

## GlobalMET in India

### 5<sup>th</sup> Manning & Training in India Conference

GlobalMET was privileged to initiate, organise and moderate the debate held during the 5<sup>th</sup> Manning & Training in India Conference, organised by Informa in London, held in Mumbai on 19-20 April. This conference was divided into the following six sessions:

- Strategic outlook for the Indian manpower industry
- Managing the threat of piracy: protecting your seafarers
- Meeting the new challenges in maritime education and training
- Practical ways to improve recruitment & retention by managing seafarers' needs
- Safe manning: effective ways to optimise shipboard skills
- Practical recruitment & retention roundtable discussions.

The debate on *This house believes that management level seafarers should have university level education* concluded the third session, the final session on day one. Speaking for the motion were:

- Prof S Bhardwaj, Vice Chancellor, AMET University
- Capt Vivekanand, Pro Vice Chancellor, VELS University.

Speaking against the motion were:

- Capt K Deboo, Director & Principal, Anglo-Eastern Maritime Training Centre
- Chris Haughton, Non-executive Director, Videotel Marine International.

Voting by the audience was clearly in favour of the negative team. In the following discussion however there was a lot of support for university education to provide the awareness and lateral thinking needed to ensure successful transition to shore-based management level employment. The clear arguments forcefully expressed by all four speakers brought the first day of the conference and the session on MET to a thought provoking and very appropriate conclusion, as was very apparent during the drinks gathering afterwards.

Other highly interactive sessions occurred when Chris Haughton used a 'jigsaw' approach to move participants between groups required to reach conclusions about learning styles and Kuba Szymanski used mixed round table groups to express proposals with respect to improving recruitment and retention strategies and related issues.

However, perhaps the most memorable feature was the 'Cadets' Corner', in which six Indian cadets spoke about their experiences and ambitions for a life at sea. The frank responses provided valuable insights into how the industry can promote itself to the younger generation and better meet their learning needs.

A feature of this conference was the tight chairmanship by Capt Kuba Szymanski, Secretary General of InterManager and the participation by other senior industry people; eg Dr Agnihotri, Director General of Shipping for India, Capt M MSaggi, Nautical Adviser to the Government of India, Mr S Hajara, Chairman & Managing Director of the Shipping Corporation of India and Dr Peter Swift, until recently Secretary General of Intertanko.

### ***Forum on Raising the Standard of MET with Innovation in Training***

This free-of-charge half-day forum and lunch, organised by the members of the GlobalMET India Chapter and also held in Mumbai, on the day following the Manning & Training conference, attracted 90 participants, principally MET teachers unable to attend the conference. Again, participants were able to listen to senior industry people, including Capt M MSaggi, Nautical Adviser and Dr B K Saxena, Principal of Tolani Maritime Institute. 'Innovation' in the theme focussed thinking and comment on the changes needed to ensure that MET meets future industry and learner needs, including the attraction and retention of motivated teachers and the introduction of new methodologies. As expected in India, the level of participation was high. All agreed with delaying the very good lunch to enable an extended concluding discussion.

GlobalMET is now planning to conduct more conferences/seminars/forums in India during next December.