

Anglo-Eastern Group holds its annual seminar in Mumbai

The prestigious Anglo-Eastern Group recently held its annual seminar on 28th November 2012 at Hotel Renaissance in Mumbai. The group has had this grand annual event in Mumbai continuously since more than twenty years. This year the theme of the seminar was, as always, a very relevant one in today's Shipping scenario - "Achieving Compliance To Procedures".

By 9AM The Grand Ballroom of this majestic hotel was packed with Seafarers, representatives of Anglo-Eastern's ship-owning clients, Anglo-Eastern office-bearers and some eminent and accomplished invitees from the industry. The entire hotel seemed charged with infectious enthusiasm and cheer during the whole event, and all the various arrangements that were in place seemed simply flawless.

The introductory note by Capt. K. N. Deboo, Director, Anglo Eastern Maritime Training Centre, was followed by the welcome address by Mr. Marcel Liedts, the COO of the Anglo-Eastern group. As Mr. Liedts spoke about non-compliance of procedures being one of the prime causes of accidents on board, he emphasized the need for truthfulness and integrity among the seafarers in their reporting, and then proudly made a mention of the many awards bestowed on Anglo-Eastern by the industry during the past year.

Mr. Liedts was followed by Mr. Peter Cremers, the CEO of the Anglo Eastern group, who spoke about the badly dipped shipping market and the big challenges



that were staring at Anglo Eastern as well as its clients in a tough shipping environment. He stated that while shipowners were suffering majorly due to the recession, the shipmanager needed to combat that by cutting down and avoiding unnecessary, even relatively smaller

expenses and by making the best use of the funds that it got to run their ships. He mentioned that the recruitment process needs to be very stringent so that one doesn't end up employing the wrong people, and said that motivating the younger generation of seafarers to do the job right is a big challenge. He spoke about the progress of the company as a Ship Manager, and said that Anglo Eastern has been able to expand its business because of its high performance standards.

Next was the Owners's address - Mr. Eivind Holte, Sr. Technical Manager, Saga Shipholding (Norway), afforded the audience an insight into his Company's expansion plans and its new acquisitions. He said that following procedures for various jobs on board is extremely important as each procedure has a good reason behind it. Last but not the least, he happily acknowledged that Anglo Eastern was doing a tremendous job of managing their ships.



After Mr. Eivind Holte, Capt. Pradeep Chawla, Managing Director, Quality Assurance and Training, AESM, took up his position on the stage and presented the Quality Assurance and Training review of Anglo Eastern, which was quite impressive. Capt.

Chawla also showed the comparison of AESM group PSC deficiencies against other ship managers and against each MOU to emphasize the trend of better safety standards of AESM group is still continuing. He stated that almost all accidents happen due to human error, such as complacency and non-compliance of



procedures. He said we need to continue to search for solutions to prevent human error, and then spoke about the group's new Training Centre at New Delhi and the accomplishments and progress of training standards at Anglo Eastern, using various advanced technology. He also spoke about the group's high-tech continuous shore-monitoring of passage plans of ships, the evolved competency management system and the addition of more ECDIS classrooms at the AEMTC Then began the 1st session, and Mr. Clifford Baker, Staff Consultant in the Safety Assessment and Human Factors group of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), presented his keynote address on the theme of the day. He enlightened the audience about the various types of compliance failures, conditions, behaviours and consequences, and their connection with each other. He also explained about how compliance in individuals can be influenced. Mr. Baker was then followed by Mr. Rob Lomas, Secretary General, INTERCARGO, who gave a very informative talk on how the performance of Bulk Carrier is judged by the Charterers. Mr. Rob also mentioned the role of sea staff for keeping the shipowner to improve their earning without causing any findings during inspections, carried out by the inspection regime.

During the small break that followed, all the dignitaries were seen cheerfully chatting with each other and with the staff of Anglo-Eastern, while sipping on their tea and coffee.

The second session's first speaker was Mr. Simon Tse - Sr. Surveyor of Ships, Cargo Ships Safety Section, Hong Kong Marine Department, who came on the dais and delivered an invigorating talk on the current Port State Control system followed in Hong Kong, and the common defects

found. The last speaker before lunch was Mr. Bjorn Berger, Principal Consultant, DNV Maritime Advisory, Energy Efficiency project group who gave an insight into the various energy-efficient ship designs, various fuel-saving procedures and best practices, as also into performance management. He

covered the procedure to comply SEEMP onboard and the role of each officers for the compliance.

A lavish lunch followed thereafter and once more it was time for all the guests to mingle with each other in a relaxed and warm ambience. Post-lunch, the Owner's representatives' interaction with the Sea-staff in various breakaway groups took place. Exchange of a lot of useful information, ideas and thoughts ensued, and even Anglo Eastern's trainers and auditors participated actively. A tea-break followed this session and then it was time for the senior management staff of Anglo Eastern to take their positions on the stage and have an open-forum session with the office and sea staff of the group. This was another interesting session, in which various important issues were discussed, and the various concerns and queries of the staff were addressed and answered by the senior management.

Thus came to an end the 1st day's programme, and everybody looked happy as they were afforded a lot of imbibing of information and knowledge throughout the day.

Later in the evening at the same venue, an amazing 'cocktails and dinner' party unrolled itself. This was extremely well-attended by the owners, AESM's office staff and seafarers, dignitaries and the guests, along with their families. Everybody seemed in a jubilant mood as there was an array of games, activities and entertainment that had been organized. The kid's zone was a separate one and they seemed to be having a ball of a time. The foot-tapping music resulted in everybody letting their hair lose while also struggling for space on the crowded dance floor. The spirits were soaring high, the fun and the frolic was at its peak and



the adrenaline seemed to be touching the roof ! Meanwhile, the owners seized this opportunity to interact with the sailing staff in a more relaxed and friendly environment. The party went on till well past midnight, and this was probably the icing on the cake for a hugely successful and satisfying day at the seminar.

The second day of the seminar, the 29th of November, abuzz multiple events happening at different venues. While the owners and dignitaries visited the Anglo Eastern Maritime Academy at Karjat and later in the afternoon the group's Training Centre at Andheri, simultaneously there were the Safety Campaigns running for the Senior and Junior Seastaff, at the Ramada Hotel and AEMTC Mumbai respectively. The guests were extremely impressed by the group's maritime academy at Karjat, as also the much-expanded training centre at Andheri. They applauded and appreciated the fact that Anglo Eastern's training resources have grown by leaps and bounds, as the group is providing the highest quality of training to its seafarers and cadets, by deploying skilled and experienced faculty and coupling that with the latest technology.

Thus concluded a very successful and fulfilling Anglo Eastern Seminar.

