

Western Shipping



Safety Magazine



Year 2024 – Issue 01

About WESTSHIP

1987

- Western Shipping Agencies was founded to conduct ship agency business and crew management.

2000

- WESTERN SHIPPING PTE LTD. was introduced to align with core activities as the Company moved towards Tanker management.

2006

- Company was renamed “Western Shipping Pte Ltd” with management of 10 Oil/Product/Chemical Tankers

2021

- Commenced management of 1st Gas Carrier “Marcellus Lady” changing from Anglo Eastern to bring them in-house from 22 September 2021.
- Another milestone for the Company to manage Dual Fuel Gas Carrier “Sifnos Lady” from Day 1 since delivery on 08 October 2021.

2023

- Newbuilding Dual Fuel Gas Carrier “Nymfaion Lady” was delivered to the Company from Shipyard on 13 January 2023, and “Chrysopigi Lady” on 07 September 2023.

In This Edition

❖ Message from GM	.....1
❖ Message from DGM	.....2
❖ Safety Flash: Hand Injury	.....3
❖ Environmental Flash: BWTS	.....5
❖ WESTSHIP: Digital Transformation	.....7
❖ Message from Owner	.....9
❖ Indian Manning Office Inauguration	.....13
❖ WSSAI – 20 Years Anniversary	.....15
❖ Internship Programme	.....17
❖ Company Welfare	.....18
❖ Celebration Onboard	.....19
❖ Message from Fleet Master	.....21
❖ Message from DPA	.....23

Message from General Manager



Dear Seafarers,

As another year ends, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering dedication, hard work, and commitment.

Your efforts, often far from home and loved ones, are essential to keeping the global economy moving and ensuring that the ships are running safely and on time.

I understand the challenges you face daily, whether it's the long hours, the unpredictable nature of the sea, or being away from your families.

Please be assured that your contributions do not go unnoticed, and we are incredibly proud to have each of you as part of our team.

As the General Manager, I assure you that we are committed to your safety, wellbeing, and professional growth. We continuously strive to enhance our support systems and ensure that you have the resources needed to perform your roles with the utmost confidence and safety.

Let us look forward to a new year with renewed strength, a continued focus on excellence, and shared success.

Stay safe, take care of each other onboard, and know that you are valued beyond measure.

May 2025 bring new opportunities, good health, and success in all that you do.

Capt. Belal Ahmed
General Manager

Message from Deputy General Manager



Dear Seafarers,

I would like to take a moment to thank you for your hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Your commitment to your work, despite the challenges you face at sea, is truly appreciated.

Being away from home and working in tough conditions is not easy, but your efforts ensure that the global supply chain keeps moving.

We are proud of everything you do and the professionalism you show every day.

Please remember that your safety and well-being are our top priorities. We are always here to support you, whether it's with safety measures, training, or any other assistance you may need.

Looking ahead to the new year 2025, I'm confident that we will continue to achieve great things together. Thank you once again for everything you do.

Wishing you and your families a safe and successful year ahead.

