



EDITORIAL

Effective communication is a key aspect of teamwork – and great teamwork is crucial for high performance. This was recently demonstrated on-board MV Houston Express when their team rescued a sailor who had been lost for 66 days on the Atlantic.

In this issue we will also report about the encounters experienced by various teams. Office staff from Uniteam Ukraine and Uniteam Marine Yangon visited crews of MV Tokyo Trader and MV Northern Magnum, the crew from MV Maersk Evora went on an excursion led by the German Seamen's Mission and the team at Uniteam Training participated at valuable workshops in Yangon. Hanseatic Lloyd held its round table in Bremen and the annual Clients and Officers event in Yangon brought Seafarers, their wives, Clients and members of Uniteam Group of Companies together. It is invaluable for different teams to have the chance to meet in person, communicate directly, increase awareness of alternative perspectives and approaches to align our goals and objectives.

We do hope you enjoy reading the newsletter.

The Editorial Team

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ANNUAL CLIENTS AND OFFICERS EVENT IN YANGON

After weeks of preparation the time finally arrived for the 2015 Senior Officers Event. From 16th - 20th March Uniteam Marine in Yangon had the honour of welcoming Clients and Seafarers for the traditional annual event. It was an intense week of seminars, workshops, presentations and meetings culminating in a fabulous dinner at Yangon's Shangri-La Hotel.

Buss Shipping, Lomar Shipping, Norddeutsche Reederei H. Scholdt as well as Rickmers Hamburg, Rickmers Singapore and Rickmers Marine Agency Philippines Inc. accepted the invitation and attended this year's event in Yangon.

During three intensive days, Clients delivered knowledge-packed seminars which turned into interactive workshops. Senior Officers gained a deeper understanding in many important areas such as energy efficiency, insurance and QHSE and had an opportunity to discuss and familiarise with requirements coming into effect due to forthcoming new regulations. They were also provided with a platform in which they could share their feedback, thoughts and comments.

It wasn't simply a "meet and greet", but an important time in which to share crucial information, remind one another that every crew member, crew-managed vessel and management procedure matters and an opportunity to solidify existing relations. The discussions encouraged the understanding that every decision taken on-board must be done through a strong and well-informed team whilst continuously adhering to safe procedures. Each workshop reinforced clear communication amongst all ranks in order to ensure fluidity of information and rigorous implementation of actions decided.

In an environment of immense financial pressures for the Owners, such meetings and discussions do assist crew members to understand the challenges faced by Owners and the challenges of operating vessels in a competitive market. Improvements in day-to-day operations are achieved through building strong relationships that encourage reflection and observation. Transformation does not happen unilaterally, it requires the efforts of willing and knowledgeable candidates and continued interaction of all parties on-board and ashore.

During this week, Uniteam Training introduced Clients to its newest training facilities and simulators on the Yangon premises, its workshop at Thanlyin and demonstrated their state-of-the-art, advanced firefighting simulator.

On Thursday evening the Officers' Dinner took place at the Shangri-La Hotel. Uniteam Marine's Office Director Andreas Schantz welcomed the 280 guests, including Ship Owners, Office Directors, Managers, Senior Officers and their wives. He proudly declared that all future seminars would be held at the new premises and invited Uniteam Marine's Managing Director Mr. John Hadjiparaskevas to the stage. Mr. Hadjiparaskevas presented a clear update of the general situation in shipping and Uniteam Marine's future plans; emphasising Uniteam Marine's unrelenting commitment to Seafarer's well-being, best practises and on-board safety. "The redesign of Fleet Personnel processes, the training curricula as well as the significant investments in the latest, most innovative technologies will reinforce Seafarer's training, expertise and confidence". As Capt. Than Oo closed the speeches and opened the delicious buffet, conversations, laughter and entertainment ensued. Guests especially appreciated the band music which included the singing of Yu Ni Ko, daughter of Senior Fleet Personnel Manager Ko Ko Lwin.

For guests who had some more time to spare after the completion of the event, a sightseeing programme was arranged by Uniteam Tours & Travel that consisted of a sunset cruise along the Yangon River and visits to the Shwedagon Pagoda, Bogyoke Market and the National Museum.

