Director Crew Management. Both Oleg and H.E. Kateryna were guests on the ASP table, and we were so proud that Oleg was the eventual winner.



The Awards



Oleg Grygoriuk receiving the Special Award from H.E. Kateryna Zelenko.



H.E. Kateryna Zelenko with Vitalii Chaika, Director of Crew Management.



On the ASP table, sitting L-R: guest H.E. Kateryna Zelenko, Nilam Sarie, guest Santosh Kumar – Rio Tinto, Darko Sorc and Igor Budisavljevic – Alpha Adriatic. Standing L-R: Vitalii Chaika, Andrian Whatley, guest Oleg Grygoriuk, Denzil D’Souza and Andrew MacLeod.

MtS Global AMBASSADORS

Vitalii Chaika, ASP Ships Group Crewing Director has joined the Mission to Seafarers Global Ambassadors' programme. The first meeting took place in Singapore on Monday 6th November. The group's objectives were outlined and agreed on, including meeting to actively participate in driving change in the sector, raising awareness of MtS' work, maximising impact from networks, and facilitating the raising of funds.



The MtS Global Ambassadors in their first meeting

Good progress was made at the first meeting, which included a lively discussion based on the recent findings of the #SeafarersHappinessIndex Q3, where the return to pre-pandemic shore leave levels has still not been achieved.

In some cases, authorities seem to have simply 'forgotten' to reinstate access to shore leave and remove the restrictions placed on seafarers back in 2020. The Global Ambassadors recognised that there is a need for challenging ports and authorities to review their protocols on shore leave and reinstate all to pre-pandemic levels.

ASP Ships Group MACN MEMBERSHIP

ASP Ships Group is pleased to announce its recent membership of the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN), representing a significant milestone in the organization's commitment to upholding ethical standards within the maritime sector.

The Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) is a global business network working towards the vision of a maritime industry free of corruption that enables fair trade to the benefit of society at large. Established in 2011 by a small group of committed maritime companies, MACN has grown to include over 190 companies globally and has become one of the pre-eminent examples of collective action to tackle corruption.

The maritime industry faces various challenges, one of which is corruption. Recognizing the detrimental effects of corruption on the industry's safety, reputation and efficiency, many companies are taking proactive measures to combat this issue. Joining the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) is one such step towards promoting ethical practices within the maritime sector.

MACN offers valuable resources and opportunities to ASP to drive positive change and contribute to a more transparent and sustainable maritime sector. MACN's Pillars referred to as the three Cs are Capability Building, Collective Action, and Collaboration.



Membership of the MACN offers several benefits:

- **Access to Best Practices:** MACN provides members with access to a wealth of resources, including toolkits, guidelines, and training materials, to support the implementation of anti-corruption measures within their organizations.
- **Collaborative Action:** MACN facilitates collaboration among its members to address common challenges and develop industry-wide solutions to combat corruption effectively. Through working groups and regional meetings, members share insights and experiences, fostering a collective approach to tackling corruption.
- **Advocacy and Engagement:** MACN engages with governments, regulators, and other stakeholders to advocate for policy reforms and regulatory measures that promote transparency and integrity in the maritime sector. By amplifying the collective voice of its members, MACN contributes to shaping a more conducive environment for ethical business practices.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Membership in MACN helps companies mitigate the risks associated with corruption, including legal, financial, and reputational risks. By implementing robust compliance measures and participating in collective action initiatives, companies enhance their resilience to corruption-related challenges.

Through collaborative efforts and determined initiatives, ASP, alongside its counterparts in the MACN, is paving the way for a maritime industry characterized by integrity, fairness, and sustainable advancement.

Gender EQUALITY & DIVERSITY in the Workplace

By GTM Capt Ivor D'Mello

In the workplace, issues may arise that lead to tension, friction, and a less-than-optimal workplace culture. To address this and enhance awareness, sensitization, and training, an online session on Gender Equality and Diversity in the Workplace was conducted on 8th November 2023, for shore staff across ASP Group companies.

Nearly 60 staff members from Ship and Crew Management Offices worldwide participated, representing locations such as Singapore, India, Philippines, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Ukraine. The interactive session included group discussions, with attendees divided into various groups in breakout rooms.

Each group shared their insights with the larger group, fostering a collaborative and dynamic exchange of ideas. Emphasis was placed on breaking stereotypes and expanding beyond internal "learning" using Metacognition (Beyond Learning).

The response to the session was positive and well-appreciated. Beyond its educational purpose, the session also served as a team-building exercise, fostering collaboration within and between various offices.



