

# FLAGSHIP

## NEWS FROM THE LIBERIAN REGISTRY

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### PSC detentions fall despite fleet growth

**T**he Liberian Registry is proud of its reputation for quality, efficiency, safety and innovative service. And it is proud of the fact that it consistently appears on the prestigious White Lists of all the leading port state control and other ship vetting organisations throughout the world. The recently released reports of the United States Coast Guard, and the Tokyo and Paris MoUs on Port State Control for 2009 are no exception, and provide further conclusive proof that Liberia is the world's premier open ship registry.

Despite the continued impressive growth in the size of the Liberian

fleet over the past year, the number of Port State Control detentions of Liberian vessels actually fell in 2009 compared to the previous year. There were seven fewer Liberian-flag vessels detained under the Tokyo MOU, and the 46 Liberian vessels detained under the Paris MOU in 2009 was down on the 53 detained in 2008. The fact that, despite this improvement, the PARIS MoU excess factor for Liberia increased from -1.09 in 2008 to -1.01 in 2009 was due to a decline in the total number of detentions compared to examinations by the Paris MoU in 2009.

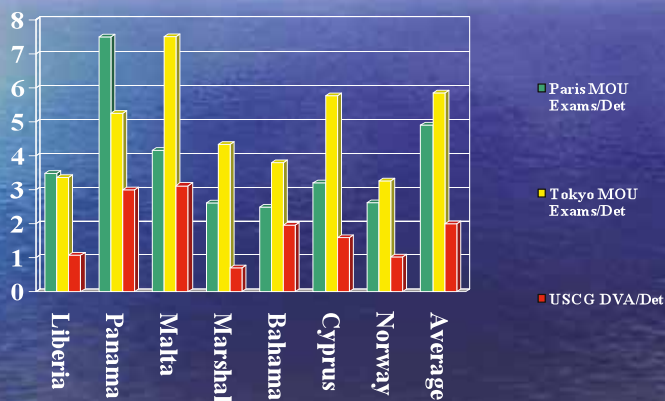
The number of USCG detentions, meanwhile, remained unchanged in 2009 but, because there were fewer distinct vessel arrivals, the percentage increased slightly, from 0.72 per cent to 0.73 per cent.

Liberian vessels fared very well in all PSC Concentrated Inspection Campaigns during the course of the year, and the Liberian Registry is participating in the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme which will help Liberian-flag vessels with the new Paris MoU risk-based PSC inspection programme which will replace the existing PSC regime on January 1, 2011.

Under the new inspection regime, quality ships will be rewarded with fewer inspections, while high-risk ships will be subject to more in-depth and more frequent inspections.

The introduction of the new regime will be accompanied by a new inspection system, THETIS, which will replace the existing database, and which will include, for the first time, the recording of port call information. Under the new regime, High-Risk Ships will be subject to an inspection interval of six months, while Standard-Risk Ships will fall within an inspection range of between ten and twelve months. For Low-Risk Ships, meanwhile, the inspection interval will be between 24 and 36 months of the last inspection.

### Fleet Detention/Rate for 2007-2009 Comparison By Jurisdiction



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[www.liscr.com](http://www.liscr.com)

## Record numbers for LISCR at Posidonia

**P**osidonia 2010 was a great success for the Liberian Registry, with record-breaking crowds of current and potential clients, visitors and friends attending the Registry's exhibition stand. Despite the global economic downturn, over 1,850 exhibitors from 87 different countries, and more than 17,000 trade visitors from all sectors of the maritime industry, attended this year's event.

The Liberian Registry had a great deal to celebrate at the 22nd convening of Posidonia. The highlights of the Registry's exhibit included displays of the registration certificate for the very first Liberian-flagged vessel issued on March 11, 1949 to the tanker *World Peace*, and for the 3000th vessel to be registered, the *Ise Princess*. Both of these ships were owned and operated by Greek shipowners. The Registry also celebrated the passing of the historic 100m gross tons mark.

The Liberian-flag fleet has grown to a record 3,311 ships, aggregating more than 105.5m gross tons. Indeed, at the halfway point for this year, the fleet has grown by 170 vessels aggregating 8.1 million gross tons, while at the same point in 2009 the growth was 117 vessels aggregating 4.6 million gt.

