



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



*First I would like to express my sincere thanks for your service and all the efforts you made for the care and protection of UNITEAM MARINE and our clients' interests during 2012 and to wish a successful and productive 2013 with the cooperation of all.*

*2012 has been extremely challenging for all, but especially our clients. Coupled with a sliding downwards market, serious piracy and high premium issues, rising fuel prices and other problems, shipping continued back and forth following yet another year of retrenchment in a difficult international environment.*

*All sectors, whether Containers, Bulk-carriers or Tankers were affected as freight rates plummeted, finally reaching levels as low of more than a decade ago, leaving only little optimism for the next months to come.*

*Unavoidably, with vessels being taken out of service or disposed elsewhere, we had also to adopt a responsible approach and employ new strategies for getting through these demanding times, carefully allocating our resources to reduce exposure and to ensure a sustainable future growth.*

*Despite the gloomy picture, shipping remains the only world-wide means of distribution of goods economically and efficiently, serving as the lifeline of the whole world.*

*With the global economies full of uncertainties after the recession of the last years, we can only look forward to a gradually better future and for sure there will be emerging opportunities for us and our clients.*

*Tough times make us stronger, leaner and more efficient, giving us the chance to re-evaluate and prepare for the more exciting challenges ahead when the new prospects appear.*

*We have therefore the opportunity to become more proficient in our everyday roles through our care and effort and with continuous training and upgrading of our knowledge, to deal with our duties effectively and with pride.*

*After all, whether on board or ashore, we can only be successful if we care about our every day environment, our duties and our colleagues. And success brings contentment, better performance, ships well maintained, better run and most importantly with less accidents.*

*May all your hopes come true and I wish you and your families peace, health and happiness throughout the New Year.*

**Gerhard Ruether**

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## INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ENGLISH CONFERENCE IN MYANMAR



Sixty local and international delegates took part in the 24th International Maritime English Conference (IMEC) held in Yangon from 1 to 4 October with the topic of "Maritime English: Improving Communication and Cultural Awareness". The Uniteam Marine Training Centre hosted this event in co-operation with Myanmar Maritime University.



The conference, which took place at the Summit Parkview Hotel, was officially opened by Deputy Transport Minister H.E. U Han Sein. Prof. Dr. Peter Trenkner, chairman of IMEC and honorary member of the IMLA (International Maritime Lecturers Association), greeted the audience in the



languages of the international participants: delegates from the UK, France, China, Singapore, The Philippines, Sweden, Australia and Japan, among other countries, were attending this important annual event.

The opening ceremony was followed by presentations and workshops in the next days, highlighting the problems caused by language and seeking solutions. "What did you say – why communication failures occur on the radio?" – presented by Prof. Dr. Naoyuki Takagi from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, dealt with research on the main problems: radio equipment, vocabulary used, speed of speech, foreign accents. With native speakers the main challenges appear to be: speaking too fast, messages that are too long and include unfamiliar expressions, lack





of respect and of a communication strategy. How can one solve these problems? By asking speakers to slow down, to use other words, to spell and to confirm (“You mean such and such, right?”). To repeat, to use short sentences, to use standardized expressions...

The international delegates were also pleased with the local presentations arranged by the English teachers of UMTC and MMU. There were also many discussions during breaks.

During the conference the delegates also had a chance to visit the famous Shwedagon pagoda, which was the background for the official conference photo. A half-day sightseeing tour through Yangon and its famous monuments was also offered,

and in addition MMU invited the guests to a traditional Myanmar evening – which meant: time for karaoke! The farewell dinner on Thursday evening took place at the Yangon Sailing Club at Inya Lake, with delicious food, live music and sailing boats decorated with lights – a perfect way to end IMEC 24.

“Success Through Teamwork” – UNITEAM MARINE’s motto was prominently displayed throughout the conference as colleagues from the various departments worked hand in hand to make this an unforgettable event.