ASP Philippines Empowering Diversity and Career Growth with **SVITZER**

By Julius Maitim, Crewing Executive



From left to right: 2nd Engineer Mikee Abarca; 2nd Engineer Rosa Latoja, Able Seaman Tiffany Palma, Chief Officer Teresa Calderon and 2nd Engineer Lenelyn Abulad.

In June 2022, ASP CMS Manila achieved a significant milestone by assuming crew management responsibilities for Svitzer's first new-built Tug Boat, the *Svitzer Aplaya*. This marked the beginning of a successful partnership between ASP and Svitzer, aimed at supporting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives within the maritime industry.

Within a span of just 5 months, ASP demonstrated remarkable efficiency by seamlessly taking over the management of three additional new-building tug boats: *Svitzer Santa Clara*, *Svitzer Karsada*, and *Svitzer Bolbok*. This rapid expansion highlighted ASP's commitment to excellence and reliability in crew management services.

Furthermore, in alignment with the shared goal of promoting diversity and inclusivity, ASP pro-actively increased the number of females on-board. Beginning with the deployment of 5 female seafarers in 2022, ASP's efforts led to a significant milestone of having 10 female seafarers currently serving on-board the 4 Tug Boats. This achievement not only fosters gender diversity within the maritime sector but also underscores ASP's dedication to empowering women in traditionally male-dominated industries.

Moreover, alongside promoting gender diversity, ASP's commitment to career advancement and talent development is evident in its initiative to elevate crew members from ratings to Senior Officer position. Notably, ASP successfully promoted an official from the ratings to a significant role within the organization, showcasing a culture of meritocracy and opportunity for professional growth.

ASP CMS Manila's achievements in crew management, diversity promotion, and talent development exemplify its commitment to excellence, inclusivity and fostering a supportive and empowering work environment within the maritime industry.

SUCCESS STORY

In the vast expanse of the maritime industry, where the sea becomes both a workplace and a second home, stories of career progression often unfold against the backdrop of challenging voyages and relentless dedication. Such is the tale of Ms Lunina Olha, whose journey from navigating the seas as a cadet to earning the stripes of a junior officer is nothing short of inspirational.

Born in a small city in northern Ukraine and far from the sea, in her “tender” teen years, suddenly realised she was going to pursue a career in the maritime industry. After successful final exams in high school, she enrolled at National University “Odesa Maritime Academy” and it was there the story began.

The early days at sea for Olha were marked by rigorous training, as the cadet navigated through the complexities of maritime education. From learning the intricacies of navigation to mastering the art of seamanship, she embarked on a transformative journey that laid the foundation for a promising career.

Olha completed three contracts as a deck cadet for Oldendorff Carriers on various types of bulkers, before graduating in the summer of 2023 and getting her first navigation officer’s licence.

While still completing her studies, Olha was invited to participate in #IMECCON 2023 as a panellist to speak out on gender diversity and green technologies, which was generously acclaimed by the organizers. All these advancements marked a testament to the commitment and hard work invested in her maritime education.



Olha, as a Junior Officer, is now on-board the *Antonie Oldendorff*, a Self-Discharging Bulk Carrier currently sailing the Persian Gulf under the flag of Liberia.

In the dynamic world of maritime operations, where teamwork and leadership are paramount, Olha has emerged as a capable officer and by the time this story is published, Olha will have been confirmed to have joined back with her vessel as a Third Officer next summer. The success story of Olha serves as an inspiration to aspiring mariners, especially female ones.

As Olha continues to chart her course in the maritime world, we’d like to wish her a smooth, well deserved career growth and calm seas, keeping in mind the boundless opportunities that come with dedication and perseverance.

WISTA Singapore

We are delighted to share the exciting news that Adrian Whatley, ASP Ships Group Commercial and Finance Director, has accepted the esteemed role of Ambassador for Women’s International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA) Singapore.

WISTA Singapore is the first national chapter of WISTA in Asia, comprising women professionals from various sectors within the maritime industry, including ship owners, trading houses, bunkering houses, shipbrokers, chartering, ship management, insurance, finance, and law. Established as a non-profit organization in 1998, WISTA Singapore serves as a vital networking forum for female professionals involved in shipping, trading, and related businesses.

Adrian’s appointment as a WISTA Singapore Ambassador is a testament to his dedication and commitment to promoting diversity, inclusivity, and gender equality within the maritime sector. This prestigious announcement was made during WISTA Singapore’s Annual General Meeting (AGM), held on Wednesday 20th September 2023.



WISTA Singapore’s Ambassador: Adrian Whatley with Paul Aston, Nicholas White and Wai Pong Lee.