Panagiotis Zavlagkas
Deputy General Manager



Serious Hand Injury –

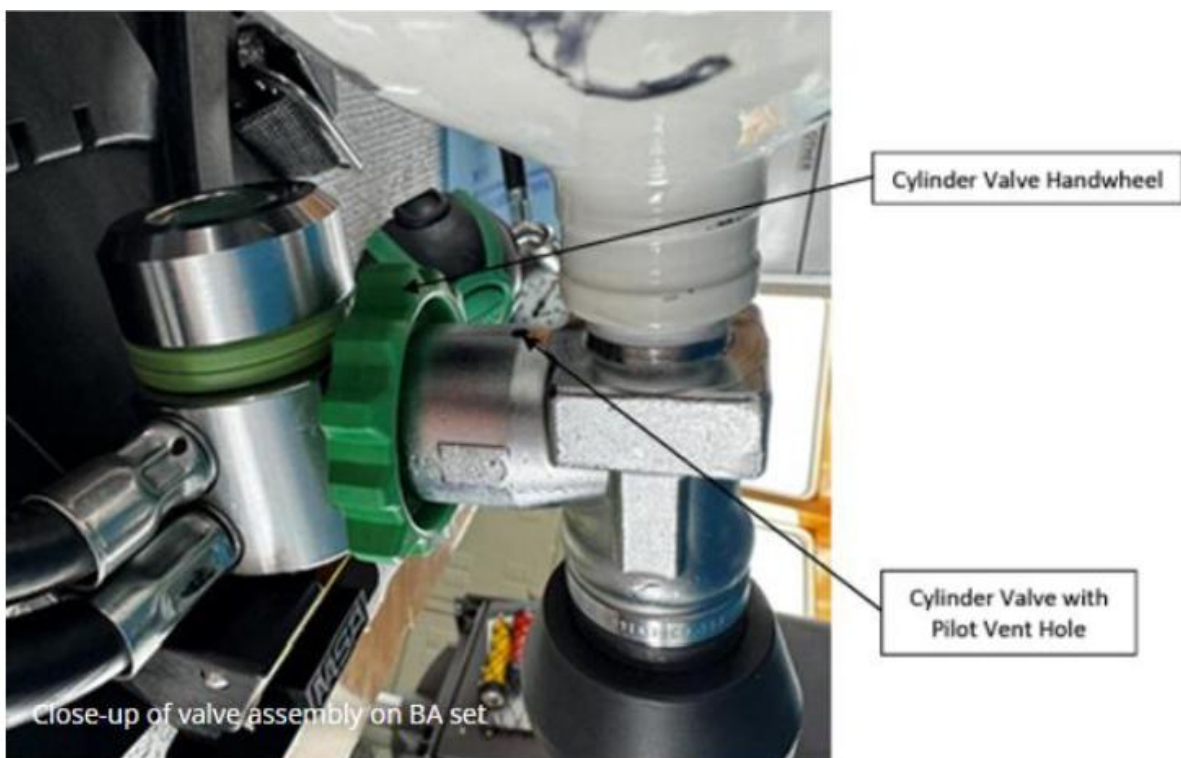
Members continue to report hand and finger injuries. In last year's safety statistics, 42% of LTIs reported by IMCA members involved injuries caused when workers got into the Line of Fire. What do we need to do to stop workers putting their hands and fingers in dangerous places? We all want to get the job done – but that one quick pause, whilst we stop to think, could make ALL the difference. Think:

- ❖ Is there a better way to do this?
- ❖ Could I use a tool instead?
- ❖ Should there be a guard? Should I have gloves on?
- ❖ Is this still too hot to touch? Is it live or is it still spinning?
- ❖ Think carefully before putting your hands where you can't see them.

What happened?

The Marine Safety Forum (MSF) has published Safety Alert 24-05 relating to a finger injury caused by a release of high-pressure air. The incident occurred during a vessel fire drill; the fire team were being assisted with putting on Breathing Apparatus (BA) sets.

The assisting crewmember inadvertently opened the BA set valve resulting in a release of high-pressure air. As a result, the crew members' finger was impregnated by the high-pressure air. The finger that was impregnated showed immediate signs of swelling and the medical support teams advised medevac by helicopter. The injured crew member required surgical treatment, to confirm the extent of the injury and ensure there was no debris injected, and to reduce the risk of infection and tissue damage.



High Pressure Air

What was the cause?

Investigation found that there was a momentary high-pressure air release from the Pilot Vent Hole – a safety feature in 300 bar rated cylinder valves. The injured crewmember must have inadvertently placed his finger over the Pilot Vent Hole at the moment there was a momentary release of pressure.

Recommendations

- ❖ When replacing a BA bottle on a BA set always ensure that the Cylinder Valve Handwheel connection is tightened as per manufacturer's instructions.
- ❖ After changing the BA bottle, pressurize the system and listen for any leaks. Test for bubbles caused by leaks using soapy water at the connection points. Tighten connections, if necessary, but close the main valve first.
- ❖ Ensure the pressure gauge reflects the correct pressure.
- ❖ Conduct a breathing check by inhaling through the mask to ensure air is flowing correctly.
- ❖ Verify the low-pressure alarm is functioning properly by momentarily turning off the air supply. When conducting planned maintenance checks the above should also be adhered to and checked.
- ❖ When putting on BA, manufacturer's instructions should be followed, and if any leaks are observed the main cylinder valve must be closed prior to tightening.



Source: <https://www.imca-int.com/resources/safety/safety-flashes/1624-msf-serious-hand-injury-high-pressure-air/>
Same issued as FB-SQA-04-2024 HSE Bulletin for 4th Quarter 2024 (Safety & Quality) on 31st Dec 2024.



Over 30% of Ballast Water

Information submitted by Global TestNet to the International Maritime Organization's Marine Environment Protection Committee MEPC82, which took place in October 2024, revealed that 29% to 44% of operational systems are failing to remove invasive species in the $>50\mu\text{m}$ range, with more than 100 organisms of this size routinely found in every 1m^3 of treated water.



The D-2 standard of the BWM Convention, which entered fully into force on 8 September, requires ships to discharge ballast water with fewer than 10 viable organisms per 1m^3 that are at least $50\mu\text{m}$ in size.