Posidonia is always a great opportunity for members of the Registry to visit and renew valued relationships with clients and friends at numerous festivities throughout the week. The Registry was honored to have the Commissioner of the Liberian Bureau of Maritime Affairs, Binyah Kesselly, and the Senior Deputy Commissioner, Margaret Ansumana, at this year's event, as well as LISCR's Chief Operating Officer, Scott Bergeron, Senior Vice President, Maritime Operations & Standards, Capt David Pascoe, Vice-President, Seafarers Certification Capt David Muir, and Managing Director for the Registry's Piraeus, Greece office, Michalis Pantazopoulos.

This year the Registry's exhibition stand featured an anti-piracy program demonstration. Liberia has taken a leading role in training seafarers and company security officers in the fight against piracy, which is currently plaguing the international shipping industry. Working with leading UK-based security adviser, Maritime Underwater &

Security Consultants (MUSC), Liberia has produced a Best Management Practice (BMP) program specifically designed for the use of merchant ships in the waters off Somalia. The Registry provided additional information on its BMP computer-based training course, while MUSC set-up a live, scaled-down version of its anti-piracy operations room at the Registry's booth.

Clients and visitors who attended Posidonia were also pleased to learn about the recent initiatives Liberia has undertaken. These include facilitating access to the advantageous loan rates that are available from the leading German ship finance banks, a pilot scheme to extend compulsory drydocking intervals to seven-and-a-half-year intervals, and a VOC Management Plan Review and Approval Service to help the tanker industry achieve compliance with impending air pollution legislation.



## Onboard familiarisation for Liberian Registry staff

The Liberian Registry recently conducted its first commercial vessel familiarisation training exercise for staff members, at the North Locust Point Terminal, Baltimore, on board the cargo vessel *Harbel Cutlass*.

The purpose of the training exercise was to provide basic orientation and familiarisation for those LISCR staff without a maritime background, introducing them to basic ship

nomenclature, operations, administration, and manning organisation. The objective was to improve the staff's knowledge and appreciation of the importance of each person's job in the Registry.

Al Romero: Director, Quality Assurance & Training, Sean Brett: Marine Safety & Investigations Manager and Melissa Mejias: Certification Services Manager, acted as onboard supervisors to staff members Wendy O'Connor (Executive Assistant), Commerce Kee (Audit Co-ordinator), Kathy Griffin (Marine Safety Administrative Assistant), Sneha Sethi (Administrative Assistant), and Daniel Nguyen (Marine Safety and Investigation Co-ordinator).

The *Harbel Cutlass* is a general cargo vessel managed by New Jersey-based

Fairfield Maxwell Limited, with Chinese officers and crew. The LISCR group met with the master at the ship office, before being escorted to the bridge, where the various functions of the bridge equipment were explained. A tour was then undertaken of different areas of the accommodation, and the arrangement of the house and the crew was explained, as were the responsibilities and functions of all officers and crew.

The group was given a briefing on lifeboat launching procedures on the port-side boat-deck, and tours of the cargo holds, engine room, fire stations, mooring stations, steering gear room, emergency gear locker, galley, deck and engine stores. Prior to disembarking, the Registry's staff met with the vessel's DPA, William Tomalonis.



## IMO bravery commendation for Liberian ship

The IMO Council Panel of Judges for the 2010 IMO Exceptional Bravery Award has confirmed that a Letter of Commendation will be

awarded to the master and crew of the Liberian-flag containership *Dorian*, who were nominated by Liberia, supported by Tanzania. Thanks to the

timely intervention of the *Dorian*, 77 people were rescued from the small coastal passenger/cargo ship *Ile D'Anjouan*, which was sinking in heavy weather in April 2009 about 120 miles south-east of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in a high-risk piracy area. The IMO award presentation is due to take place later this year at the 88th session of the Maritime Safety Committee.

The Liberian Registry recently presented a special commendation plaque to Mykola Chernikov, master of the *Dorian*, at the Hamburg offices of Komorowski Befrachtungskontor KG, the operator of the *Dorian*. Pictured, from left to right, are Suwarie Topaz (LISCR), Scott Bergeron (LISCR), Jörg Molzahn (LISCR), Capt Mykola Chernikov, and Kurt Zisser (Technical Director, Komorowski Befrachtungskontor KG).