As WISTA Singapore Ambassadors, individuals like Adrian serve as passionate advocates for WISTA’s goals and initiatives. They leverage their networks to facilitate partnerships, collaborations, and opportunities for WISTA members. Additionally, they actively promote the organization to increase its visibility and reach.



We are proud of Adrian’s commitment to these important principles and look forward to the positive impact he will continue to make.

WISTA Singapore’s Committee and Members at the AGM on 20th September 2023 at Stephenson Harwood LLP’s office.

ASP Crew Management Singapore agreement with OCEÂNICA ENGENHARIA

ASP Crew Management Singapore has entered into a crew management agreement for two anchor handling vessels with Oceânica Engenharia e Consultoria S.A. from Brazil. These vessels were recently acquired from Solstad Offshore and are currently located in Batam. They are scheduled to be reactivated to support Oceânica's operations in deep waters off the coast of Brazil.

Oceânica was established as a company in 1978 and has been consistently expanding and operating since then. With over 45 years of experience, the company has been at the forefront of developing sub-sea solutions for the offshore energy industry. Oceânica, a Brazilian company, has a strong presence in ensuring offshore asset integrity and promoting long-term environmental sustainability.



Oceânica

Anchor handling vessel *Far Scimitar* (to be renamed) at Batam, Indonesia.

LEFT: From left: Chief Engineer Cakrawala Adepita Syafrie, Kostiantyn Terekhov – Technical Manager Solstad Offshore ASA, Vitalii Chaika – ASP Ships Group Crewing Director and Chief Mate Herry Ariyanto Soeprapto during takeover at Batam.

PROS HOPE – new vessel under ASP Crew Management

ASP Crew Management successfully took over the crew management of the container ship *Pros Hope* in Hong Kong in February 2024. The technical management of the ship is handled by Nortada Shipmanagement Lda in Madeira, Portugal. ASP Ukraine and Myanmar are responsible for providing the full crew management for the vessel.

The *Pros Hope* is currently en route from Eastern Asia to the port of Chornomorsk, Ukraine, which will serve as the hub for delivering essentials from Europe to Ukrainian ports along the Black Sea and the Danube River.





Poor situational awareness leads to collision

Excerpt from MARS Report No 202414, 28 February 2024

As edited from the Dutch Safety Board report, published August 2023
<http://tinyurl.com/MARS202414>

A general cargo vessel was proceeding in a Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) at reduced power due to engine problems, making 4.5 knots at dead slow ahead. It was dark, but visibility was good.

On the bridge the OOW was accompanied by a lookout. The Closest Point of Approach (CPA) alarm was triggered on the ECDIS, and the OOW observed that a vessel was approaching them from astern, with a CPA of 0.2nm.

After acquiring the vessel on the ECDIS, the OOW recognised the target was a fishing vessel. The CPA was now 0.1nm and the vessel was doing about 9 knots. The fishing vessel was in sight from the wheelhouse and the OOW estimated that it would overtake them on their port side.

Concerned about the small CPA, the OOW called the fishing boat on the VHF Channel 16 but received no reply. He observed that the fishing vessel had appeared to execute a minor course change, and he noticed a slightly increased CPA. Satisfied that his call had been received, the OOW then sat down at the desk in the wheelhouse to carry out some administrative tasks. From that position, he had no direct view of the radar screen. The lookout, now focused on the situation ahead, did not look astern again. Some minutes later, the fishing vessel hit the stern of the cargo vessel. The lone watchkeeper on the fishing vessel felt a bump and looked forward, but he did not see the cargo vessel. A second and third bump followed. The Master of the fishing vessel arrived in the wheelhouse. As the fishing vessel altered course, they saw the lights of the cargo vessel and realised they had bumped into its stern.

The cargo vessel suffered a hole in its stern in way of the steering gear compartment. Taking on water, the vessel had to make a deviation to a port of refuge.



Among other things, the investigation found that the cargo vessel's small size and low freeboard made it difficult to see the white stern light, which was positioned just above the waterline. Additionally, the fishing vessel was trimmed aft, and had masts that hindered the view of low objects forward (see image above), again making visual detection of the cargo vessel difficult. The report also found that the CPA alarm on board the fishing vessel was not activated prior to the collision.

Points to learn:

- Notwithstanding the low aspect presented by the cargo vessel and the poor visibility from the fishing vessel's wheelhouse, there is no substitute for keeping a sharp lookout by all available means. There really is no excuse for bumping into another vessel ahead and not even knowing what happened.
- Never assume a situation is clear until it is truly clear. In this case the OOW of the cargo vessel attended to other duties after assuming the fishing vessel was taking the appropriate action to avoid his vessel.
- CPA alarms are a welcome tool – keep them active.

