

FLAGSHIP

**NEWS FROM
THE WORLD'S
LEADING SHIP
REGISTRY**

Liberia remains number one open register for Greek shipowners

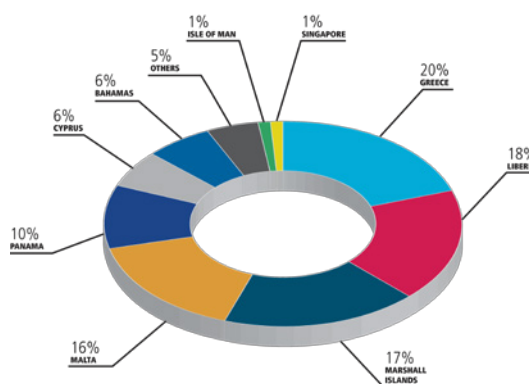
There can be few stronger and more mutually successful relationships in international shipping than that which exists between Greek shipowners and the Liberian Registry. It is, moreover, encouraging to see that that relationship endures through good and bad times alike for the industry and for the global economy.

Figures released by the Greek Shipping Co-operation Committee (GSCC) show that Liberia has cemented its position as the undisputed leading open registry of choice for Greek shipowners.

The GSCC statistics show that, in the year to end-March 2016, the gross tonnage of Greek-controlled ships in the Liberian Registry increased by 995,781 gt. Liberia, with 744 vessels aggregating 54.74m dwt, is second only to Greece itself in terms of the number of Greek-owned ships flying its flag, and comfortably ahead of the Marshall Islands in third place. Eighteen per cent of Greek-controlled ships are registered under the Liberian flag, again second only to Greece (20 per cent).

Michalis Pantazopoulos, Senior Vice-President and

Main Registries of Greek Controlled Ships
Source: Greek Shipping Co-operation Committee (GSCC) Report, March 2016



General Manager of the Registry's Piraeus office says, "It is surely no coincidence that the world's most innovative shipping register is the number one choice of open flag for shipowners from the world's leading shipping nation. The Greek shipping community continues to demonstrate great loyalty to the Liberian Registry, which in turn continues to respond by providing the innovative service and guaranteed quality and safety which owners demand."

Liberia's CAP shortlisted for Lloyd's List award

The Liberian Registry's ground-breaking Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) has been selected as a finalist for the Big Data Award at the forthcoming 2016 Lloyd's List North American Awards.

The unique satellite-based CAP has helped ensure regulatory compliance and prevent the detention of Liberian-flag ships in some of the world's most active and heavily trafficked Port State Control (PSC) areas since it was launched last year. In the process, it has further established Liberia as among the best-performing major ship registries worldwide, with an excellent

detention record authenticated by widely recognised independent safety monitoring organisations.

The CAP initiative tracks ships when they enter selected jurisdictions and allows the Registry's risk analysis team to perform detailed reviews of vessels, their history, and the ports at which they are calling. It is part of a programme which adopts a uniquely proactive approach to ensuring that ships flying the Liberian flag are properly prepared for their upcoming port calls. The system is provided at no extra cost to owners and managers.



Liberian Registry reaches 4,000-ship milestone

The Liberian Registry recently reached an historic milestone with the registration of its 4,000th vessel – the 50,000 dwt chemical / product tanker newbuilding *High Trust*, owned by d'Amico Tankers Limited, Dublin (d'Amico International Shipping S.A. group).

LISCR CEO Scott Bergeron says, "The Liberian-registered fleet continues to grow at a rapid pace with the planned addition of quality tonnage under quality ownership and management. The *High Trust* is an appropriate name for our 4,000th vessel, since it symbolises the ongoing faith shown in the Liberian flag by the international shipping community.

"Size may not be everything. But ship registries which continue to build on their market share in a tightly regulated and safety-conscious sector by adding quality tonnage are clearly providing the service and expertise which today's shipping industry demands."



LET LIBERIA INTERVENE

In March this year, LISCR received notification from the operator of a 300,000 gt ore carrier that the vessel was due to arrive in China with several deficiencies which could have resulted in a Port State Control detention. Our Shanghai and Singapore offices intervened during the PSC inspection of the vessel and worked with the PSC inspectors to assure them that the deficiencies would be corrected before departure. As a result, Port State Control did not detain the vessel.



Integrity is essential to success and safety in shipping

LISCR CEO Scott Bergeron told the recent CMA Shipping 2016 meeting in Stamford, Connecticut, that companies need integrity, regard for the value of people, a commitment to technological innovation and an understanding of the value of customer service in order to be successful in the shipping industry. He said, "The integrity of the Liberian Registry is tested regularly. It is usually easy to say 'Yes' to a client, because nobody wants to hear complaints or suffer the potential consequences of failing to agree to a request. The difficult part comes when you need to say 'No'."

A live poll of conference attendees revealed that a majority believed that integrity in shipping is routinely compromised in the name of financial gain. Noting that the industry must do better, Bergeron emphasised that the Liberian Registry's refusal to compromise on safety included not negotiating on minimum safe manning and not approving unacceptable risk.

