

Failure Analysis - a ManTra for Better Functioning

Anglo-Eastern & Viswa Lab pool knowledge resources at seminar



Dr R Vis

behind breakdowns, Anglo Eastern Maritime Training Centre, along with Viswa Lab, Houston, organised a one-day seminar on 'LSF and MGO changing over procedure- challenges and good practices'. The seminar, which was held at the Anglo Eastern Training Centre today, was attended by seven companies of the shipping industry.

Case histories have always been the best way to describe the problems on hand. Dr R Vis, Director, Viswa Lab, the speaker for the day, educated the participants of the seminar about the importance of failure analysis. Through the various case histories, Dr Vis made the participants understand the importance of forming a plan of path- identification which in turn helps in understanding the reason behind failures. "Like in an aircraft, there is a checklist which leaves no scope for mistakes; we need to come out with a checklist for our ships. The checklist will help us know our mistakes and thus work on them," said Dr Vis.

The seminar aimed at dealing with some practical issues that marine engineers face. "The engineers are the first people to be blamed for any malfunction. Through this seminar we want the engineers to understand the root cause of failure. What no one realises is that the engineers are not responsible for any damage done to the machinery 80 per cent of the time," revealed Dr Vis. Failure can occur because of various reasons including design errors, manufacturing errors or due to a problem with the components. Engineers are responsible for looking after the operation and the maintenance of the ship. "But, today they are also required to know the material being used as well as the latest technology," added Dr Vis.



Mr RC Bhavnani

With the ongoing stress on pollution control, the seminar also emphasised the current ISO 8217 2010 draft which looks into the quality of fuel being used on ships. Speaker Mr RC Bhavnani stressed on the poor quality of fuel being used today. "Since the 1980s, the world became greedy. In the bad fuel that we already had, suppliers started mixing chemical waste," he said. The ISO 8217 standard was drafted to make the fuel quality better, to reduce problems related to pollution and to increase the safety of people operating ships. "The problem is that the standard doesn't take care about all the fuel related problems. Unwanted contaminants are dumped in the fuel, thus reducing the quality of the fuel. The issue is whom do we blame for this?" questioned Mr Bhavnani.

[Mumbai, 6 January]:

Failure in the functioning of any machinery on board ship attracts criticism of the engineers. But the industry lacks in performing failure analysis of machinery even today; this analysis being very important for understanding the root cause of failure.

In order to educate mariners about the practical issues faced by engineers and to help them understand the root cause



The one-day seminar, organised by Anglo-Eastern Maritime Training Centre, was the first seminar of the year. "Every year we come out with several seminars raising different issues pertinent to the times. The sole motive is to educate seafarers about the changes in the laws of the industry. We need to grow with the industry and these seminars are a platform for better learning," said, Mr Francis Akkara, Senior General Manager, Anglo-Eastern Maritime Training Centre.

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