

# FLAGSHIP

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

## Owners reap benefit of co-operation between LSC and Liberian Administration

Joe Ludwiczak believes that high-quality shipowners gravitate to high-quality ship registers. As General Secretary of the Liberian Shipowners Council Ltd (LSC), the national trade association representing Liberian shipowners, he should know.

LSC was established in 1974 to provide its shipowners with a vehicle to represent and promote their trading, labour, and regulatory interests and to lead the fight against ITF's attacks on the open register system. As a member of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the International Shipping Federation (ISF), it has provided Liberian-flag shipowners with a collective and competent voice to communicate their concerns to the Liberian Administration and to promote high standards of quality, safety and regulatory compliance in the cost-efficient, customer-service driven open registry model.

Joe worked for thirty years as a senior executive with Stolt-Nielsen, and is a widely respected figure in the international shipping industry. As a US Coast Guard-licensed officer, he sailed on various types of vessels, and has represented shipowners on a number of national and international bodies. He says, "LSC is completely independent. It is able to objectively influence registry positions and, most significantly, the Liberian Registry actively seeks and welcomes input from LSC.

"In order for a national shipowner association to be competent and effective, it has to be a proactive member of the ICS, the most formidable



conduit through which shipowners' associations can collectively and effectively influence issues at the highest level. LSC is one of the very few open register shipowner associations to have been offered ICS membership."

LSC enjoys a mature and productive working relationship with the Liberian Administration. It monitors, advises, encourages and promotes registry programmes to ensure that Liberia continues to provide the best available open registry option for shipowners, and will continue to provide exceptional cost-effective customer service while ensuring that its high standards of regulatory compliance and enforcement are never compromised.

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Joe explains, "During the last several months, for example, LSC and the Liberian Registry have discussed issues ranging from shipowner recommendations on treaty ratifications to VAT declarations for newbuilding programmes, ITF boycott issues, piracy and armed guards, amendments to Liberian law, enclosed space entry procedures, government sanctions, and regulatory compliance. Over the last several years, meanwhile, we have also successfully represented the interests of our clients during numerous lengthy meetings at the International Labour Organisation in Geneva while negotiating the Maritime Labour Convention."

Joe firmly believes that a primary advantage of open registers is that they understand that shipowners are 'customers'. He says, "Shipowners exert pressure on all their suppliers, including ship

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## Liberian Registry's Eco-Upgrade Programme nominated for three awards

The Liberian Registry's Eco-Upgrade Finance Programme has been nominated for three prestigious industry awards. It has been selected as a finalist for the Lloyd's List Award, the 2015 Ship Efficiency Award, and the Asia Lloyd's List Awards in the Innovation – Systems, Business Processes and Models category.

Liberia's Eco-Upgrade Finance Programme is designed to help reduce global carbon emissions and to enhance fleet efficiency and competitiveness. It offers a complete energy-saving solution for ships on a global basis with an add-on specifically crafted for Emissions Control Areas (ECAs). The global programme includes an optimal mix of fuel efficiency retrofit solutions for each target vessel, based on its trading pattern, age, size, speed, and consumption. For ships trading within ECA zones, the programme can include the installation of exhaust scrubber systems or the conversion of engines to LNG dual-fuel, to comply with emissions requirements.

LISCR CEO Scott Bergeron says, "It is extremely gratifying to see that the Liberian Registry is being recognised for its efforts to help shipowners improve and maintain their green credentials."



**LIBERIAN REGISTRY**

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# LET LIBERIA INTERVENE

When a Liberian-flag vessel was taken over by new management, a number of detainable deficiencies were discovered, just prior to the vessel arriving in Sydney, Australia. The new management duly contacted the Liberian Administration, which quickly intervened and advised the manager to inform the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) of the deficiencies and of the proposed corrective action plan. The Liberian Administration assisted the vessel during the AMSA inspection, which the vessel passed with minor deficiencies. The manager of the vessel said, "We have never seen from any Administration anything which comes even close to such a concerted effort in preventing what would most certainly have been a port state detention with disastrous operational and reputational losses for all sides. That is what we would call a Flag of Quality and certainly not of convenience."