Anja Frauboese

**Some feedback:**

*“We very much enjoyed the conference and associated programme. The success of IMEC 24 was a credit to its planning and organisation.”* Lynette Fortington, Northern Melbourne Institute, Australia

*“It was a wonderful conference.”* Prof. Dr. Naoyuki Takagi, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, Japan

*“I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it.”* – Dr. Taner Albayrad, Piri Reis Maritime University, Turkey

*“It was a marvellous conference in every respect thanks to your careful and creative organisation and all in all a truly memorable experience. Thank you!”* – Alison Noble, Antwerp Maritime Academy, Belgium

*“The conference organisation was meticulously organised from start to finish and it all went very smoothly. Thank you for all your hard work in ensuring that every detail was anticipated and provided for. It was a great chance to hear about the teaching taking place at UMTC and MMU and it was very interesting to see the Uniteam Training Centre after hearing so much about it.”* – Catherine Logie, Marlins, UK

*“Thank you and the team for the wonderful hospitality and managing the event so smoothly. This one has been very unique and it felt like I was meeting family I have never met before.”* – Sundeep Sequeira, Videotel, Singapore

*“On my own behalf and that of our steering committee, I wish to express our utmost gratitude, first and foremost, to you and all your staff who guaranteed that IMEC 24 will occupy an outstanding place in the historic record of our association.”* – Prof. Dr. Peter Trenkner, Wismar University, Germany

## STANDARD MARITIME COMMUNICATION PHRASES (SMCP) WORKSHOP AT UMTC

Quote from a “Telegraph” article November 2010 (P. Trenkner / C. Cole)

*“...New Year’s Day 2012. Tired? Head aching? Drained? The result of the party the night before? Probably. Or perhaps the effects of meeting the STCW Manila amendment’s deadline?... In our case we have been busy assessing the effects the changes will have on our Maritime English courses, their curricula, the material development...and even the training of Maritime English teachers, many of whom will need to update their knowledge and skills...”*

This article caught the attention of the English Department, as the same assessment was made at UMTC. The new STCW Regulations call for a stricter use of SMCP and consequently it was decided to raise the competence of English instructors to the latest accepted level. Therefore we invited the best available resources in the SMCP field, Prof. Dr. Peter Trenkner (principal author of the SMCP) and Prof. Clive Cole from the World Maritime University to conduct a SMCP proficiency course at our facilities.

As well as the instructors from UMTC, instructors and staff from Myanmar Maritime University (MMU), Myanmar Maritime Mercantile College (MMMC) and the Department of Marine Administration (DMA) were also invited to attend the workshop. The course not only covered rules and regulations and significant topics, but also allowed the partici-



pants to put into practice an approach that can impart the various aspects of IMO-SMCP in a realistic and effective manner.

As a result, at UMTC we will start a teaching approach in our simulators called “twinning”, whereby instructors with different fields of expertise form a team. In practical terms, it means that whenever the simulator instructor conducts an MRM or BTM exercise requiring a high level of SMCP communication, an English instructor will be invited to participate and conduct a debriefing on SMCP usage.

All participants would like to thank both professors, who made every effort to make the course fruitful and enjoyable despite the long lecture hours and the rather “warm” weather conditions in Yangon.

Capt. Holger Rolfs / Celine Talbot

## MYANMAR ENERGY TRADE SHOW 2012



From humble beginnings in 2011 with only six booths, the annual Myanmar Energy Trade Show has mushroomed into an industry-recognized event, attended by the biggest names in the field of oil and gas. As we did last year, Uniteam Offshore Solutions booked a booth and put its training and manpower services on display.

During the two days of the exhibition, the booth itself was enthusiastically manned by Mr. Kyaw Thura and Miss Tin Nilar Moe of Uniteam Offshore Solutions, who welcomed all the visitors. As usual, the exhibition provided an excellent opportunity to meet with old friends and establish new relations in this exciting industry.

The opening ceremony, moderated by His Excellency U Than Htay, Union Minister of

Energy, took place on 26 September, after which the doors were opened and visitors from Myanmar and from far afield flooded on to the floor. Oil and gas exploration and production remains one of the hottest industries in Myanmar, generating revenue for the country and providing high-quality jobs for its people. With exciting natural gas finds, especially offshore in the Gulf of Martaban and the Bay of Bengal, the best is yet to come!

