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UNITEAM MARINE NEWS is designed to be of interest to our crew and to keep all Uniteam Marine employees informed of developments at our company. We appreciate your feedback and welcome any articles of interest or humour that you would like us to include in our publication.

Please send your feedback, articles and pictures & videos for the photo & video competition as well as your solutions to the brain teaser to PR & Marketing at Uniteam Marine, Anja Frauboese, marketing@uniteam-hamburg.de



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

*Our greatest asset as a company is the commitment and determination of our people. It is through them, in the face of continuous challenges, that UNITEAM MARINE has progressed over the last 30 years, developing and strengthening our foundations for continued and selective growth and achievement.*

*Success however should never allow us to be complacent. There is always room for improvement. Competence is only accomplished by keeping up the hard work and performing our everyday tasks conscientiously, with dedication and pride. It also requires understanding the need for properly and effectively training our seafarers, as well as for setting standards and profiting from experience.*

*It is with these thoughts in mind that we are expanding our training facilities in Yangon. By further improving the courses offered, our aim is to provide our seafarers with the knowledge and proficiency demanded in tackling the leadership, technological, regulatory and environmental challenges of today's shipping industry.*

*We are also in the process of finalising the scheme of onboard Trainers, who will be joining the ships under our management for the purpose of evaluating procedures, offering support, guiding and giving advice about safety, proper maintenance and best working practices. On the*

*other side of the world, the seminars for Officers will also be continuing in Europe.*

*All these efforts require the wholehearted participation of everyone involved, sea and office personnel alike, in order to consolidate our joint strengths and thereby making UNITEAM MARINE stronger, ultimately for the benefit of our Clients.*

*With 2011 soon upon us, let us all work hard and conscientiously so that we can continue to take pride in our achievements and look forward to a new year of growth and quality every working day.*

*I wish all UNITEAM MARINE employees and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

**Gerhard Ruether**



## UNITEAM MARINE HAS IMPLEMENTED A HOTLINE!

**Phone: +44 20 7692 8340**  
**Fax: +44 20 7692 8341**

**The hotline should be used to report unusual behaviour, procedures and/or any violation of international rules and regulations causing danger to the seamen/ vessel/company.**

**EXAMPLES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:**

Drug and alcohol abuse; smuggling; suspected attempt to desert; unsafe working practices; MARPOL violations.

The hotline should NOT be used for any questions related to daily business procedures, such as repatriation, crew changes, ordering of provisions,

technical issues, procedural failures that need to be reported to the DPA, implementation of the Master's overriding authority etc.

Management systems on board vessels since the introduction of the ISM code have successfully encouraged the reporting of incidents and near misses.

We constantly strive to have a management system that keeps communication simple, easy to use and easy to report. This includes everything from maintenance jobs, monitoring of procedures and equipment, onboard training and emergency cases. Where things do not work as they should, we have the independent DPA and other procedures to handle non-conformities.

What happens, however, with issues that occur on board that are not reported or are concealed for any reason? During the close monitoring of ships we may notice that some serious incidents on board are not being reported to UNITEAM MARINE directly because colleagues were hoping no one would notice or were afraid of getting in trouble onboard if they reported them. Finding out about these unreported incidents during only when we closely monitor the vessel or from third parties is far from sufficient and exposes everyone to significant risk.

The hotline is designed to encourage our seafarers to let us know immediately if help is needed.

Any employee wishing to report a violation can call our hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, worldwide and leave a voice message with our hotline answering service. The callers may choose to remain anonymous but even if they identify themselves, their contact with the hotline will remain strictly confidential.

Phone calls will be answered in English and forwarded to the Group Managing Directors and the QSE manager for following up.