Paint storage slip-up

Excerpt from MARS Report No 202412, 28 February 2024



A vessel was undergoing a Class inspection. During the inspection, the crew were surprised to find that the lower compartment of a crane pedestal contained many sealed paint cans. The Master was immediately notified and the paint was transferred to the paint locker. The company was also informed and the Designated Person Ashore (DPA) initiated an investigation.

The company investigation found that the paint stored in the crane pedestal was not listed in the vessel inventory, despite a recent update. The paint was transferred to the pedestal during the last dry dock because of a lack of space in the paint locker and ongoing work

in the area. The crew who had attended the drydock work did not report this information to the relief crew. The paint in the pedestal was subsequently forgotten due to crew turnover and a deficient inventory listing.

Points to learn:

- The paint locker on a vessel is the ONLY place to store paint and related products. This space is approved for this use and is protected by fixed fire extinguishing equipment.
- Crew hand-overs are opportunities for information to be lost. Make sure the full state of affairs on your vessel is documented for handover.
- Ship store inventories are important tools for quality vessel management. Keep them true.

IMEC & ASP CMS Manila Join Forces to Promote Scholarship Opportunities in Aklan, Philippines

Reported by: Dennis Dalida, ASP CMS Philippines Head of Operations.

IMEC (International Maritime Employers' Council) Maritime Education Programmes continues its journey in collaboration with ASP Crew Management Services Manila, Inc. to support and promote scholarship opportunities in Aklan, Philippines. The two organizations, represented by IMEC Philippines Career Development Officer, Mr. Jake Barinan Amog and ASP CMS Head of Operations Mr. Dennis Dalida visited various High Schools in Aklan, Philippine on September 11 to 15, 2023, with the aim of providing information to graduating Senior High School students about IMEC's Cadet Training Program. The initiative seeks to enlighten and encourage these young minds to seize the opportunities available in the Maritime Industry, thereby paving the way for a brighter future in seafaring. These scholarships are specifically designed for graduating Senior High School students who are interested in pursuing a career in the Maritime Industry.

One of the key focuses of the visits was to introduce IMEC's Cadet Training Program to graduating Senior High School students. The program serves as a stepping stone for aspiring seafarers by providing comprehensive training that covers both theoretical knowledge and practical skills required for a successful career at sea. IMEC's Cadet Training Program equip students with the necessary certifications and qualifications to kick-start their journey in the maritime industry.

IMEC and ASP CMS Manila understand the importance of enlightening and encouraging young minds to explore the opportunities available in the maritime industry. By sharing valuable insights about the maritime industry and the potential career paths it offers, the organizations aim to inspire graduating students to take initiatives and seize the opportunity for a brighter future in seafaring.

IMEC and ASP CMS Manila's collaborative efforts to promote scholarship opportunities in Aklan, Philippines, signify their commitment to empowering aspiring seafarers. Notably, the involvement of private entities and the local government of Aklan is crucial, as their support is instrumental in driving this endeavour forward.

Through initiatives such as the Cadet Training Program and visits to educational institutions like Balete Academy Inc. and Aklan Polytechnic College, IMEC and ASP CMS Manila, are paving the way for a brighter future in the maritime industry. They are collectively shaping the next generation of seafarers and encouraging them to embark on a fulfilling career at sea. This collaboration exemplifies a unified dedication to fostering educational and career growth in the maritime sector, ultimately contributing to the prosperity of the Aklan community and the broader maritime industry.



With Students of Calizo National High School.
In the middle – from left to right, Right Jake Amog, Dennis Dalida, Ma. Rowena L. Birol – Head Teacher III



Town Mayor; Mayor Jessica Panambo of New Washington Aklan (middle) with Dennis Dalida – Head of Operations, ASP Crew Management Services (left) and Jake Amog – IMEC Career Development Officer (right).





ASP CMS Manila Participate in Singapore Organisation of Seamen Wellness Seminar



Back, L-R: Oiler Elmar Balugal, Ordinary Seaman Ryan John Chua and Daniel Tan of SOS.

Front, L-R: Chief Cook Gregorio Beringuel, Crewing Executive Jing Jing De Leon and Senior Crewing Executive Sheena Suganob.

On November 17, 2023, ASP CMS Manila, represented by two of our Senior Crewing Executives, Ms. Sheena Suganob and Ms. Jing Jing De Leon, along with our Ex-Xpress Kaveri Crew, took part in the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) "Wellness of Seafarers" Seminar & Christmas Party at Casa Ibarra in Manila.