Uniteam Marine remains committed to enhancing such relationships that increase the effectiveness of on-board operations and greatly values the commitment and efforts demonstrated by all participants.

Anja Claire Lambley-Steel, Assistant to the CEO



FEDERAL CROSS OF MERIT ON RIBBON AWARDED TO CAPT. JERZY WILK

Congratulations to Capt. Jerzy Wilk, Member of the Board of Directors of Uniteam Group of Companies.

The president of Germany, Joachim Gauck, has awarded Capt. Wilk with the Federal Cross of Merit on Ribbon for his outstanding work promoting economic relations between Germany and Myanmar, as well as his charitable dedication during Nargis and valuable work on behalf of orphanages. On the 24th March 2015, Ambassador Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lortsch presented the award to Capt. Wilk.

Capt. Wilk was moved by this public appreciation, especially since very few Germans in Myanmar have received awards in the past – only two Germans in the last 20 years, according to the ambassador.

The ceremony and following dinner for 20 guests were attended by the ambassador and his wife, Capt. Wilk and his family as well as Capt. Than Oo, Capt. Thet Naing and Andreas Schantz from Uniteam Marine Yangon.

Anja Frauboese, Corporate Communications & Marketing Manager



MV HOUSTON EXPRESS RESCUES SAILOR

After 66 days on the Atlantic a shipwrecked sailor was rescued by the crew of MV Houston Express.

Louis Jordan (37) was sailing from South Carolina at the end of January when his boat capsized. For over two months he survived by drinking rainwater and eating raw fish. After his father reported Jordan missing the Coast Guard began a search. "We didn't know where he was going", said Coast Guard spokesman Ryan Doss to CBS News. "Without that critical piece of information, a good portion of the Atlantic Ocean becomes your search area."

After 66 days the crew of MV Houston Express spotted Jordan on his capsized boat – more than 300 km off the coast of North Carolina – and informed the Coast Guard. Jordan was in good condition apart from an injury to his shoulder. The Coast Guard took him to hospital in Norfolk (Virginia).

Capt. Thomas Grenz from MV Houston Express stated: "With pride, I'd like to point out the great teamwork and professionalism of the present on-board crew. Without them the success of the SAR operation would not have been a foregone conclusion. Given the swell of about 1.5 m - 2.0 m, winds of 20 kn and a current of 3 kn, it was a risky though feasible challenge. In particular, the use and recovery of our rescue boat had been carefully evaluated and finally determined to be the best and safest scenario.

We wish Mr. Jordan and his family all the best for the future."

Congratulations to Capt. Grenz and his crew for the successful rescue operation!

MYTHOS ROUND TABLE

Some call it an Officer's conference; others call it a seminar. We prefer to call it a round table, which describes the idea even more precisely. Initiated by various Clients, it has become a valuable tradition for more than ten years. One can sense the spirit of the round table is in the air.

This January Mr. Justus Kniffka, Managing Director of Hanseatic Lloyd, organized a two-day round table in Bremen. Its aim was to bring together not only the Captains and Senior Officers, but also the Junior Officers and Engineers of our managed vessels and all relevant participants from the Owners' office, including Senior Management and the Crew Manager.

This forum is an excellent opportunity where representatives of the Owners and the Managers – individuals who would unlikely be in the same place at the same time - to discuss topics of mutual interest along with seminar style

presentations. Points discussed during the two days included items of a technical nature, for example voyage planning, trim optimization, fuel & energy reporting and electrical load optimization – and also company structure and safety awareness.

The highly interesting two days promoted increased understanding between the ship and Shore side operations. The open communication provided on-board Seafarers and Managers ashore with an excellent opportunity to look at existing procedures and established practices from a different perspective.

One thing for sure: a round table won't let its attendees remain indifferent.

Capt. Udo Stoermer, Senior Fleet Personnel Manager



FIGHT OR FLIGHT MODE

From our last PWC-module "Rough Water Seamanship" we have learned about the "fight-or-flight mode". We are trapped by nature in this habitual behaviour, which can become exhausting for body and mind if not kept under control.

Encouraged by PWC and our office director, Mr. Jens Schultz, we have implemented a daily session in our Hamburg office to manage our stress levels and energy. Every morning at 8.30 a regular group of eight to ten staff members meets for three minutes to "recharge their batteries".