Over 30% of all installed ballast water treatment systems fail Port State Control D-2 compliance inspections despite 95% of systems having successfully passed commissioning tests.

According to the findings, the most common reasons for non-compliance were contamination of the ballast water tank from mixing treated and untreated waters or improperly opening/closing valves; organism regrowth due to insufficient and infrequent cleaning of the ballast water tanks; and human error due to insufficient system knowledge, maintenance, and training.

Top ranked sources of failure:

- ❖ Contamination inherent to presence of organisms in tanks (no cleaning of tanks at commissioning and regrowth)
- ❖ Contamination from mixing treated water with untreated water
- ❖ BWMS not used in accordance with manufacturer instructions (including a lack of sufficient crew training)

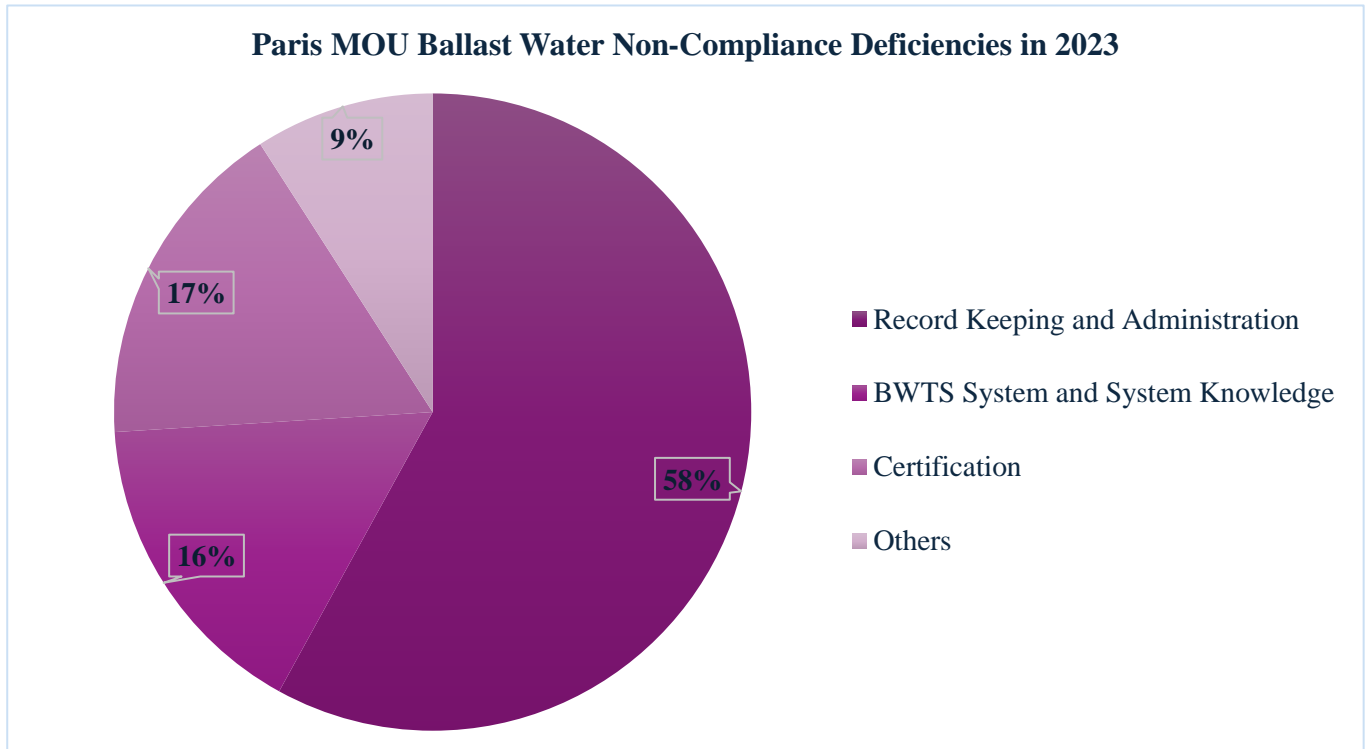
“These results show that even if a vessel with a type-approved ballast water treatment system passes initial commissioning tests, the BWM system alone cannot assure against non-compliance”. When a BWMS is properly installed, a high efficacy in removing organisms is achieved (99.9%) but IMO MEPC reports have acknowledged that this efficacy may not be sufficient to constantly meet the D-2 discharge standard.