The event aimed to promote the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of seafarers, covering essential topics such as regular health screening, safe sex practices, the importance of physical activity, mental wellness, and maintaining a healthy diet.

With renowned speakers and exciting festivities, the seminar left attendees feeling empowered and equipped with valuable insights on how to lead a balanced and healthy lifestyle while navigating the challenges of the maritime industry.

It was a great privilege for the ASP CMS Manila staff and seafarers to participate in this event.

ASP Tankers Seminar well received in India

On December 8th, 2023, seafarers and office staff from ASP gathered at the Courtyard Marriott in Mumbai, India for the ASP Ship Management (Singapore) Seminar. The day was filled with interactive sessions, discussions on various topics, and a team-building exercise that was action-oriented and enjoyable for everyone. The topics covered included SIRE 2.0, Hi-Po Mooring Accidents, Cross-cultural Awareness, Discrimination, Mental Health & Wellbeing, as well as others related to ASP and the industry as a whole.

The day concluded with an evening of camaraderie and fun, including a delicious dinner that was enjoyed by all. The ASP core value of personal bonding was evident and praised by the guest speaker Capt Matwankar who had conducted the TMSA Review of ASP earlier in the year and was appreciative of the company based on his experience and the seminar.

The Singapore office was represented by Capt Denzil D'Souza, General Manager, Vitalii Chaika, Group Crewing Director, and Capt Subhasis Pandey, Superintendent of Marine Ops & Safety. The ASP Mumbai office was represented by Capt Amit Deshpande, GM Crewing, and Capt Ivor D'Mello, GTM, Capt Manish Dixit, GM Operations and Sanjay Kelkar, MD. Everyone had a great time and expressed their anticipation for the next seminar.



Mariner hits the Shipping Industry Expos with Interferry & IndoPacific



Mariner Travel hit the Shipping Industry Expos towards the end of 2023 exhibiting for the first time at the InterFerry Conference held in Hobart in November and then once again exhibited at the IndoPacific held in Sydney later in November.

The Interferry conference is held in a different location each year and last year was Australia's turn with ASP client TT Line the major sponsor and due to their operation of the Spirit of Tasmania ferries, Hobart was chosen to hold the event.

As the name suggests the conference is dedicated to the worldwide Ferry industry and had various guest speakers and an exhibition area for suppliers to highlight their services.

ASP was represented at the conference by Chief Operating Officer Capt Robert Walker and CEO Australia Mark Patman whilst the Mariner stand was manned by General Manager Aaron Watts and Operations Manager Jessica Livingstone.

Shortly after, Mariner headed to Sydney for the biannual IndoPacific Shipping Expo which focuses on the Maritime Defence Industry with related businesses and government agencies exhibiting at the 3-day event. It was Mariner's 4th time at the event which has proven successful in the past in signing new clients.

ASP was represented by Mark Patman with Mariner GM Aaron Watts and Consultant Caitlin Cron manning the stand. Both the dedicated maritime industry Conference and the expo were well attended by marine related businesses from around the world, including clients and suppliers of ASP and Mariner.

Aaron Watts advised *ASPects*; **"This event is important for Mariner to build relationships and existing clients and promote Mariner's service offering to potential new clients."**

He added by the end of the events, Mariner Travel had held discussions with multiple potential new clients and deemed it to be another successful Expo season.



At the Interferry Conference, from left: ASP Chief Operating Officer Capt Robert Walker, Mariner Travel General Manager Aaron Watts and ASP CEO Australia Mark Patman.

CT Partners celebrate 20 YEARS



CT Partners' members, suppliers, and industry leaders gathered in Sydney on the 6th & 7th of March 2024, for the first milestone event to mark two decades of pioneering a unique and transparent approach.

Founded in 2004, CT Partners stands out as Australia's leading independently-owned travel buying network, consistently championing the interests of its members by passing through 100% of supplier payments.

The evening was also an opportunity to pay tribute to the resilience of the group and its total commitment to transparency, a hallmark principle that members hold dear.



New Corporate Clients bring a successful end of 2023 for Mariner

Mariner was successful in winning two tenders for new corporate business towards the end of 2023.

Global Gift Card Company Prezsee signed with Mariner mid-year and began booking shortly after.



Prezsee has offices based in Sydney, New York and London and not only produce their own branded Giftcards but also manage the Giftscards for some of the biggest retail brands worldwide including Myer, Macy's, Tesco to name a few.

