

# FLAGSHIP

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

## Liberia cements position as No 1 choice for Greek shipping

FLAGS	VsIs	Dwt
LIBERIA	1037	77,996,651
MARSHALL ISL.	983	77,641,004
MALTA	749	60,546,422
GREECE	738	73,275,353
PANAMA	519	31,807,350
BAHAMAS	325	20,259,794
CYPRUS	302	20,304,660
SINGAPORE	74	4,389,717
HONG KONG	37	5,523,637
ISLE OF MAN	34	3,288,468
BERMUDA	29	2,395,556
BELGIUM	23	4,848,663
CAYMAN ISL.	22	1,793,371
PALAU	20	217,325
ST. VINCENT	18	394,345
VENEZUELA	15	507,012
GIBRALTAR	15	177,021

May 2017: Ships over 1000 grt

Liberia has confirmed its position as the leading flag of choice for Greek ship owners and operators. Statistics produced by the independent research and information organisation Marine Information Services (MIS) in Greece show that the Greek merchant fleet now includes 1,037 Liberian-flag ships. Liberia also leads the way in terms of deadweight tonnage registered under its flag by Greek owners, aggregating 78m dwt.

Michalis Pantazopoulos, Senior Vice-President of LISCR in Greece, says, "The MIS figures measure fleet size in numbers of ships and total deadweight tonnage, which are the parameters used by IMO and widely recognised throughout the industry.

"It is fitting that Greece, the number one shipping nation in the world, should choose Liberia as its number one ship registry. This reflects both the uniquely strong

historical ties between Greek shipping and the Liberian flag, and the proactive and innovative approach adopted by the Liberian Registry in what has been an extremely challenging time for the shipping industry.

"Greek shipping has supported the Liberian Registry, and vice-versa, through good times and bad, and Liberia is delighted that it has once again given the Liberian flag a definitive vote of confidence."



Pictured on its maiden voyage is the 63,558 dwt bulk carrier "Port Belmonte", which was delivered to its owner, Aries Marine Inc, by Japan's Imabari Shipbuilding Co Ltd in March this year. The NKK-classed vessel is operating under the management of Portline Bulk International SA, of Lisbon, Portugal. A sister vessel, the "Port Vera Cruz", is scheduled for delivery in June, 2017.



LISCR CEO Scott Bergeron was a guest speaker at the 3rd China Maritime Finance (DFTP) Summit held recently in Tianjin, China, where 'New Opportunity, New Reform, New Pattern: the Diversified Development of China's Maritime Finance' formed the subject of a lively debate.



## Search and Rescue

A successful Search & Rescue operation carried out by the container ship 'Jennifer Schepers' was commemorated recently at the Registry's Hamburg offices. The actions of the crew of the Liberian-flag ship saved the lives of four people and a dog who were in distress on board a sailing boat approximately 220 nautical miles off the coast of South Carolina. Pictured (left to right) are: Antonia Kirchmann, LISCR Hamburg; Heino Schepers, Managing Director, HS Schiffahrts GmbH & Co. KG; Capt Hans-Bernd Schepers, Managing Director/ Owner, HS Bereederungs GmbH & Co. KG; and Merle Stilkenbaeumer, LISCR Hamburg

## Hamburg hosts regulatory update

The Liberian Registry's Hamburg office recently hosted a Regulatory Update Seminar covering a range of topics which included the BWM Convention, the Polar Code, the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC 2006), MARPOL Annex VI, MRV Regulation and MARPOL Annex V: 2017 Amendments. The seminar was well attended by clients of the Registry, who confirmed that the seminar sessions had proved to be very helpful and informative.



## LET LIBERIA INTERVENE

Forewarned by a screening and risk analysis process of the existence of a number of dispensations issued to a vessel, the Liberian Administration deemed it necessary to board the ship while it was enroute for Savannah, Georgia, in order to carry out an early annual safety inspection. Upon arrival at Savannah, the vessel was boarded by the USCG and the flag state inspector, both of whom identified serious onboard deficiencies. The USCG did not detain the vessel, however, as the Liberian Administration had taken action to ensure regulatory and safety compliance before the vessel was allowed to proceed on its voyage. This timely intervention illustrates once again the effectiveness of Liberia's screening process and its ability to act without delay to prevent potential vessel detentions.