Uniteam Offshore Solutions/Uniteam Offshore Training Centre will continue to play an important role in the Myanmar oil and gas industry by providing manpower as well as advanced training and competency services. We already look forward to next year’s outing of the Myanmar Energy Trade Show and hope to welcome you there!

Paul van Empel

## MV TETE RICKMERS HELPS THE COAST GUARD

On 3 September, Capt. Thet Aung Khin of MV Tete Rickmers received a special request while waiting at the anchorage outside Piraeus in Greece. He was contacted by the Greek authorities and asked to take part in a search and rescue (SAR) helicopter rescue drill. Capt. Thet Aung Khin readily agreed and the crew began preparing their vessel to work with the helicopter.

Once communications with the aircraft had been established, the captain had to suggest a suitable area of the ship, free from obstructions such as masts or aerials, for the winching drill to take place. It was agreed that the drill would take place over the hatch cover of number 2 cargo hold and the chief officer and deck crew set to work to prepare the area. The first task was to secure any loose objects. This was necessary to ensure that nothing was damaged or blown over the side by the powerful downwash from the helicopter's rotors and also to make sure that no small items could be sucked into the aircraft's engine to cause foreign object damage, or "FOD", as it is familiarly known. Once these preparations had been completed and firefighting equipment had been positioned in case of emergency, the drill commenced.



The helicopter is a Eurocopter Super Puma AS332C1 from the Hellenic Air Force

Whilst the pilot maintained an expert hover low over the ship, four members of the SAR crew and a stretcher were lowered down to the deck of the Tete Rickmers. The team then conducted a number of winching drills, ending by lifting the stretcher "casualty" safely back into the helicopter.

Capt. Thet Aung Khin and his crew considered the drill an hour well spent and welcomed the opportunity to witness the reassuring professionalism of the Hellenic Air Force SAR crews at such close range.

Peter Chilman

## SWIMMING LESSONS AT UNITEAM OFFSHORE TRAINING CENTRE

Anyone passing the Uniteam Offshore Training Centre on a Saturday morning these days may be surprised to hear the happy shouts of children from the swimming pool! Since the beginning of March 2012, the pool has been used for a purpose other than originally intended: once a week a group of our boys from the Myitar-Yaung Chi orphanage in Thanlyin township have been coming to Yangon to learn to swim.



Although some of the boys may have had some initial reservations about the 5-metre-deep swimming pool, they soon started jumping into the water without fear. Now they swim their laps with the greatest enthusiasm... Surely they owe this great success to their patient swimming teacher, Kyaw Zin, who normally works as an instructor at the Uniteam Offshore Training Centre. Many thanks to him!



After diving and improving their swimming performance for an hour, each of the boys gets his well-earned reward: a delicious doughnut! Later in the car, exhausted but happy, the boys go back to Thanlyin, already looking forward to coming back to the pool the next Saturday.

Clara Braeuer

## RETIREMENT: TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO CAPT. PETER RENKEN

Capt. Peter Renken (born 19 February 1946) has been our man from the very beginning. He joined NRS/UNITEAM MARINE in 1998, serving as a master on container vessels ranging in size from 3800 to 8400 TEU.

Capt. Renken always managed to satisfy owners and charterers, and we never received any complaints from the vessels. An even-tempered master, the way he views and carries out his duties with regard to maintenance, ISM and, especially, leadership have made him a most valuable member of our company. All the vessels have been well maintained, all the superintendents have found in him a good and reliable master – our collaboration has been based on solid partnership. Not only are we losing an excellent master, but also a strong team leader and motivator for our crew.

Capt. Renken, we would like to wish you a successful start to the next chapter of your life. We hope you always remember what you achieved in your long career on board. There is one promise we can give you: be assured that whenever we have



"trouble", we will remember our captain, Peter Renken. Who knows, we may even find ourselves calling you up for help...