“Compliance tests often fail due to the presence of organisms in the tank or water contamination. If operators do not fully understand the impacts of Ballast Water Management on board, and if bypassing cleaning procedures for ballast tanks occurs frequently, non-compliance will be unavoidable.”

The most frequent deficiencies reported by the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State control also related to poor ballast water record book-keeping, inadequate crew training, system unfamiliarity, and invalid or missing certificates.

Treatment Systems Fail PSC Inspections

Moreover, of the 907 ballast water non-compliance deficiencies reported by the Paris MoU in 2023 resulting in 33 ship detention. This year to date, 505 ballast water management deficiencies have been reported, resulting in 17 ship detentions.



Regarding the record-keeping and reporting to administrations, ship operators are advised that IMO has updated Appendix II of the BWM Convention (form of BWRB) to clarify entries to be recorded.

“We are encouraging BIO-SEA system operators to refer to the new guidance on ballast water record-keeping and reporting (due to enter into force on 1 February 2025), published in BWM.2/Circ. 80 to safeguard against port delays and detentions,” “While there remains a two-year grace period for treatment performance issues, ships can still be delayed for poor administration”.

Maintenance and crew training are also areas where ships can be detained. “There is certainly a need for strengthening maintenance and system knowledge, and this will be part of the package of amendments IMO is preparing. Shipowners want their systems to be in good working order but how do you ensure this once the manufacturer has installed the system and left the ship, or is no longer in the market?

“There is agreement amongst ship operators and regulators that routine compliance checks are required. It is essential to assess whether systems efficiently prevent harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens from being discharged into the oceans.”

The IMO’s Convention Review Plan for the BWMS experience-building phase aims to address the 13 priority issues identified at MEPC80. The amendments package is expected to be completed by the end of 2026, with implementation taking place 12 to 18 months afterward. The primary focus areas include BTWS maintenance, crew training, and addressing challenging water conditions.

Source: <https://safety4sea.com/over-30-of-ballast-water-treatment-systems-fail-psc-inspections/>

Same issued as FB-EE-04-2024 HSE Bulletin for 4th Quarter 2024 (Energy & Environmental) on 31st Dec 2024.

WESTSHIP: Digital Transformation – Safety & Environmental Compliance



IN THIS ISSUE

Mr. Shriyush Thakur

Fleet Manager – Technical LPG & Environmental

A) ABSNS: Applied on All 14 Vessels

- Vessel Maintenance System – Includes PMS, Spares Inventory, Technical Defects, Work history, Service Reports etc.
- Purchasing Module Includes Requisitions, RFQs, POs, Invoicing
- HSQE Module Includes Internal and External Audits, Inspections, PSC etc
- DMS Module Includes Company SMS Manuals, Office Circulars, Maritime Bulletins, Port Information etc.
- DD Module

B) Navtor: Applied to All 14 Vessels

- Navigational Platform for tracking Vessel Position and Routing
- Weather information

C) LR Enerva: Applied on All 14 Vessels

- IMO DCS/EU&UK MRV (present)/CII calculation and Rating
- CII Prediction
- EU ETS Calculation for EUA and EUA Finances
- EU ETS Verification

D) Zero North: Applied on All 14 Vessels

- Vessel Performance Monitoring
- Voyage Optimisation
- Hull optimisation
- Noon data check
- CP Compliance and trends
- CII Estimator and guidance for the next voyages for optimisation.
- Daily advise to vessel for the Speed/FO consumption/Weather and Route.
- Comparison between the vessel performance and CP compliance
- Benchmarking the fleet for performance

E) IHM: Applied to All 14 Vessels

- Vessel POs recording for IHM reports.
- Verifying with Suppliers and providing Annual reports.

F) HAT Analytics: Applied to 10 Vessels (Excluding Ashely Lady, Astir Lady, Ellie Lady and Zenovia Lady)

- Condition based Monitoring of the vessel machinery through vibration analysis.
- Machinery performance comparison and benchmarking

G) SEEMP III: Applied to All 14 Vessels

- Monitoring the monthly Carbon Emissions
- Analysing and revising the Energy saving measures.

H) Fuel EU: Applied to All 14 Vessels

- **Objective of FuelEU Regulation:**

The FuelEU Initiative has been specifically designed to accelerate the decarbonisation of the maritime industry by introducing EU regulation, whose primarily have two main objectives:

- (i) Increases the demand and use of renewable and low-carbon/Bio maritime fuels, and
- (ii) Decreases greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions energy across the maritime sector.

- **Scope of Fuel EU Regulation to WESTSHIP:**

Ships calling at an EEA port, arriving at, staying within or departing from an EEA port, or which have carried out voyages during the corresponding reporting period, shall hold a valid FuelEU document of compliance.