Each day we perform the Pranayama yoga breathing exercise to increase inner harmony and energy.

We combine movement with our breathing in order to release stress from our body and relax our muscles.

We cultivate positive energy by holding the typical yoga position called Asana.

My aim is to present small exercises which can be done during daily work, with no yoga mat or meditation cushion required.

We always have an open slot in our group and look forward to welcoming our colleagues working in or visiting our office.

Three minutes might seem a short time to you, but as Swami Sivananda (yoga master and doctor) has said: "One gram of practice is worth more than a ton of theory."

Andrea Leise, Assistant Fleet Personnel Manager

CADET TRAINING PROGRAMME REVIEWED

The training of Cadets has always been important for Uniteam Marine. Over the years several improvements have been made to support our Cadets as fully as possible.

Back in 2010 the "Cadet Plus" programme was introduced. Feedback received in the intervening years from Senior Officers, On-Board Trainers, Superintendents and Cadets made it apparent that the time was ripe for a new review of the whole training process and for implementing a more highly effective approach.

One of the major findings of the review was that on occasion it was not quite clear what on-board areas actually required training since Cadets arrive with varying backgrounds.

In addition, Cadets had to carry multiple record books in order to fulfil all requirements as laid out by flag state, training institutions, Uniteam Marine and Ship Owners. It was also concluded that the pre-training time ashore should be increased to help Cadets have a better start on-board from the very outset.

With its new simulators and the workshop in Thanlyin, Uniteam Training will provide excellent and exciting training lessons to increase Cadet competency before being deployed to designated vessels. Once the Cadets arrive on-board, our Senior Officers and ratings are called into service. The reduced crew levels coupled with a high workload to fulfil obligations and requirements, especially in a very demanding trade, make it even more challenging nowadays to easily implement a full-scale Cadet training programme on-board. As everyone gives their full support to the on-board programme we will soon have excellent new Officers prepared for duty.

The first batch of Cadets selected and trained under the new training programme is expected to arrive on the ships in July. Please give them a warm welcome and encourage them to gain experience and stretch their knowledge.

Ms. Sun Herodotou from Uniteam Marine's Cyprus office and I will be monitoring the new training programme and the Cadets' progress on-board very closely. Our e-mail address is: cadets@uniteammarine.com. Ships' commands and Cadets are herewith encouraged to contact us if any support is required.

Capt. Holger Rolfs, Training Coordination Manager, Uniteam Marine

VISIT TO MV NORTHERN MAGNUM AT ODESSA

On the 26th December 2014 the opportunity arose to visit MV Northern Magnum, one of the largest Norddeutsche Reederei vessels crew-managed by Uniteam Marine. The vessel is Post-Panamax class and sails under the German flag. It has a capacity of around 7000 containers.

The visit took place during the Christmas and New Year's Holidays and we had a chance not only to discuss our professional concerns, but also to congratulate the seamen and present our Christmas gifts to them.

The event was even more significant for our Office Director Maksym Kostin, who in 2004 as 2nd mate took part in the takeover of the vessel when she was delivered from the shipyard. Maksym Kostin was especially happy to show the vessel to his son Oleksandr who decided to become a seaman like all the men in his family.

The Master of the vessel, Capt. Andrzej Murkowski and Chief Officer Andrius Vilcinskas showed us the bridge, galley, mess room, gym hall, the accommodation area and many other interesting places.

Especially interesting for us was our visit to the engine room, where we were shown all the equipment by Chief Engineer Aleksej Popov. He explained the main engine in detail. We were fascinated to see the "heart" of the vessel.

Andrej Janzer – QMR, who had formerly served at NRS as Chief Engineer and later as Superintendent, was especially glad to visit his former workplace.

We would like to thank the crewmembers of MV Northern Magnum and especially Master Murkowski and Chief Engineer Popov for their cordial reception and extremely interesting tour of the vessel.



Such visits enable us to understand how our seamen work and live, what requirements they fulfil and what professional knowledge they need to possess.

We shall continue our hard work and efforts to deliver high standards of service.