Mariner GM Aaron Watts told *ASPECTS*; **“Prezsee has been a great addition to our expanding non-marine corporate client base with a lot of travel undertaken between the 3 offices by personnel, allowing us to seek better deals from our airline partners.”**

Mariner is also offering leisure travel service to all Prezsee's employees as part of the deal which has seen a strong demand so far.

Servicing their offices worldwide has presented some challenges with the different time zones involved, however with the aid of our online booking portal and regional Mariner offices we have been able to meet the service levels required.

AMEX Reward Points Payment Option

Prezsee is also the first corporate client to pay for their travel entirely using AMEX Reward Points. Whilst this payment option has been available to all Mariner clients for a few years it has mainly been used by leisure travel clients to pay for their holidays.

Hosted at Beta, the evening commenced with a moving acknowledgement of Country from Dwayne Good of InTravel Group, a proud Bundjalung man.

Among the many highlights of the night was the recognition of seven of the ten founding members who were able to attend, six of whom remain with CT Partners today:

- **Alan Wolf — Bay Travel**
- **Gary Reichenberg — Connections Group**
- **Mark Chaskiel — FBI Travel**
- **Aaron Watts — Mariner Travel**
- **Kerri Primrose — MP Travel**
- **Anna McMurtrie — Wentworth Travel**
- **Andrew Ross — Travelforce**

Recognition of former CT Partners General Manager Ian Edwards and late members Bev Cohen and Tim Murphy was made in the form of a toast by CT Partners' Chair, Joe Araullo.

“With the cost of travel increasing post pandemic all our corporates are looking at ways to save money and the AMEX reward point program is a good way to pay for any travel booked by Mariner”, Aaron commented.

The Rural City of Mildura Council signed a 3-year contract with Mariner in September 2023. Based in the 'Sunraysia' district of Northern Victoria, the council serves a population of 35,000 residents. The win marks the second time Mariner has held a local government account, the first being the City of Darwin a few years back.

Working with local government is a great way to not only promote the Mariner brand but also for Mariner to promote the destination for tourism, meetings and events, Aaron Watts told *ASPECTS*.

“Part of the account win is to also support the community within the region, with Mariner working with council on a variety of initiatives including sponsorships and sustainability programs and providing leisure travel services” Aaron added.

Most of the travel booked for council is Australian domestic with Councillors and council employees attending various meetings and events.



Mildura Rural City Council

Additionally, the Rural City of Mildura Council has sister city relationships with Dali in China, Kumatori in India and Upland in USA and travel to/from these cities by delegations to promote trade and tourism opportunities as well as student exchanges also form part of the account.

The announcement of the Four Seasons Nam Hai Resort (Hoi An, Vietnam) as the 2024 Conference venue from 30 October to 1 November was greeted with rapturous applause.

“We are celebrating tonight as our founding members had the courage to set up a different type of travel agency network for independently owned and operated companies that wasn't on offer in the Australian travel industry then and remains unique today,” CEO, CT Partners, Matt Mason, said.

“We stand on the shoulders of giants today. We are fortunate to have built such a close relationship with our supplier partners over the years too, and some of our airline and technology partners have been by our side from day one.”



ASP Singapore & Philippines offices celebrate

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Each year, this day serves as a powerful reminder of the progress made towards gender equality and highlights the work that can and still needs to be done.



In 2024, the campaign theme '*Inspire Inclusion*' emphasizes the importance of diversity and empowerment in all aspects of society.

This year's campaign underscored the crucial role of inclusion in achieving gender equality. It called for action to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and create environments where all women are valued and respected. *Inspire Inclusion* encourages everyone to recognize the unique perspectives and contributions of women from all walks of life, including those from marginalized communities.

ASP actively support the drive to provide a more inclusive world for women in the maritime sector.

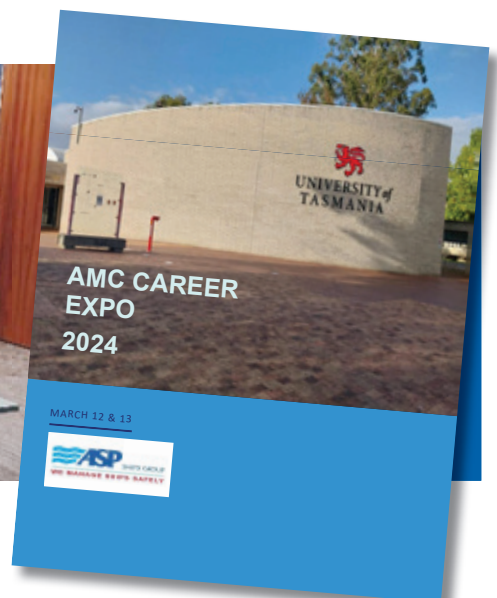
Our women from Singapore (LEFT) and Manila (TOP)

AMC CAREER EXPO 2024

On March 12–13, 2024, Ever Ocampo (*pictured below*), the Recruitment Consultant for ASP Melbourne, attended the Career Expo at the Australian Maritime College (AMC) Launceston.