## INAUGURATION OF THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING IN THANDWE

**11 October 2010 - After only four months of construction the newly built wing of the "Nga Kyaw Taung" – Thandwe Governmental Middle School – was inaugurated. It was built with donations from the German-based organisation "Myanmar Development Aid" (MDA) in cooperation with Uniteam Marine Yangon (UMY) who oversaw the entire building and refurbishing process. Special thanks must go to Capt. Than Oo and Capt. Jerzy Wilk from UMY for all their efforts.**



A festive opening ceremony was held under the patronage of U Thein Swe, Minister for Transport, with speeches given by the minister, the representatives of the district government and educational board, as well as the school director. Uniteam Marine Chairman Gerhard Ruether, representing MDA and UMY, together with the district and school officials, jointly cut the ribbon to inaugurate the new building.

The two-story building can hold as many as 360 pupils in its six classrooms, each room with space for up to 60 children between the ages of 5 – 13. The new school wing was desperately needed, as the Middle School had become far too small for all of its 900 students.

The construction of the new school building in the district town of Thandwe in Myanmar's Rakhine state was one of several school projects financed and overseen by MDA and UMY in the two years since the founding of MDA in May 2008. Relief aid began immediately after the deadly tsunami Nargis hit Myanmar's Delta region all the way up to Yangon and its outskirts. Several schools, a dispensary as well as a community learning centre and library were rebuilt in the area of the Delta district town of Pyapon.

Now MDA and UMY are concentrating their support on the orphanage Myittar Yaung Chi (Ray of Love) in Thanlyin township north east of Yangon, which was inaugurated in December 2009. Currently 61 boys aged 5-16, coming from all areas of Myanmar, who have either lost both parents or cannot be supported by their remaining parent, are being looked after and cared for in a most loving way. Up to 150 boys will soon be living there.



With your donations you can help MDA and UMY to give these young children a better chance in life. As all administrative costs are being covered by UMY and all supporters are working on an honorary basis, every donated US \$, Kyat or Euro goes 1:1 to those in need. For more information, see [www.mda-ev.org](http://www.mda-ev.org).

*Regine Hofmann*

## MDA – TRAVEL DIARY

**At first a bit shy, finally the happy faces covered with *thanakha* paste approach the visitors to the "Ray of Love" orphanage. A small troop of children wearing colourful t-shirts and trousers sneaks up on some of the guests.**



Suddenly the spell is broken and everyone laughs. After a short opening ceremony, the children proudly show off their new home. Almost all of the children have suffered frightening events in their short lives.

The children are proud and show us the display case full of photos. Children can be seen playing football on the playground. 61 children live at the "Ray of Love" facility, and every day the caretakers

and teachers have been thrilled with the children's progress.



Captain Jerzy Wilk is proud of his gang and visits them regularly. The children know that when "papa" comes he will bring ice cream or some other treats with him. Jerzy Wilk and the teachers are satisfied with how the children are thriving and that they have gained some weight.



Sometimes the children receive mail from their sponsors in Germany, Cyprus and Austria. In order that all the children receive letters, we need more sponsors who are willing to make a small monthly donation and send their child a letter or postcard.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child or making a donation, please contact Mrs. Jessica Merkel: [info@mda-ev.org](mailto:info@mda-ev.org). Every dollar donated is spent entirely on these children as all MDA members work on a volunteer basis.

*Peter Merkel*

## MRM WORKSHOP LEADERS COURSE CONDUCTED IN UMTC

### MARITIME RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Maritime Resource Management (MRM) is a training programme that builds upon well-established management principles as well as on the latest research in the field of human resources. The programme is concentrated on one essential message: that of fostering safety by means of management tools that can be used in the daily working environment.

Another objective of MRM is to increase the knowledge of human performance and limitations in order better to understand what leads to a lack of situation awareness and to complacency.

### WHAT HAS MRM GOT TO DO WITH HUMAN ERROR?

For many years now, "human error" has been identified as the most common contributing factor in accidents at sea. Recent reports indicate that a ship in 2010 is twice as likely to be involved in a serious accident as it would have been only five years ago. In addition, the costs resulting from

these accidents have doubled in that time. An increased number of ships, commercial pressure and a shortage of well-trained and experienced crew are all considered to be contributing factors to this development.

Human errors have been attributed to a lack of teamwork and communication, improper attitudes and an unsafe company culture. Stress, fatigue, complacency and failure to utilise available resources are other common contributing factors.