Goodbye and Bon Voyage.

Capt. Udo Stoermer

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

"Literature is the most agreeable way of ignoring life."

Fernando Pessoa, *The Book of Disquiet*

### Some Hot Christmas Books:

**For your best friend:** Rachel Joyce, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* (Transworld, London/Doubleday, New York)  
In German: *Die unwahrscheinliche Pilgerreise des Harold Fry* (Krueger Verlag)

Harold, a simple man, sets out on a long walk to see his dying friend and colleague Queenie at the other end of England. The story is as simple as old Harold himself but clever and touching, a journey through the self!

**History:** Ken Follett, *Winter of the World* (Macmillan, London/Dutton, New York)  
In German: *Winter der Welt* (Bastei Luebbe)

Ken Follett the great storyteller is back again with a new bestseller about the World War II. The second book in his "Century Trilogy".

**Crime:** Elizabeth George, *Believing the Lie* (Dutton, New York)  
In German: *Glaube der Luege* (Goldmann Verlag)

Inspector Lynley is back. Lock your doors. Another brilliant book with the famous team Inspector Lynley and his incredible assistant Barbara Havers.

**Crime:** Tess Gerritsen, *The Silent Girl* (Ballantine Books, New York)  
In German: *Grabesstille* (Limes Verlag)

This shocking crime story is among the best and most personal books from the Chinese-American novelist. Full of Chinese myths.

**Teen Fiction:** John Green, *The Fault in Our Stars* (Dutton, New York)  
In German: *Das Schicksal ist ein mieser Verräter* (Hanser Verlag)

In this gripping novel a 16-year-old cancer patient is forced by her parents to attend a support group. She falls in love with Augustus, an ex-basketball player in remission from the disease. A book that's not only for teenagers...already a New York Times bestseller.

Merry Christmas!  
Jessica Merkel

## MYTH OR TRUTH

### “LEVIATHAN”

Researchers have discovered the fossilised remains of an ancient whale with huge, fearsome teeth.

Writing in the journal *Nature*, the scientists have dubbed the 12 million-year-old creature “Leviathan”. It is thought to have been more than 17m long, and might have engaged in fierce battles with other giant sea creatures from the time.

Leviathan was much like the modern sperm whale in terms of size and appearance. But that is where the similarity ends. While the sperm whale is a relatively passive animal, sucking in squid from the depths of the ocean, Leviathan was an aggressive predator.

According to Dr. Christian de Muizon, director of the Natural History Museum in Paris, Leviathan could have hunted out and fed on large sea creatures such as dolphins, seals and even other whales.

“It was a kind of a sea monster,” he said.

“And it’s interesting to note that at the same time in the same waters was another monster, which was a giant shark about 15m long. It’s possible that they might have fought each other”.

The researchers speculate that Leviathan was able to feed on very large prey up to 8m long. It would catch the prey in its huge jaws and tear it apart quickly and effectively with its giant teeth.

The Leviathan skull was discovered in 12 million-year-old sediments in Peru.

A 3m-long fossilised skull of the creature was discovered by researchers in southern Peru in 2008. Dr. de Muizon’s student, Olivier Lambert was among them. “It was the last day of our field trip when one of our colleagues came and told us that he thought he’d found something very interesting. So we joined him and he showed it to us,” he said.

“We immediately saw that it was a very large whale and when we looked closer we saw it was a giant sperm whale with huge teeth.” The teeth were more than twice the length and diameter of those found in modern sperm whales and they were on the upper and lower jaws. Sperm whales have teeth only on their lower jaw.

Dr. Lambert and his colleagues had speculated that such a fierce creature might once have existed on the basis of discoveries of individual teeth.

Leviathan is a sea monster referred to in the Bible. The word has become synonymous with any large sea monster or creature. In classical literature (such as the novel *Moby Dick* written by Herman Melville) it refers to great whales.

Now, the discovery of the skull means that the Leviathan is not merely the stuff of myth and legend.

“Finally we found it,” said Dr. Lambert. “It was a very exciting moment”.

