Securing the Future by Maritime Training

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Securing the Future by Maritime Training

High qualifications and continuous further training guarantee keeping pace with worldwide developments in the maritime sector. In the course of the past few decades, the shipping business has undergone fundamental changes. Ships steadily increasing in size and speed, carrying specialized cargoes and provided with increasingly complex equipment are trading the oceans. International merchant shipping has introduced a close network covering the entire globe and handles 98 percent of all intercontinental imports and exports. Parallel to this, the importance of the oceans as a source of natural resources and food has grown. In his search for gaseous, liquid and solid natural resources, man is continuously conquering additional areas of the sea bottom. Maritime research and technology, and in particular offshore technologies, are increasingly gaining significance. Apart from this, effective measures preventing further marine pollution are increasingly receiving public attention.

In order to be able to cope with all tasks arising and to keep pace with rapidly progressing development in the widespread maritime sector, supplementary and on-the-job training of qualified experts is a prime necessity.

Naturally, Germanischer Lloyd, having so far been authorized by 85 flag states to perform statutory ship safety functions on their behalf, place special emphasis on comprehensive and qualified training of their staff. Also, the Classification Society imparts to third parties its vast experience and know-how acquired in the course of years. The Society's activities are in no way confined to the Federal Republic; on an international scale as well, training and advanced training are offered. In cooperation with renowned partners, seminars and workshops dealing with a great variety of subjects are held. Within the framework of development aid, for instance, Germanischer Lloyd attend to the students of the World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö during their excursions to Germany, and, in turn, visiting staff members of the Society present papers at the World Maritime University.

Incidentally, the WMU is a project of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) whose main purpose is to help reduce developing countries' lack of well-trained experts and managers in the shipping sector. Since the official inauguration of the WMU on July 4, 1983, more than 280 students of this Swedish University have obtained their “Master of Science” degree.

A competent partner in the field of training and advanced training is the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft (CDG) of Cologne. Since its foundation 40 years ago, this non-profit organization for professional training and staff qualification on an international scale has been training more than 100,000 persons from all over the world. At present, approx. 7,000 persons per year participate in the varied programmes offered by the CDG. Many of the former participants nowadays occupy prominent positions in economy and administration in Germany, Europe and overseas.

The CDG is a joint venture of the economy and the state. It is supported by about 1,000 members: enterprises, organizations and individual personalities of the economy. The economy alone makes available every year free-of-charge services to promote the work of the CDG, the countervalue of which would be ap-
prox. DM 20 million, mainly by making available trainee vacancies. Approx. DM 95 million per year are contributed by the German Government to cover training programme, material and personnel costs.

Cooperation between Germanischer Lloyd and CDG has for quite some time already proven; in particular in the training sector the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft has been offering valuable assistance to Germanischer Lloyd. Beyond this, Germanischer Lloyd is a member of the CDG Working Group in Hamburg.

However, Germanischer Lloyd’s training, supplementary training and on-the-job training activities are not confined to specified technical sectors and to the Society’s own technical staff. They are likewise offered to other professional associations, universities and enterprises. For instance, agreements exist with Princeton University of New Jersey, USA. For the second time, this year, a student of that university will undergo training at Germanischer Lloyd Head Office, Hamburg.

Recent trends in the classification of ships, the interpretation of Marpol regulations or in technical problems in general are made known on the occasion of Germanischer Lloyd seminars and workshops to staff of the "Verband deutscher Reeder" (VDR - German Shipowners’ Association), the Port Authority or the Water Police. Apart from this, Germanischer Lloyd experts frequently report as guests at the University of New Jersey, USA. For the second time, this year, a student of that university will undergo training at Germanischer Lloyd Head Office, Hamburg.

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Technical and industrial colleges on ships safety and ship classification. This shows that a wide range of training facilities are offered, and the great demand for training by specialists proves that Germanischer Lloyd's activities are called for and appreciated, not only in the Society’s original sphere of activity. For safety is the major concern throughout: at sea, ashore and in the air. Safety without continuous supplementary and on-the-job training will always mean wishful thinking. Germanischer Lloyd have realized this - throughout their history of more than 120 years.

Training "on" and "beside the job" 
Thorough training at Germanischer Lloyd for Surveyors from all over the world

Independence, impartiality, integrity and confidentiality, expert knowledge, technical experience and responsibility of the staff are the terms characterizing the activities of international Classification Societies. One of the essential prerequisites for the functioning of Germanischer Lloyd’s worldwide inspection network is the quality of the Society’s field service staff, whose qualifications, knowledge and performance determine the impression the public has of this Classification Society, rich in traditions - everywhere in the world.

Apart from the attributes mentioned the Surveyor’s profession is characterized by his readiness to steadily perfect his knowledge, such as to always be familiar with latest technical developments. It is, therefore, self-evident that in selecting “their” Surveyors Germanischer Lloyd have to apply very high standards and offer very intensive training.