## Liberian Registry at NSB

At the invitation of leading German ship operator NSB, a client of the Liberian Registry, YCF Maritime's Hamburg office recently participated in the Annual NSB Sports Cup in Buxtehude, Germany, an event well-attended by NSB clients and friends alike. Invitees were able to take part in sporting activities or just enjoy the party. The former included various athletic disciplines, while the latter was devoted to a presentation ceremony and general entertainment. Pictured above wearing their Liberian Registry tee-shirts are, from left to right, Marion Schmerer (Ethiopian Maritime Agency), Carsten Gierga, Jana Fuhrhop, Antonia Kirchmann, and Merle Stilkenbaeumer (all LISCR). The latter even won the first prize in her age category!

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registers, for better service, lower costs and innovative solutions. Accordingly, open registers are commercially oriented and able to supply a higher level of professional customer service at an affordable cost. They understand the nature of the shipping business and they have the capacity and desire to assist their clients. Open registers know that there are dozens of other open registers competing for their clients. Poor performance is not acceptable.

"Conversely, traditional national registers tend to view shipowners primarily as just another source of tax revenue, rather than as customers. Accordingly, they do not provide shipowners with an equivalent level of service and they are generally unable to offer competitive pricing. Whether the traditional register's performance is good or poor, it generally receives the same level of income. There is little commercial incentive to improve performance and drive innovation."

Joe explains that open registries are also substantially less bureaucratic. He says, "An owner who routinely buys and sells ships enjoys a distinct advantage under the open register system,

where these transactions can be completed in 1 or 2 days. It is not uncommon for the same transactions to consume weeks in a traditional register."

UNCTAD figures indicate that 64% of the world merchant fleet gross tonnage is registered under the eight largest open register flag states. All of these open registers are listed on the white lists of quality flags published by the Paris MOU and the Tokyo MOU. Liberia is the largest white-listed fleet in the world. Joe says, "That's exactly what its shipowners expect."

Joe believes the credibility of the open registry system is quite evident. He points out, "Analyses of government and industry data have consistently demonstrated that the open register system delivers exceptionally high-quality marine transportation. Open registries are endorsed by banks, lawyers and, of course, IMO.

"Objective analysis of decades of data collected by government inspectors throughout Europe, America, and Asia confirms that open registers effectively implement international regulations governing safety, environmental protection and employment standards. Because of its commitment to quality shipping, Liberia is also recognised by the US Coast Guard for inclusion in its Quality Shipping for the 21st Century (Qualship 21) Programme.

"The facts tell us not only that the open register system is credible, but that its quality performance is incredible."



The Liberian Registry attended the annual meeting of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission ("IOTC") in Busan, South Korea. The IOTC is responsible for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean. Liberia successfully applied to the IOTC for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) status to enable its reefer and other support vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the IOTC Convention Area. Pictured from left to right: Ms. Yvonne Clinton (Deputy Commissioner for Vessel Registration, Liberia Maritime Authority); Mr. Rondolph Payet (Executive Secretary, IOTC); and Mrs. Ruphene Sidifall (Associate Counsel and Associate Manager, Investigations).

## Liberian Registry successfully completes audit of China Classification Society

In August the Liberian Registry had the privilege of working closely with China Classification Society (CCS) as they underwent their International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) audit and verification. The week-long audit took place at CCS's Beijing headquarters and was a comprehensive review of their systems and operations.

Present on behalf of LISCR to participate in the audit process were Alex Ye, General Manager of LISCR Shanghai, and Alan Ang, Technical Manager of LISCR Singapore.

Mr Ye was very pleased with the results of the audit, and for having had the opportunity to closely work with the team at CCS headquarters in Beijing. "LISCR is committed to reinforcing its already strong links with CCS, and in supporting the ever growing Chinese maritime community. This close relationship will continue to facilitate the sustained and stable increase of both organizations both within China and abroad."

