

Workshop on Comprehensive Review and Enhancement of the STCW Convention

The Directorate General of Shipping, in collaboration with the Company of Master Mariners of India (CMMI) and the Institute of Marine Engineers (India), IME(I), successfully conducted a workshop on 27th August 2024, to review and refine the STCW (Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers) Convention and Code. This workshop focused on integrating emerging technologies and addressing contemporary maritime challenges, with the outcomes to be submitted at the International STCW Working Group (ISWG-STCW1) session in October 2024.

The event, hosted at the MSC Crewing Services Pvt. Ltd. in Mumbai, served as a crucial platform for discussions on India's preparations for the upcoming ISWG-STCW1 session. The workshop brought together a diverse group of maritime professionals, regulators, and stakeholders, all committed to enhancing the STCW Convention in light of evolving industry needs.

An introduction of the workshop was given by Mr. David Birwadkar, Chairman, IME(I) Mumbai Branch. He also introduced the Chief Guest Shri. Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping and other dignitaries including Capt. M.P Bhasin, Chairman, CMMI and Shri. Senthil Kumar, MMD, Mumbai. The workshop commenced with an opening session led by which included a cultural rendition of *Saraswati Vandana*. This was followed by a presentation outlining the key areas of focus for the ISWG-STCW1 session and India's proactive measures in preparation.

Shri. Jagannathan, DGS, delivered the keynote address, highlighting the critical importance of the STCW convention in maintaining global maritime safety standards. He underscored India's commitment to fostering a high standard of seafarer training and certification, aligning

with international expectations and emerging technological trends.

The workshop proceeded with chapter-wise presentations by team coordinators, each providing a detailed overview of specific aspects of the STCW convention. These presentations aimed to identify gaps, propose amendments, and incorporate contemporary developments in the maritime sector, such as digitalisation, automation, and sustainability.

Following a networking lunch, the afternoon sessions resumed with continued chapter-wise presentations, fostering rich discussions among participants. The workshop featured a dynamic Q&A session where members and participants shared their insights, offered feedback, and posed questions on critical topics. This interactive segment facilitated a constructive exchange of ideas, addressing key issues and generating innovative solutions to contemporary maritime challenges.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks that summarised the day's discussions and highlighted the importance of collective efforts to refine the STCW Convention. The next steps were outlined, emphasizing the preparation for India's contributions to the ISWG-STCW1 session in October 2024.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Sunil Kumar, CTO & Head - T&A Dept., The Great Eastern Shipping Co. Ltd. The workshop achieved its goal of fostering a collaborative environment for reviewing and enhancing the STCW Convention in response to emerging technologies and evolving industry demands. Key recommendations and outcomes from the workshop will be documented and presented at the upcoming ISWG-STCW1 session, reinforcing India's proactive stance on maritime safety and regulatory compliance.

Glimpses of the Event