Pictured from Left to Right: Alfonso Castillero, CCO, Liberian Registry; Petros Achtypis, CEO, Prevention at Sea Ltd.; Mr. Nagahisa (Chokyu) Seno, President, Toyo Sangyo Co., Ltd.

### Liberian Registry at Bari-Ship 2017

In May of this year, LISCR Japan had a very strong presence at Bari-Ship 2017, the biennial exhibition which is one of the leading events in Japan's maritime calendar. Almost 350 companies, and more than 16,000 people, from Japan and from overseas, attended the exhibition, which was held in Imabari, a leading centre of maritime expertise in Japan.

The Liberian Registry's exhibition booth drew large numbers of visitors, including shipowners, operators, ship managers, classification societies, banks, insurance companies, maritime lawyers, shipbuilders, and equipment and supply manufacturers. The opportunity was taken to showcase the ground-breaking electronic oil record book (ε-ORB), which further underlines Liberia's reputation as the world's most technologically advanced ship registry.

This was the fifth occasion on which the Registry has had an exhibition booth at Bari-Ship, which continues to expand in size and influence. It was a pleasure to meet so many old friends and clients, and to make many new ones, over the course of the three-day event.

## Key Tokyo appointments strengthen Asia presence

The Liberian Registry has appointed Eiji Okazaki as president of LISCR's Tokyo office. Mr Okazaki was formerly president and CEO of Japanese ship owner and ship manager IMECS Co Ltd, a subsidiary of the major Japanese trading house, ITOCHU Corporation. He has nearly forty years' experience of working at an executive level in the shipowning and ship sales and purchase sectors in Japan, Korea, and Europe. He replaces Takeshi Okamoto, who will return to ClassNK in June after more than five years at the Liberian Registry.



Eiji Okazaki

Yoshimi Uruguchi has also joined LISCR from ClassNK, as technical manager of its Tokyo office. Mr Uruguchi has accumulated extensive experience of class and statutory surveys, condition and risk assessment programmes, and class maintenance surveys since joining the Japanese classification society in 2003.

LISCR CCO Alfonso Castillero says, "We are naturally sorry to be losing Takeshi Okamoto back to ClassNK, with whom we continue to enjoy an excellent relationship. Takeshi did an outstanding job of helping to strengthen LISCR's presence in Japan, and he leaves with our very best wishes for his future career.



Yoshimi Uruguchi

"Meanwhile, we are delighted to welcome Eiji Okazaki and Yoshimi Uruguchi to the Liberian Registry, and are very confident that their experience, expertise and global contacts will serve to strengthen still further the Registry's strong presence in Japan and the Far East generally."

## Electronic oil record book wins Maritime Services Award



The Liberian Registry has won the Lloyd's List Maritime Services Award 2017 for the innovative electronic oil record book (ε-ORB), which is now accepted for use on board Liberian-flag ships.

The ε-ORB, launched in 2016, is a Lloyd's Register-certified maritime software application which has gained wide support in the shipping industry. It has been developed with the intention of enhancing onboard efficiency by ensuring compliance with MARPOL in relation to paper Oil Record Books.

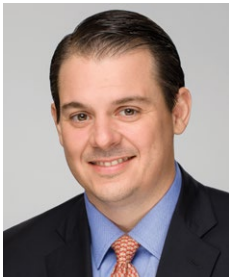
The ε-ORB has been designed to replace the traditional paper Oil Record Book and to establish software transparency, credibility and traceability. It addresses a variety of issues, including ORBs being reported missing on board, failure to document entries in the ORB of internal transfer of oily mixture, discrepancies between entry into the ORB and actual capacity of the oily water separator, and falsification of log entries.

Christian Mollitor, vice-president of the Liberian Registry, says, "Liberia is actively planning for the wider dissemination of the IMO-compliant ε-ORB throughout its fleet, with the knowledge of a variety of international organisations, including the U.S. Coast Guard, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), each of which has provided extremely positive feedback."