An Expo was arranged by the AMC for students, alumni, and more than 130 high school students from Tasmania who are interested in jobs in the marine, engineering, logistics, and seafaring fields. It was reported to be the largest expo in AMC's history.

The Expo was attended by 38 industry exhibitors and representatives, as well as a large number of passionate individuals ready to get started in the maritime industry as soon as they received their AMSA ticket and Certificate of Recognition. It's incredible to see how many young people from Australia and other areas of the world are still interested in working on ships.





Group Head of Operations – Capt Vaibhav Rupade

Capt Vaibhav Rupade re-joined ASP Ships Group as a Group Head of Operations for ASP Crew Management Services based in Singapore.

Capt Vaibhav served ASP Ship Management Singapore first between 2008 until 2014. His role involved him being an in-charge of the Tanker QA and DPA CSO roles for a fleet, and backup for another. An MBA degree holder, his core area of professional interest is Human Resources, Human Factors and Employee Wellness. He recently mastered the skills of Mindfulness and Gender Equality while developing and conducting courses for various clients on these areas. He also served as General Manager of ASP Crew Management heading India operations for around 3 plus years, during the toughest of pandemic times. Recently he also developed courses on SIRE 2.0 and delivered to various clients in India ensuring more work from some clients on this area.



Technical Superintendent – Amit Karkhanis

Mr. Amit Karkhanis joined ASP Ship Management India a year ago. His induction was for managing Abo Shoten bulk carriers. Besides sailing as a chief engineer on a sister vessel of the ones he managed, he has also sailed on modern vessels having Electronic Main engine.

He comes with the experience of having sailed on Aframax tankers, large container vessels and a brief stint on offshore vessels during his sailing career.



Crewing Manager – Meenakshi Mehta

Ms Meenakshi Mehta joined ASP Crewships India as Crewing Manager in January 2023. She has 15 years of experience in the Crew Manning industry and has worked with Multinational Seafarers and Shore-based personnel.

Meenakshi has undergone an ISO 9001-2015 Internal Auditor Course from IRS. She has handled operations related to Marine Crew Recruitment for Offshore as well as Bulk Carrier vessels and is currently pursuing an Advance Diploma in Shipping Management & Logistics from NMIS.



Crewing Manager – Ashish Bhosle

Ashish Bhosle joined ASP Crewships India as Crewing Manager in September 2023.

He started his sea career in 2004 as Deck Cadet on Cargo Ships and sailed for about a decade in various Ranks rising up to Second Officer on a range of cargo vessels – Bulk Carriers, Oil Tankers, Oil/Chemical Tankers and Gas Tankers. In 2019, he shifted ashore as Senior Recruitment Officer (Deck and Engine) with the same company.



Business & Projects Development Manager – Andrew MacLeod

Andrew MacLeod joined ASP as Business and Projects Development Manager, based in Singapore in May 2023.

Andrew brings over 18 years of experience, both at sea and ashore with previous roles managing a range of modern container vessels and latterly managing 18000 TEU megaships for Maersk as Senior Fleet Superintendent.

His scope includes developing new and innovative solutions to ensure future-proofing of the company, coupled with working alongside ASP Marine & Technical Services to deliver project management services such as ship construction, conversion, life extension, repairs, and vessel inspection services.

Andrew has the belief that a passion for decarbonisation and new fuel technologies, coupled with greener and more energy efficient operation of vessels makes for an exciting future.



New Team Member at Mariner Travel

Mariner Australia has welcomed a new team member to assist with the increased volumes.

Faisal Febriansyah joined Mariner in January 2024 as a full time Admin Assistant/Consultant in Training. Faisal is new to the travel industry having moved to Australia from Indonesia. He has been a great new addition to the team and has picked up the Mariner systems very quickly which has been invaluable, Mariner GM Aaron Watts said.

Faisal will eventually look after CMS Australia's bookings once he has completed his training.



Sailing Beyond Horizons: A Captain's Chronicle

by Capt Croydon Pereira

“
IF ONE DOES
NOT KNOW TO
WHICH PORT
HE IS SAILING,
NO WIND IS
FAVOURABLE.
”



The ocean, one might say the cuts of her jib seem innocuous but only the ones to sail it are disillusioned by her enigmatic attraction and fraught nature that we sailor's somehow grew accustomed to and now call our home. Among its custodians are Maritime Captains. My journey is storied as the waves I navigate, my path in becoming a master mariner has been a testament to perseverance and passion. Lucius Seneca infamously quoted "If one does not know to which Port he is sailing, no wind is favourable".