### Striving for Excellence

The Liberian Registry is proud of its history, and has produced a special video presentation which documents more than sixty years of service to the international shipping industry, entitled *Striving for Excellence*. The video includes contributions from ship owners and managers, as well as messages from Joseph Ludwiczak, General Secretary of the Liberian Shipowners Council, Binyah Kesselly, Commissioner of the Liberian Bureau of Maritime Affairs, and Scott Bergeron, Chief Operating officer of LISCR. To access the video, please visit the home page of the Registry's website ([www.liscr.com](http://www.liscr.com)) and select the "Striving for Excellence" video link.

### Encouraging community growth

LISCR takes a proactive role in promoting and encouraging community growth and development in Liberia. During the past year, LISCR, LLC provided a grant of \$100,000 to fund renovations for the Deaf and Mute Home at Barnersville, outside Monrovia, Liberia. Joseph P Keller, General Manager and Executive Vice-President of LISCR, addressed President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf during the dedication of the renovated facility, and noted,

### LISCR scores in peace initiative

In 2010, for the second successive year, the LISCR Trust Company sponsored the Peace and Charity Cup, a football tournament which promotes the concept of continuous and lasting peace in Liberia. This year the trophy was contested by sixteen teams, including LISCR FC, and was won by third division side Aries F C.

The LISCR Football Club was formed in 2000 by the LISCR Trust Company under the leadership of Mr Abraham Avi Zaidenberg with a vision to help the development of Liberian youths through football. Several Liberian youths were beneficiaries and are currently playing professional football worldwide - Anthony Laffor at

Supersports United of South Africa, Solomon Grimes of Ethnikos of Greece, and many others in Israel, Indonesia and the United States. Mustapha I Raji, President of LISCR Football Club, explains, "Clubs participating in the Peace and Charity Cup are provided with necessary funding. All game proceeds generated are donated for the benefit of orphan children in Liberia."

Plans are currently being developed to include the LISCR Peace and Charity Cup in the Liberia Football Association's national programme. The LISCR Trust Company wishes to work with LISCR F C in the near future to establish Liberia's first football academy. Ten acres of land have been secured in Liberia to facilitate this project.



"LISCR will do its share in promoting corporate social responsibility and consciousness".

For more information, please go to: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200912151059.html>



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## On the Register



**A**s a young adventure-seeking boy, growing up in Maine, Jim Bouchard always dreamed of sailing the high seas. After graduating from the US Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, Jim fulfilled his childhood dream and sailed aboard the US-built LNG carriers operated by the Energy Transportation Corporation.

After sailing for over six years, Jim's commitment to his family took precedence and demanded that he find a shoreside job. In 1997, he joined the Liberian Registry's then-management company, and when the Registry's management contract changed hands at the end of 1999, Jim joined LISCR.

Today, Jim is one of four Evaluators for the Seafarers' Certification and Documentation Department. As an Evaluator, Jim spends most of his time grading applications, contacting filing agents and manning agents, and using his personal experience to evaluate what is required for each case. Of course Jim notes there will always be attempts to falsify or forge any type of licence or documentation, but the Liberian Registry's documentation and certification system is so sophisticated that any such misdemeanours are easy to discover.

Jim also designs the licences and special qualification documents, a pleasurable part of his position with the Registry which involves interacting with clients to produce the appropriate documentation.

Although Jim enjoys his job, he doesn't particularly enjoy the 120-mile daily commute to and from his home in Fredericksburg. Jim and his wife, Beverley, a Norland Nanny, are the proud parents of five children – three of their own and two adopted from the hundred or so children that he and his wife have acted as foster parents to over the past 25 years. Jim's large family keeps him fairly busy, particularly the youngest, his five-year-old daughter. It doesn't leave a great deal of time to pursue the interests he followed as a younger man, but he still finds time for some amateur astronomy, and he still has his ham radio licence. Jim's sporting activities are now confined to watching the Redskins on television.

Jim's present ambition is to assist with the planning and development of the Registry's enhanced seafarer database.

## Change of address

Please note that the suite number of our New York office has changed. Our new mailing address is 99 Park Avenue, Suite 1830, NY, New York 10016-1601 USA. Phone numbers and emails remain unchanged. If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@liscr.com](mailto:info@liscr.com)