The good news is that it does not have to be this way. The current frequency of incidents and accidents is neither a "natural part of shipping operations" nor something we must accept and live with. What is needed, however, is an attitude of re-thinking on the shared basis of a MRM mental model!

#### YES... WE ARE NOW QUALIFIED MRM WORKSHOP LEADERS!!

20–23 September 2010 was a significant period for the entire Uniteam Marine Training Centre (UMTC), and especially for the nautical and engineering instructors. Suddenly they found themselves in a situation that completely reversed their daily roles: sitting behind desks listening attentively to ideas for better facilitating and teaching the new Maritime Resource Management Programme.

"The MRM Programme," says Martin Hernqvist, Managing Director of the Swedish Club Academy, "is an important training course for ships' officers, engineers, pilots and shore-based personnel, with the aim of increasing knowledge about human capabilities and limitations and of reinforcing positive attitudes towards safety and teamwork."

Despite his hectic schedules in Europe and the Asia Pacific countries, Mr Hernqvist (from the renowned Swedish P&I Club) made it a point to visit UMTC in Yangon and personally convey his valuable experience and passion about MRM. At the end of his address, Mr Hernqvist said, "From what I witnessed during my short stay here in UNITEAM MARINE (Yangon), I feel that the UNITEAM MARINE top management has fully embraced MRM values and desires that it be shared across every shore and sea staff in the Company. Therefore, as trained MRM Workshop Leaders, your role is vital in sending the message that a positive attitude towards safety is a crucial first step towards a safer, quality lifestyle onboard and ashore."



This is our first MRM Workshop Leaders Programme conducted in collaboration with the

Swedish Club Academy for the purpose of qualifying participants as workshop leaders (facilitators). It was attended by the UMTC and UMYL QSE departments. We have also invited Capt Kyaw Zeya (Head of Academics, Myanmar Maritime University) and Capt Htay Win (Director of DMA) to participate in this significant programme.

In Myanmar, UMTC is the first licensed and qualified training centre for the internationally recognised Maritime Resource Management Course!

Johnny Sim

## TRADITIONS & NAUTICAL VOCABULARY – AND THEIR ROOTS (PART 2)

### FORECASTLE

The correct pronunciation to this word is fō'ksul. The forecastle is the forward part of the main deck. Its name derives from the days of Viking galleys when wooden castles from which archers and other fighting men could shoot arrows and throw spears, rocks etc. were built on the forward and after parts of the main deck.

### GALLEY

The best explanation of its origin is as a corruption of "gallery". Ancient sailors cooked their meals on a brick or stone gallery laid amidships.

### MAY DAY

"Mayday" is the internationally recognized voice-radio signal for ships and people in serious trouble at sea. Made official in 1948, it is an anglicized form of the French m'aidez, "help me".

### JACOB'S LADDER

A Jacob's ladder is a portable ladder made of rope or metal, used primarily as an aid to boarding a ship. Originally, the Jacob's ladder was a network of line leading to the skysail on wooden ships. The name alludes to the biblical Jacob, who dreamed that he climbed a ladder to the sky. Anyone who has ever tried climbing a Jacob's ladder while carrying a sea bag can appreciate the allusion. It does seem that the climb is long enough to take one into the next world.

### KNOT

The term knot, or nautical mile, is used worldwide to denote one's speed through water. Today, we measure knots with electronic devices, but 200 years ago such devices were unknown. Ingenious marines devised a speed-measuring device both easy to use and reliable, the "log line". From this method came the term "knot". The log line was a length of twine marked at 47.33-foot intervals by coloured knots. A log chip was fastened to one end. It was shaped like the sector of a circle and weighted at the rounded end with lead. When thrown over the stern, it would float pointing upward and remain relatively stationary. The log line was allowed to run free over the side for 28 seconds and then hauled on board. Knots which had passed over the side were counted. In this way, the ships speed was measured.

