



# UNITEAM NEWS

Edition: December 1999

## INDEX

### Page 1

- Chairman's Statement
- Lithuania

### Page 2

- Representative office in Lithuania
- Myanmar Body Language
- Maritime Cyprus

### Page 3

- Uniteam volleyball team
- MV CSAV Atlanta inspection
- P&I news

### Page 4

- Safety Award
- Suggestions Column
- Importance of communication
- Christmas Greetings

## Chairman's Statement

As we come to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century we look upon the horizon with optimism for a brighter future. We are working in an industry that has learnt to gain insight from the mistakes of the past and is now focusing upon safety and environmental awareness as primary concerns. Procedures have been implemented and Quality Systems have become operative to ensure the safest possible operation of ships and prevention of marine pollution. Our Company's Policy has always been to continue the development of the highest health and safety standards for our Crew and this is being achieved thanks to their teamwork, support and commitment. We take this opportunity to convey our very best Season's Greetings to our all Crew and their families; to thank them for their hard work during the course of the year and to wish them Happiness and Prosperity in the New Millennium.

G. Ruether

## Lithuania

Our Representative Office in Klaipeda Lithuania has been operative for nearly a year now.

Lithuania is a country situated on the east coast of the Baltic Sea and it covers an area of 65.3 thousand km<sup>2</sup>. The whole west fringe of the country (appr. 100 km) is occupied by a coastline with marvellous beaches of white sand. There are over 4000 lakes and over 100 rivers in Lithuania. Its population is 3.7 million. The capital, Vilnius lies 11 km away from the geographical center of Europe. The climate is transitional between maritime and continental. The highest temperature is 31°C and the lowest -28.8°C.

It is believed that Lithuanians inhabited the Baltic area in the early 2500 BC. Lithuania as a state emerged in the early XIII<sup>th</sup> century after the union of the main lands.

Lithuanian, the official language, is one of the oldest Indo-European languages in everyday use.

Klaipeda is the seaport with a convenient geographic location and the only port in the Baltic area open for navigation all the year round. After fifty years of Russian occupation, Lithuania regained its independence in 1990 and since then Lithuania is a country on the move. It is a member of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and recently Lithuania was recommended to commence accession talks with the European Union.

The office in Lithuania is managed by Mr Vitautas Rimeika who has been working with our Company for almost a decade and he is assisted by Mrs Ema Vapsviene, who was trained in our Cyprus Office before taking up her position.





## Representative Office in Lithuania



Mr V. Rimeika and Mrs E. Vapsviene

## Myanmar body language

Each culture places different meanings and levels of importance behind different actions. The head, for example, Myanmar people may or may not consider it sacred but it is the most esteemed part of the body. To be touched on the head is considered aggressive and can lead to physical confrontations. Therefore below we highlight some of the main points for your perusal:

Patting on the back is taken, in some cultures, as a sign of appreciation, encouragement or sympathy. But it can also be taken as a sign of excessive intimacy or patronising. Appreciation, encouragement and sympathy can be expressed vocally, whereas patting on the back can be misunderstood.

In some cultures it is quite common to emphasise a point or trying to make something clear by pointing a forefinger straight in the face of a person. However, such a gesture would be taken as accusation, sign of contempt or aggression and should therefore be avoided.

Stepping over a person's out stretched legs when sitting or any part of the body when lying down is resented. If you are in a position where you have to pass by somebody by passing over a part of a person, it is better to ask permission to pass.

On an occasion when you have to retrieve something from above someone's head, ask for permission first. Remember the head is the most esteemed part of the body and should therefore be respected as such.

Your feet are not the cleanest part of your body and therefore is not taken well when feet are lifted from the floor while seated, for example crossing of feet or resting of feet on another chair. Similarly, shoes are also seen as dirty and thus should be removed before entering accommodation.

Whilst most persons from Myanmar are aware of the differences in culture between themselves and Europeans, the above is worth noting to avoid unintended insults and to show respect for your fellow colleagues.

## Maritime Cyprus 1999



Every two years executives from all over the world, representing a wide range of shipping activities, Ship Owners, Investors, Ship Managers and other professionals engaged in shipping related services, attend the Maritime Cyprus Conference.

Since the first Conference was held 10 years ago, it is now recognised as one of the largest international shipping events. The Conference has greatly contributed to enhancing Cyprus as a Maritime Centre and attracting an even greater number of companies to operate from Cyprus.

This year's Conference was held in Limassol at the Hawaii Beach Hotel, between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of October. As usual, the Conference was addressed by Mr William O'Neil of the IMO, as well as by many distinguished shipping professionals on current key subjects of interest to the shipping world.

Uniteam has participated at every Maritime Cyprus Conference and we have our own "UNITEAM" stand,



from where we proudly promote the activities of our company. We exhibited from our stand again this year, with success, during a busy 4 days of the Conference.

---

## The Uniteam Volleyball Team

Standing from left : D.Hadjidemetriou, C.Kassinou, S.Fyfe, T.Reppenhagen, M.Paschalis, E.Bankovic,  
Sitting from left : L.Voskarides, G.Constantinou, P.Hadjiphotiou.