Anna Kryuchkova, Recruitment Officer, Uniteam Ukraine

VISIT TO MV TOKYO TRADER AT YANGON

MV Tokyo Trader was built in 2014 at Jiangsu Yangzijiang Shipyard, China and made her maiden voyage on 01.07.2014.

From 09.02.2015 to 13.02.2015 MV Tokyo Trader visited Yangon where we were excited to see her. Capt. Hassan Hwija, a Polish national who has sailed with Uniteam Marine since 2010, had not expected to meet the team from Uniteam Marine in Yangon. He was delighted to see daily operations in the office and also to visit Uniteam Training.

MV Tokyo Trader berthed at MIP (Myanmar Industrial Port) Terminal Yangon on 09.02.2014. Capt. Hwija and his crew were very busy when our Fleet Personnel team briefly visited the vessel at the terminal. Our colleagues expressed their happiness to board MV Tokyo Trader. For some of them it was the first time to visit a vessel.

Later we received the following note from Capt. Hwija: "Many thanks for Uniteam Marine's visit of Tokyo Trader and your kind invitation to visit the office in Yangon and the city tour. You should be proud of the Uniteam Marine office and Uniteam



Training and its facilities. It is a huge and valuable investment for maintaining good jobs and ensuring an even better future. I wish you and your team good luck and a successful mission!"

MV Tokyo Trader departed from Yangon on 13.02.2015. We look forward to welcoming her again in Yangon.

Kyaw Naing Tun, Crewing Manager - Group III

MV MAERSK EVORA: CREW WELFARE

It was a clear Sunday under blue skies at Wilhelmshaven port. Our vessel was there for two days awaiting cargo.

Capt. Nyunt Win and the German Seamen's Mission arranged an excursion and sightseeing trip for the vessel's crew. We divided up into two groups of eight crewmembers for the morning (9-12 am) and afternoon (1-5 pm). Led by Eidevir Morten and Crodehard Ohmes from Seamen's Mission, we first visited a castle that was more than 1000 years old. Then we drove to the famous navy base and Marine Museum where we were able to board a navy missile ship and submarine. Thereafter we visited an old-style windmill and viewed the city's sights. The tour was free of charge, including transportation, entrance and guide. We took many photos and learned a great deal from this excursion.



We would like to thank our Captain Nyunt Win as well as Mr. Morten and Mr. Ohmes from the German Seamen's Mission for arranging this splendid and valuable trip for our crew.

Saw Kyaw Shein, Chief Officer and representative of crew of MV Maersk Evora

UNITEAM TRAINING AND THE OSCARS

When we talk about the Oscars we naturally think of Hollywood and the fashion parade of celebrities on the red carpet. Something similar took place at Uniteam Training one February evening.

Join me now to find out who's on the red carpet, who's been nominated, what are the movies.



The night began with the PWC "High Performing Team Workshop" and was followed by an awards presentation. All the nominated movies were from creative people in our Uniteam Training departments who produced their films without any help from professionals.

Members of the jury:

Aye Withye Taung – actress
Christina Kyi – film director
Zeen – US-born Myanmar actor

The jury evaluated all the movies carefully and announced the winners. The creativity displayed in the videos (story/acting/song mixing/editing) was outstanding and nine Oscars were awarded.

Praise from director Christina Kyi – who said she didn't expect to see such amazing footage – should make Uniteam Training especially proud of its creativity and acting. It's not easy to be judged by professional artists. Well done Uniteam Training with your amazing videos!

And the "Oscar" goes to...

- 1) Best Picture: Oil & Gas Department
- 2) Best Actress: Theingi Win (MS & A Assistant)
- 3) Best Actor: Nyi Nyi Naing (Oil & Gas BDM)
- 4) Best Supporting Actress: Khin Yadandar (MS & A Assistant),
- 5) Best Supporting Actor: Ko Min Lyat Chan (Oil & Gas Instructor)
- 6) Best Original Screenplay: MS & A Department
- 7) Best Song Mixing: Thiha Moe Oo (Oil & Gas Instructor)
- 8) Best Documentary: Machine & Welding Department
- 9) Best Costumes: Marine Department

I must admit I also loved the unity, activity, creativity and idea of the Admin Department's entry and I loved their song mixing. We also shouldn't forget the hard work of the English Department. On behalf of management I would like to thank all departments for their participation, their movies and for giving Uniteam Training such a memorable night.