Sources: based on Wikipedia, US Fleet Forces

## UNITEAM MARINE HAMBURG – PARTICIPATION IN THE "MOPO RUN"

The German local newspaper *Hamburger Morgenpost* invited many companies to join in their 4th charity run in Hamburg's Stadtpark on 18 August 2010. The entry fees are going towards creating a nature trail.

UNITEAM MARINE was present with a team of five people to run the five kilometres around the park. In spite of heavy rain we had a lot of fun. After the run each team received a picnic basket of refreshments.

Our team is shown in the photos below.



Doerte Schlottau, Carina Behrens, Stefan Mueller, Lee Christina Boeck, Aline Holdt



Smiling in the rain

Carina Behrens

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Christmas is coming soon... Here are some new books for cold days – books filled with humour, books about bad neighbours, history, the Christmas spirit, the sea or Hector's journey to Southeast Asia...

- 1. Crime:** Henning Mankell, *The Man from Beijing* (English publisher: Random House) / *Der Chinese* (German publisher: dtv Verlag)  
Mankell is one of Sweden's hottest exports, and this book is a must-read for those cold, grey winter days.
- 2. Thriller:** Cody McFadyen, *The Darker Side* (English publisher: Hodder & Stoughton) / *Das Böse in uns* (German publisher: Bastei Lübbe)  
Brilliant FBI Thriller
- 3. Marriage:** Rafael Yglesias, *A Happy Marriage* (English publisher: Scribner) / *Glückliche Ehe* (German publisher: Klett Cotta)  
Yglesias describes the good and bad days in a marriage, with laughs as well as tears when his wife dies after 30 years, leaving behind two sons. A great autobiography by the famous Hollywood writer Yglesias.

**4. History:** Ken Follett, *Fall of Giants* (English publisher: Pan Macmillan) / *Sturz der Titanen* (German: Bastei Luebbe)  
Europe 1914, three countries, three families. His best yet says the international press.

**5. Christmas:** Ann Pearlman, *Christmas Cookie Club* (English publisher: Atria Books, German publisher: Marion v. Schroeder)  
Looking for a present for your wife? Here's a Christmas story with esprit.

**6. Friends:** Francois Lelord, *Hector und die Freundschaft* (German publisher: Piper) from Hectors Journeys like Hector and the Search for Happiness or Hector and the Secrets of Love you will find from the English publisher: Gallic Books  
Hector the little psychiatrist travels to Southeast Asia and meets many interesting people. With much humour, he teaches us all a lesson about friendship with a lot of humour...A must-read like all the Hector stories.

**7. The Sea:** Elizabeth Strout, *Olive Kitteridge* (English publisher: Simon & Schuster) / *Mit Blick aufs Meer* (German publisher: Luchterhand)  
Strout won the Pulitzer Prize for this story. She describes perfectly the character of the people living with and near the rough sea.

**8. The Sea:** Sergio Bambaren, *Thoughts by the Ocean* / *Die Botschaft des Meeres* (publisher: Piper)  
All about the ocean and the soulsurfer.

**9. The Sea:** Claudie Gally, *Breakers* (English publisher: Mc Lehosé Press) / *Die Brandungswelle* (German publisher: btb)  
A best-seller in France and many other countries, The Breakers is as fascinating when describing seascapes and bird life as it is about the inhabitants of a village and events that unfolded long ago.

**10. Neighbours:** Marian Keys, *The Brightest Star* (English publisher: Random House) / *Der hellste Stern am Himmel* (German Publisher: Heyne)  
Neighbours... we all have them, we all love (and sometimes hate) them... A funny and mysterious story.

*Recommendations from Jessica Merkel*

**PORTRAIT OF 3/O PENG PAN**



**Mr. Peng Pan has been with UNITEAM MARINE since 2008.**

**HOW DID YOU JOIN UNITEAM MARINE?**

UNITEAM MARINE held an interview at my college in October 2007. I went along, passed the test, and then joined UNITEAM MARINE.

**WHEN DID THE WISH ARISE TO WORK ON A VESSEL – WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR CHOOSING A JOB AT SEA?**

I love the sea. I dreamed of being a captain ever

since I was a child. When I went to college, I chose Navigation as my major. I like travelling. I want to go to different countries all over the world. When I graduated from college, I chose to work on a vessel.