Since opening LISCR Shanghai in March of 2013, Mr. Ye has seen Liberia's market share in China increase significantly, and been able to provide



Pictured from left to right: Mr. Licheng Sun, China Classification Society Chairman & President and Mr. Alex Ye, General Manager, LISCR Shanghai

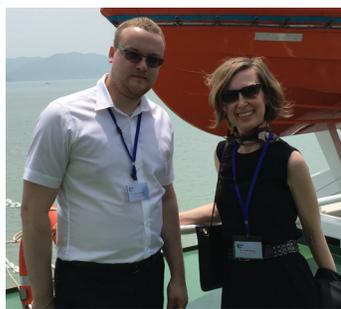
Liberia's Chinese clients with efficient same-day service around the clock. LISCR's growth in China has mirrored that of CCS's as they have steadily seen the number of vessels under their classification increase.

LISCR's footprint in China has grown from providing technical, registration, and corporate support to clients to working closely with the Chinese Government, Chinese Maritime Safety Administration and with CCS. Having a full service office available not only to Chinese clients, but to all of LISCR's international clients has been a hugely successful development for the Registry. Daily requests from all over the world pour in to Mr. Ye and Mr. Ang and they are able to support Liberian-flagged vessels instantly despite the challenges of time zones and miles.

With regard to the successful completion of the audit, Mr Ye says: "We were delighted to be able to participate in the CCS audit. It provides confirmation of LISCR's growing strength and reputation in China, where shipowners are increasingly turning to our Shanghai office for specialist services and advice."



Pictured from left to right: Mr. Licheng Sun, China Classification Society Chairman & President and Mr. Alan Ang, Technical Manager, LISCR Singapore



In April, Sinopacific Shipbuilding Group (SINOPACIFIC) held a christening and delivery ceremony for a newly built SPA150 AHTS, constructed for the ship-owner, FEMCO Group. The Godmother, Mrs. Semenova Svetlana christened this Liberian-flagged vessel as "OSSOY". This first SPA150 vessel is not only the first of this design to be delivered in the world but is also the first of a series of 4 vessels contracted by FEMCO Group. On behalf of the Liberian Registry, Ms. Natalya Prigova, pictured above with Mr. Alexey Pantyukhin, Legal Adviser of FEMCO Group, was honored to attend the ceremony. Representatives from the Government, banks, ship-owner led by Mr. Pavel Lyshko, Shareholder and Chairman of FEMCO Group, classification society, supervisors, suppliers, brokers and media, as well as other related parties, were present at SINOPACIFIC's Zhejiang Shipbuilding base and witnessed this rather memorable moment.



**Dimitrios Voutsaras,**  
**Financial Business Analyst**

Dimitrios Voutsaras has recently been appointed Financial Business Analyst by LISCR and is working hard with his team of dedicated colleagues to help Liberia remain the world's most responsive and technologically advanced ship registry.

Dimitrios is a Greek national but was born and raised in Germany, where he completed an MSc in economics at the University of Hamburg. He worked as a junior fund manager in Germany, providing equity finance for German shipowners, but came to the US in 2010 and joined LISCR in April 2011. He began work with LISCR as a fleet quality analyst working for the safety department, mainly following up on Port State Control initiatives.

He explains, "My main task was to anticipate problems before they occurred, so I conducted numerous analyses and tried to find a pattern in safety records in order to forecast future detentions. During this time, I helped further develop the Registry's satellite-based Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP)." As Business Analyst within the Registry's business development department, Dimitrios has overseen the development of a software package which fully automates the CAP screening process.

Dimitrios, who recently completed the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) programme, says, "I have passed all three exams; however, in order to become eligible for the charter, I will need four years of relevant work experience. So far, I have two."

Dimitrios thoroughly enjoys working at the Liberian Registry. He explains, "I have always enjoyed the cultural diversity and the professional leadership at the Registry. Liberian Registry employees go the extra mile for our clients."

Dimitrios and his wife have two daughters, aged 6 months and 2 years, who take up most of his spare time. He likes travelling and spending time with friends and family. He is also interested in politics and economics.



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## THE LIBERIAN REGISTRY WORLD-WIDE OFFICES

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