Nyi Nyi Naing, Business Development Manager (Oil & Gas, Industrial), Uniteam Training

HAPPY THINGYAN

Thingyan Festival, or Water Festival, marking the Myanmar New Year was celebrated in April. It is an opportunity to pour water over one another in order to wash away dirt, bad deeds and sin and also a symbolic moment in which to welcome in the New Year together.

As promised in our March UM News here are some impressions of the Festival celebrated on-board:



Preparing the menu and creating the painting on-board MV Judith Borchard



Painting arranged by Bosun Kyaw Soe Moe on-board MV APL Arabia



Thingyan greetings from the crew on-board MV Northern Practise, sent by AB Than Htaik

PORTRAIT OF CAPT. ANDRZEJ MURKOWSKI

HOW DID YOU JOIN UNITEAM MARINE?

One of my friends from the Maritime Academy in Gdynia strongly recommended the company as a highly reputable and reliable employer, so at the end of 1999 I contacted Uniteam Marine Ltd. by e-mail. I received a phone call from Capt. Thomas Reppenhagen and it all started. I joined Uniteam Marine in October 2000, taking over the vessel MV CCNI Arauco then managed by Rickmers Reederei.



DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVOURITE PORTS OR CITIES?

Indeed I do. My favourite ports of call are Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands, perhaps because those are the places where my seagoing life began!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST IN YOUR JOB?

In my present job as a Master I especially like entering and leaving ports and the navigational challenges of dense and congested traffic on the water. Speaking candidly, I will admit that administrative and paper work are not my favourites.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST EXCITING EXPERIENCE WHILE WORKING ON-BOARD?

It was while I was at another company (not Uniteam Marine). We nearly capsized, but somehow managed to survive. Those are moments one can never forget...a real adrenaline rush.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR PROSPECTIVE SEAFARERS?

Yes, this profession should be chosen with great care. I have encountered a number of frustrated individuals who admitted that committing themselves to a seafarer's life had been a mistake in their case. It is always good to think twice and to assume this will be one's career until retiring. There are times when it becomes difficult to establish relations with the family ashore. Both parties must accept this.

One more thing, in order to maintain a healthy atmosphere and teamwork on-board it is important to develop a feeling of empathy for the persons you work with. That is always very helpful.

YOU WILL RETIRE SOON. WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST?

After spending more than 40 years at sea it will not be easy to adjust to life on shore. I'll even miss the stressful moments in ship-handling.

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" 2015!

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.

PHOTO & VIDEO COMPETITION 2015



"Amazing Searchlight" by Bosun Thet Lwin on-board MV Hamburg Trader

HUMOUR

Big John Doesn't Pay!

One fine day a bus driver went to the garage, started his bus and drove off along his route. No problems for the first few stops - a few people got on, a few got off and things went generally well. At the next stop however, a big hulk of a guy got on. Six foot eight, built like a wrestler and arms hanging down to the ground. He glared at the driver and said, "Big John doesn't pay!" then sat down at the back. Did I mention that the driver was five foot three, thin and basically meek? Well, he was. Naturally he didn't argue with Big John, but he wasn't happy about it.

The next day the same thing happened. Big John got on again, made a show of refusing to pay and sat down. And the next day and the one after that and so forth. This grated on the bus driver who started losing sleep over the way Big John was taking advantage of him. Finally he could stand it no longer. He signed up for body-building courses, karate, judo and all that good stuff. By the end of the summer he had become quite strong. What's more, he felt really good about himself.

On the next Monday, when Big John once again got on the bus and said, "Big John doesn't pay!" the driver stood up, glared back at the passenger and screamed, "And WHY NOT?" With a surprised look on his face, Big John replied "Big John has a bus pass."

Moral of the story: "Be sure there is a problem in the first place before working hard to solve one."

IMPRINT

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Frequency of publication:
Quarterly

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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, pictures & videos for the photo & video competition to Corporate Communications & Marketing at Uniteam Marine, Anja Frauboese, marketing@uniteamservices.com



YOUR FEEDBACK ON UM NEWS

Dear Reader, please send us your feedback until 24 July 2015