The researchers do not know why this ancient whale died out. They speculate that the ecology and environment changed so that the creature had to change its feeding habits.

That may have led to the emergence of today’s much gentler sperm whales, with the carnivorous niche filled by killer whales as conditions swung back again.

The authors of the report in *Nature*, who are all whale experts, are fans of the novel *Moby Dick*, which involves a ferocious white sperm whale. They decided to dedicate their discovery to the author, and give the creature its full scientific name of *Livyatan melvillei*.

**Source: Pallab Ghosh Science correspondent, BBC News, Wikipedia**

## PORTRAIT OF FLEET TECHNICAL MANAGER JURE KUTLESA



Jure Kutlesa has been with UNITEAM MARINE since 1990. He now works in the company’s Technical Department in Hamburg.

### 1 HOW DID YOU JOIN UNITEAM MARINE?

Before joining UNITEAM MARINE I was sailing on Croatian Shipping Company’s Slobodna Plovidba Sibenik, having joined them in 1977 as an engine cadet and leaving with the rank of Chief Engineer. Since joining UNITEAM MARINE in 1990, I was serving on UNITEAM MARINE managed ships from July 1990 until March 2002 in the capacity of chief engineer. Since August 2002, I have been in the Technical Department of UNITEAM MARINE in Hamburg.

### 2 WHAT ARE YOUR DUTIES AS FLEET TECHNICAL MANAGER?

In brief: Liaison with various owners regarding daily activities, questions related to ships, approval of orders valued over the limit for TM, assistance to office personnel concerning QSE matters, procurement and technical issues, responsibility for ships assigned to FTM, preparations for docking of ships and of conversion and other major repairs, dry dock and major repairs while afloat, etc.

### 3 WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST IN YOUR JOB?

Working in Technical Department is a daily challenge. You really need to enjoy this job, otherwise your life will be hard. Troubleshooting and providing technical and operational support to the ships is highly rewarding.

### 4 TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES IN WORKING FOR UNITEAM MARINE FOR THE LAST 22 YEARS.

I can think of many memorable experiences accumulated in all those years working on board ships and in the office. My most recent one was assisting the ship when she was losing main propulsion. As it seems to be typical, this

happened on a Friday afternoon when most offices are closed, and so it was a particular challenge to make the necessary arrangements. In this case there was a happy ending – the crew and ship were safe, and there was no danger to lives or the environment.

### 5 DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR COLLEAGUES WORKING IN THE ENGINE ROOM?

Read the manuals carefully before undertaking any maintenance – good preparation is half the job. Maintain cleanliness in working spaces and the environment. Never give up – solving problems is both a challenge and a pleasure.

### 6 DO YOU HAVE ANY CREDO OR MOTTO IN LIFE?

Honesty, professionalism and fairness. I believe in the importance of success in the end, but you have to like what you do.

## HUMOUR

### THE ENGINEER AND THE FROG

An engineer was crossing a road one day when a frog called out to him and said,  
“If you kiss me, I’ll turn into a beautiful princess.”

He bent over, picked up the frog, and put it in his pocket. The frog spoke up again and said,  
“If you kiss me, I’ll turn back into a beautiful princess and stay with you for one week.”

The engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket. The frog then cried out,  
“If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I’ll stay with you for one week and do anything you want.”

Again, the engineer took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket. Finally, the frog asked,  
“What is the matter? I’ve told you I’m a beautiful princess and that I’ll stay with you for one week and do anything you want. Why won’t you kiss me?”

The engineer said,  
“Look, I’m an engineer. I don’t have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog – now that’s cool.”

## IMPRINT

**Editor:**  
UNITEAM MARINE  
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www.uniteammarine.com

**Frequency of publication:**  
Quarterly

**Editorial Staff of this issue:**  
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**Photographs:**  
Uniteam Marine, crew of Uniteam Marine, Uniteam Offshore Solutions

**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 PR & Marketing at Uniteam Marine, Anja Frauboese, marketing@uniteam-hamburg.de

## 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 2013!

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.