Liberia sponsors Greek Shipping Hall of Fame Awards

The Liberian Registry was a lead sponsor of the 2016 Greek Shipping Hall of Fame Awards held recently at Megaron, The Athens Concert Hall, in Athens, Greece. Michalis Pantazopoulos, Senior Vice-President and General Manager of the Registry's Piraeus office, addressed more than 600 guests who attended the second annual induction ceremony and dinner, explaining the special and highly successful relationship which has existed between the Greek shipping community and the Liberian Registry over a period of many years.



Liberia at CMA Shipping

At the recent CMA Shipping 2016 meeting in Stamford, Connecticut, LISCR CEO Scott Bergeron presented an honorary plaque to Lorenzo d'Amico (pictured left) in recognition of the chemical / product tanker newbuilding 'High Trust' becoming the 4,000th vessel to be registered under the Liberian flag. Mr d'Amico represents the fourth generation of ownership and company management at d'Amico.



Also at CMA, the Registry presented an honorary plaque recognising the role played by Hamburg-based shipowner Hammonia Reederei, charterer Intermarine, and Carbon War Room in carrying out an eco-upgrade project and relaunch of the Liberian-flag general cargo ship 'Industrial Ruby' following the successful completion of all retrofits.

Over the past year, as part of its ongoing commitment to environmental excellence, the Liberian Registry has entered into a partnership with US-based consultancy Ursus Maritime Capital (formerly EfficientShip Finance) and launched an innovative environmental initiative designed to reduce global carbon emissions, enhance fleet efficiency and competitiveness, and promote a greener Liberian fleet. The 'Industrial Ruby' is eligible for a 50 percent tonnage tax discount for the first year after retrofit as part of the incentive scheme offered by the Liberian Registry to encourage and reward efficiency retrofits using third-party finance. Pictured left to right: Scott Bergeron, CEO, LISCR; Christian Mollitor, Vice-President, LISCR; Victoria Stulgis and Galen Hon, Carbon War Room; Nikos Petrakakos, CEO, Ursus Maritime Capital.



LISCR FC helps youth achieve goals

“Football is like life itself to many Liberians,” according to Mustapha Raji. “It is the key factor that brings everybody together, irrespective of their differences.”

Mustapha is president of the Liberian International Ship & Corporate Registry football team, LISCR FC, which plays in the Liberia Football Association National league. The team has been in existence now for 21 years.

LISCR FC has an impressive record. It has won both the Premier League championship and the FA Cup on two occasions, plus the Super Cup in 2004 and 2011.

Football is the main sport in Liberia. The people are usually glued to their television sets to watch European matches. Thanks to the Liberian football programme, many players have been able to support their families and friends through their involvement in the game at a high level. Several of them are now household names in Liberia and currently play international football for the Liberian national team.

Mustapha explains, “Players are recruited at youth level from communities all over Liberia as part of a drive to help reduce poverty in the country by providing jobs to young people who want to play football. LISCR FC continues to help the government in this respect, and has developed two feeder teams — Gardnersville FC and Junior Gardnersville FC – which help provide support and encouragement to youngsters looking to fulfil their ambition of becoming professional footballers.

“We have a vision to establish the first-ever football academy in Liberia. The first step has been completed by securing ten acres of land on which to build an academy of excellence. We believe this will help take Liberian football to another level.

“We greatly value the help and support we receive from our friends at LISCR. Special thanks and appreciation must go to Yoram Cohen and Abraham Zaidenberg for making this dream a reality for so many Liberians.”



MtS underlines support for Liberia’s MLC training

In a recent visit to LISCR’s US headquarters, The Revd Canon Ken Peters, Director of Justice and Public Affairs at the Mission to Seafarers (MtS), reaffirmed his strong support for Liberia’s MLC inspector training courses, and its financial support of the MtS. Rev Peters was presented with an honorary master’s licence by the Liberian Registry in 2011 in recognition of his generous and continued support for Liberia’s MLC 2006 inspector training courses. The Liberian Registry is a major sponsor and partner of the Mission to Seafarers.

ON THE REGISTER



Brenda Ssaaka

In April of this year, Brenda Ssaaka celebrated her two-year anniversary with the Liberian Registry, where she is a Marketing and Client Relationship Co-ordinator.

Her role includes overseeing the Registry’s Client Relationship Management (CRM) system, as well as overseeing CRM technological improvements and training. Brenda is also involved in conducting market research, and meeting with clients to build relationships and better understand their needs. She also coordinates marketing plans and strategies for new services.

Brenda says, “The Liberian Registry is an excellent place to work. The organisation encourages ambitious individuals to step outside their comfort zone and strive for excellence within and outside their roles, ultimately building career confidence.”

Brenda’s family lives in Seattle, Washington. She says, “I moved to Virginia because I knew that taking on my current role was a great opportunity. My father always encourages my siblings and I to open the door when opportunity knocks, and I did just that. As a result, I am continuing to grow professionally, and successfully working my way through the challenges that come with packing your life up and starting anew somewhere far away from what is familiar to you. I plan to continue to grow with the Business Development team at the Registry because, together, we are a strong and solid unit.

“On my days off, you will catch me reading books by authors such as Maya Angelou (she is my ultimate favourite) and Marianne Williamson. You can also find me hiking, exploring the city of DC, or spending time with my friends.”



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