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST IN YOUR JOB?**

The blue sky and the dark blue sea when the vessel is crossing the sea.

**WHEN YOU ARE NOT AT SEA, DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES?**

Yes, I like singing, playing football, playing basketball, and spending time with my family.

**DO YOU CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN CHINA? ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL TRADITIONS?**

Yes, we do. On Christmas eve and Christmas day we give gifts and send cards to our friends. Boys send flowers to girls. In China, we have Spring Festival, which is as important as Christmas in your country. All the members of the family go home. We stay together, prepare many delicious plates and play together. It is a very happy time.

**THE BRAIN TEASER – CHRISTMAS TREE**

**Christmas Tree**



Four angels sat on a Christmas tree amidst other ornaments. Two had blue halos and two yellow. However, none of them could see above his head. Angel A sat on the top branch and could see the angels B and C, who sat below him. Angel B, could see angel C who sat on the lower branch. And angel D stood at the base of the tree obscured from view by a thicket of branches, so no one could see him, nor he could not see anyone else.

Which one of them could be the first to guess the colour of his halo and say it aloud for the other angels to hear?

Correct answers will be entered in a draw to be held 7 February 2011. The prize will be a UNITEAM MARINE polo shirt.

E – solution  
The right answer is “envelope”.

**The winner of the UNITEAM MARINE polo shirt is: Mr. Ye Win Shein onboard MV Lady Elisabeth**

**ONGOING COMPETITIONS**

**“Success through Teamwork – Experience on Board”**

Please send us your experiences on board reflecting our mission statement. We will publish one experience quarterly.  
Prize: USD 200,- for every published article for the crew's entertainment fund.

**“Best Photograph & Video” for 2011!**

We are looking for interesting photographs and videos from all our ships during the course of the year. If you have any extraordinary, bizarre, funny or beautiful shots and movies, please send them to us. Prize: USD 300,- for the selected best picture or video of the year.

**“The Brain Teaser”**

Please send your solution to “The Brain Teaser”! The winner will be selected in a drawing. The prize: a UNITEAM MARINE polo shirt.

**MYTH OR TRUTH – DID SAINT NICHOLAS REALLY EXIST?**

**Did Saint Nicholas really exist?**

Saint Nicholas (Greek: Άγιος Νικόλαος , Agios [“saint”] Nikolaos [“victory of the people”]) (270 - 6 December 346) is the canonical and most popular name for Nicholas of Myra, a saint and Greek Bishop of Myra. Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is also known as Nicholas the Wonderworker. He had a reputation for secret gift-giving, such as putting coins in the shoes of those who left them out for him, and thus became the model for Santa Claus. His reputation evolved among the faithful, as is common for early Christian saints. In 1087, his relics were furtively translated to Bari, in southeastern Italy; for this reason, he is also known as Nicholas of Bari.

The historical Saint Nicholas is remembered and revered among Catholic and Orthodox Christians. He is also honoured by various Anglican and Lutheran churches. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, thieves and children, as well as students in Greece, Belgium, Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Albania, Russia, the Republic of Macedonia, Slovakia, Serbia and Montenegro. He is also the patron saint of Aberdeen, Amsterdam, Barranquilla, Bari, Beit Jala, the Huguenots, Liverpool and Siggiewi.

The tradition of Saint Nicholas Day, usually observed on 6 December, is a festival for children in many countries in Europe related to surviving legends of the saint, and particularly his reputation as a bringer of gifts. The American Santa Claus as well as the Anglo-Canadian and British Father Christmas derive from these legends.

Source: Wikipedia

**HUMOUR**

**Santa, the kind lawyer and the honest politician**

Just before Christmas, an honest politician, a kindly lawyer and Santa Claus were riding in the lift of a very posh hotel. Just before the doors opened they all noticed a \$5 note lying on the floor.

Which one picked it up??

Santa, of course. The other two don't exist!