The Cyprus Shipping Council, of which Uniteam Marine is a Founding Member, has been organising for its Members' staff a yearly Charity event for the past few years. This year a Beach-Volleyball Tournament was organised. The aim of this endeavour is to raise money for charity and create a "social-event" for the Council Members and their staff. Eighteen teams participated in the tournament in which Uniteam finished second.

The team progressed well through all stages of the tournament showing all the attributes of a good team: teamwork, communication and determination. The final was an outstanding match, but unfortunately we had to be content with the second place as the opposition included semi-professional players.

We achieved our goals however. We contributed to a charitable event in a sporting, friendly but competitive manner and displayed a very positive image of the company through our team and also the support, from the staff and family members.

---

## MV CSAV Atlanta Inspection

In November Uniteam Technical Manager Mr. E. Bankovic inspected the M/V CSAV Atlanta together with the QSE Manager Mr S. Fyfe who carried out an ISM Code and ISO 9002 Standard Internal Audit.

The vessel is under Uniteam's Technical Management and the vessel's demanding Maintenance program is being kept well under control as a result of the hard

work and dedication of the crew.

The Internal Audit was carried out successfully and the crew demonstrated a high amount of motivation to ensure that their duties were carried out in accordance with Safe Working practices. All requirements were met with the exception of 4 minor non-conformances. The overall impression was very positive and it is clear now that the requirements of the QSE System are being understood by an increasing number of our crew.



---

## P&I news

### How not to do it - Bunker operations

A bulk carrier recently had a spill of bunker oil in dock and clean up costs alone amounted to around USD 130,000. The vessel was conducting an internal transfer of heavy fuel oil from a deep tank and as a result the bunker line became pressurised. Whilst ordinarily this might not have been a problem, the deck manifold for the bunker line had not been closed. Consequently fuel escaped onto the starboard side of the deck and via scuppers into the dock.

It was estimated that a quantity of 5 to 10 MT of oil found its way overboard and the slick spread, contaminating the walls of four berths. A number of barges and other vessels in the vicinity of these berths were also contaminated. The vessel's discharge operations were temporarily suspended.

Clean up was made difficult and protracted because heavy fuel oil is persistent in nature, meaning that it naturally dissipates slowly.

Claims from stevedores and barge owners for idle time, as a result of the spill and clean up, are currently being reviewed. The Master is also to be fined.

This incident demonstrates how simple deficiencies and a small amount of oil spilled can have significant consequences. Before any bunkering operation, including the internal transfer of oil, procedures must be followed to ensure that any potential deficiencies are rectified before it is too late. On this occasion the



importance of blanking off manifold connections not in use and plugging the scuppers became regrettably obvious.

## Health, Safety & Environmental Awareness Award



The Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Award introduced to recognise the outstanding efforts and attention given by our crew towards safeguarding the Environment and ensuring the continuing good health and safety of their colleagues was introduced 6 months ago.

Since that time 4 persons have been awarded this prestigious Certificate.

## Suggestions Column

"Uniteam News" is designed for the interest and the education of our crew and to keep all Uniteam employees informed of the developments within our company. We would appreciate and welcome with pleasure your feedback and any articles of interest, or humour that you would like us to include within our next editions.

*Season's Greetings  
and our best wishes  
for a happy and  
prosperous New  
Year 2000*

## The importance of communication

Through the pitch-black night, the Captain sees a light dead ahead on a collision course with his ship. He sends a signal : "Change your course ten degrees east."

The light signals back : "Change yours, ten degrees west."

Angry, the captain sends out : "I am a Navy captain ! Change your course, sir !"

"I am a seaman, second class," comes the reply. "Change your course sir."

Now the captain is furious. "I am a battleship ! I am not changing course !"

There is only one last reply. "I am a lighthouse. Your call."

A computer user calls the technical support. After explaining his problem the following conversation takes place :

T.S. : "I need you to right-click on your desktop."

User : "Ok."

T.S. : "Did you get a pop-up menu ?"

User : "No."

T.S. : "Ok. Right click again. Do you see a pop-up menu ?"

User : "No."

T.S. : "Ok, sir. Can you tell me what have you done up until this point ?"

User : "Sure, you told me to write "click" and I wrote "click"."

At this point the technician puts the caller on hold to tell to the rest of the technical support staff what had happened. He couldn't, however, stop from giggling when he got back to the call.

T.S. : "Ok, did you type "click" with the keyboard ?"

User : "No. I wrote it on my desktop. I've done something dumb, right ?"

what crews wish to have on board:



### UNITEAM- NEWS

284-286 Makarios Avenue  
P.O. Box 54086  
CY-3720 Limassol - Cyprus

Tel: + 357 5 846100  
Fax: + 357 5 581706  
TLX 2848 UTEAM CY

E-mail [Uniteam@cy.net](mailto:Uniteam@cy.net)  
Operations / Administration  
Fleet Personnel

846-203 Technical  
846-220 Accounts

846-250  
846-205