Being a Captain has been my long held ambition, as well as that of my parents. My dad has been my anchor and major support through good times and bad. Like an anchor holding the ship in place against all forces, my dad has been that constant motivator that stood in the background, carving paths to aid against difficulties and struggles, to accomplish the dream we both aspired to achieve. Thus making my parents proud was always the ultimate objective I have strived for. I started my sea career in 2004, to set sail on a course destined for the helm. From then on it's been numerous hours and relentless work. Motivated by clear goals and aiming for success among many other equally competent seafarers, I embarked on rigorous education in maritime studies.

In the 2010, I was selected by ASP Ship Management Pvt Ltd. in the rank of Third Officer. Despite the quite tedious maritime environment, I was welcomed by this benevolent family of mariners. The long days and nights spent on-board honed my skills, while encounters with seasoned mariners imparted invaluable wisdom.

With each promotion came greater responsibility and a deeper understanding of the perils of the sea. It is a challenge to embrace every struggle as an opportunity to grow. Whether overseeing various jobs on-board or managing a diverse crew, I ensured to approach my duties with unwavering dedication.

But it was the pinnacle of my career, the coveted title of master mariner, that remained my North star. In August 2023, ASP Ship Management Pvt Ltd promoted me to the rank of Master and I whole-heartedly thank the company for giving me this opportunity to command the vessel.

Today, as I stand at the helm of this ship, reflecting on the journey that brought me here; from the dreams of a wide-eyed youth to the reality of mastering the maritime domain, my story is one of triumph over various hardships.

As I conclude, I will be ever grateful to the Almighty and each and everyone who helped me in my journey to be a Master.

Vale Capt Purnendu Shorey

The ASP Ships Group mourns the passing of our beloved friend and colleague, Captain Purnendu Shorey.

Purnendu has been a valued member of the ASP Ships Group for years, starting as a Training Manager in 2008 and advancing to the positions of General Manager of ASP Crew Management India and Group Training Manager in 2012.

His memory will always be honoured.

05-10-1972 to 23-01-2024



ASP PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

WINNER!

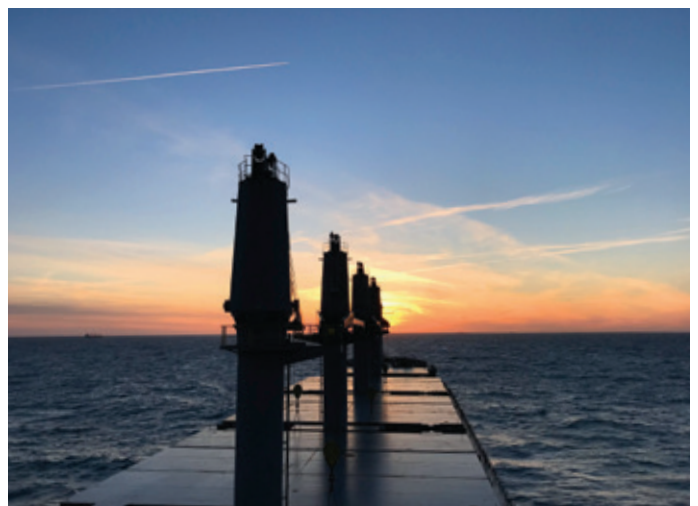
Congratulations and \$500USD goes to the winner of the last calendar year entries; Capt Dias with "Departing Gladstone" ▶



▼ "Helipad" by Capt David Dias (Master RTM Twarra)



▲ "Singapore Anchorage" by Chief Officer Franciss Saron (Olivia L)



▲ by Janarthanan Sengottaian, Chief Officer (ASL Leban)

The ASPECTS photographic competition for an annual prize of \$US500 is for the best photograph received in a calendar year. The competition is open to all crews of the ASP fleet and any family members on-board. Subjects may cover life on-board a working vessel, fellow crew members at work (with their permission), seascapes, docks and ports etc. Photographs of high resolution (approx 2–5 megabytes [mb] or more in file size or 'Superfine' setting on some cameras) are preferred and please send photos from phones in their largest file size, watching out for social media or MMS minimisation. The judges' decision will be final and submissions may be used for future ASPECTS or ASP use. Submit photos via email to: **The Editor, ASPECTS, ASP Ships Group, email: rwalker@aspships.com**



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