Liberia has published a marine notice providing guidance on the use of the ε-ORB, and issues a MARPOL Electronic Record Book Declaration which must be carried on board as proof that vessels have the necessary flag approval to use the ε-ORB. A transitional period running for one year from 1 January, 2017 will facilitate inspection by Port State Control authorities which may not be fully familiar with electronic oil record books. The ε-ORB can also be utilized as a training tool.

Christian Mollitor says, "The ε-ORB is widely accepted by major Port State Control authorities throughout the world, and more than 120 shipowners and operators are already benefiting from its onboard application."

## Alfonso Castellero appointed CCO of management team



Alfonso Castellero has been appointed Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of LISCRC. He will be responsible for managing the development and implementation of the Liberian Registry's global sales, marketing, and service assurance strategy. Together with the Registry's business development group and regional managers, he will further enhance co-ordination of business development and service initiatives, while expanding the Liberian Registry's leading position in an increasingly competitive shipping industry.

LISCRC CEO Scott Bergeron says, "Alfonso's unrivalled experience will be invaluable in managing the Registry's development of new, strategic markets and of new products and services for our clients, helping us continue our impressive evolution and growth. While his role as CCO will have a global perspective, Alfonso will continue to provide direct day-to-day management for the Japanese and Central & South American markets."

Alfonso, who served as Director-General of the Panama Registry for 16 years before joining the Liberian Registry as Vice-President in 2014, says, "I am honoured to accept this new position, and excited at the prospect of helping to further strengthen the global presence and reputation of the world's most innovative and successful ship registry."



## ON THE REGISTER

**RUPHENE SIDIFALL, ASSOCIATE  
MANAGER & ASSOCIATE COUNSEL,  
INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT**

Ruphene Sidifall is in her second spell with the Liberian Registry. Having worked for the company from June 2001 to May 2002, she returned in September 2013, and today is Associate Manager & Associate Counsel in the Investigations Department.

Ruphene previously worked as a paralegal for several Washington D.C. law firms, and as a law clerk for a leading insurance underwriter. Her role at the Registry involves a wide variety of responsibilities, including the investigation of marine casualties, alleged violations of Liberian maritime law and regulations and leading international conventions. She also helps review legal aspects of investigations and assists in the preparation and submission of required reports to the IMO and ILO.

Ruphene says, "The Liberian Registry is an excellent organization; I get to work for the second largest ship registry in the world. I also get to engage with global clients and maritime professionals, from whom I have gained and continue to gain a wealth of knowledge on maritime trade and its effects on the global economy." I also enjoy working in the investigations department because of the variety of issues we handle on a daily basis – there are few instances of monotony."

Outside the office, Ruphene likes nothing more than spending time with her immediate family and closest friends, "laughing/talking openly and honestly about any and every thing, sharing delectable food and my version of white sangria. I also enjoy some yoga, pilates and bodyflow – they relax my mind and body."

## On top in China



Alex Ye, General Manager of the Liberian Registry's Shanghai regional office, has featured in the "Top 100 People in the Chinese Shipping Industry List" for both 2015 and 2016, ranking 98th and 84th respectively. Award ceremonies for the most recent listings were held in Shanghai and were well-attended by government officials, the media, industry organisations, associations, award winners and the media.

## The Liberian Registry at Nor-Shipping



TOP LEFT: Carsten Gierga, Managing Director of LISCRC Hamburg, and Antonia Kirchmann, Deputy Manager Business Development & Client Relationship LISCRC Hamburg, are pictured in front of the sailing vessel "Christian Radich" in the port of Oslo during the recent Nor-Shipping 2017 exhibition and conference in Norway, where LISCRC had a very strong presence.

TOP RIGHT: Visitors to the Liberian Registry's Nor-Shipping reception enjoyed great views from the rooftop terrace of law firm and Liberian special agent Wiersholm. Pictured, left to right, are Wiersholm's Kaare P Sverdrup, Helen M Jørgensen, and Katinka Wikborg, and Merle Stilkenbaeumer, Antonia Kirchmann and Carsten Gierga from LISCRC Hamburg.

BOTTOM LEFT: Merle Stilkenbaeumer (left) and Antonia Kirchmann (right) are seen with Hans-Petter Henschien, the Registry's Special Agent in Bergen.





# NEWS FROM THE WORLD'S LEADING SHIP REGISTRY

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