Monitoring plan approval from LR in progress.



Family Legacy, Industry Expertise:

The Cornerstones of Success

Mr Alexandros Stafilopatis' upbringing in a family deeply rooted in the maritime industry fostered an organic understanding of its requirements. His father, a captain, and his uncle, an engineer, instilled in him the importance of empathy and expertise. He spent time on voyages in the North Sea, South America, and the U.S. Gulf, gaining insight into the seafarer's unique mindset and sacrifices.

As an endurance athlete, Mr Stafilopatis has completed triathlons and marathons in New York, London, and Edinburgh. This passion complements his business ambitions, as shipping demands long-term commitment and high standards. He appreciates fine cuisine, particularly Greek, Japanese, and Indian, reflecting his global outlook.

Literature also inspires him, especially Joseph Conrad's works. Conrad's experiences as a seafarer and captain offer valuable lessons. Mr Stafilopatis believes in living by a code, matching philosophy with deeds, and fostering a culture of integrity.

As the third-generation leader of Byzantine Maritime Gas Pte Ltd, he guides his children, who share his passion for shipping, to explore their interests and skills. Embracing openness and adaptability is crucial in the ever-evolving industry.

In an intimate conversation with **Marex Media's**



Mr. Alexandros Stafilopatis
Owner

Delphine Estibeiro, Mr Stafilopatis, reveals the values and experiences shaping his approach to shipping, family, and leadership.

Building on Tradition, Charting the Future...

I'm one of the proud owners of Byzantine Maritime Gas, a diversified shipping company headquartered in Athens. Our legacy dates back to 1927 when my grandfather began shipping operations in Constantinople. Since then, we've expanded globally, with offices in New York, London, Manila, and Mumbai. Our fleet operates in dry bulk, tankers, and gas, with a focus on state-of-the-art vessels. Notably, we pioneered dual-fuel gas carriers using LPG propulsion, built at premier shipyards like Hyundai. Over 20 years, we've contracted nearly 30 new-build ships. Our business model emphasizes both high-quality ships and management teams, with in-house technical management groups in Singapore and Athens. We prioritize organic growth, maintaining physical offices and capabilities in core areas like manning, recruitment, and training. This approach enables us to maximize efficiency and deliver exceptional service to top-tier customers, including Exxon, BP, Total, and Trafigura. Our customer-centric focus ensures seamless shore-to-ship operations, solidifying our reputation as a trusted partner in the oil and gas industry.

Hooked on Shipping...

I graduated from university in 1990 and immediately dove into the family business, starting work in our New York office on Monday morning. The allure of shipping captivated me from the start. In those early days, our company operated older vessels in South America and Central America, where my proficiency in Spanish proved invaluable. My family gave me the freedom to learn the business from the ground up, spending extensive time with seafarers on our ships, familiarizing myself with ports, and developing a deep appreciation for the industry.

Shipping's unique blend of finance, technology, and human resources resonated with me. As a vital component of the global economy, shipping offers an incredibly diverse playing field. This breadth of opportunity fascinated me from the outset, and I was hooked.

A Family Affair...

Our company's current chapter was founded by my father, Francis Stafilopatis, and my uncle, Mario

Stafilopatis, who brought a wealth of engineering and commercial experience to the table. I joined the business in 1990, and over the past 15-20 years, my cousins, my uncle's daughters, have also become actively involved. This deep family commitment has been a driving force behind our success.

However, we recognize that our most valuable asset lies not in our family ties, but in our people – the skilled seafarers who are the backbone of our operation. With the shipping industry evolving at an unprecedented pace, we prioritize investing in their training and development. As ships become increasingly sophisticated, we need experts with technical backgrounds, strong educational foundations, and IT proficiency. Fortunately, Indian seafarers possess a unique combination of skills, positioning them to meet the challenges of tomorrow's shipping industry.

Indispensable Role of Shipping in Global Logistics...

Shipping has long been a vital component of international trade, but its significance has been amplified by the rapid globalization of the past 30 years. As the world has become increasingly interconnected, the importance of shipping in facilitating global logistics has become starkly evident. The COVID-19 pandemic served as a stark reminder of this reality, as disruptions to the logistics system highlighted the critical role shipping plays in maintaining the flow of goods and services. In today's globalized world, shipping is no longer just a supporting industry, but a fundamental pillar of international commerce.

Our Trading Policy...

We maintain a steadfast policy of avoiding high-risk areas, particularly in the Red Sea, to ensure the safety of our ships and seafarers. We believe that exposing them to unnecessary danger is unacceptable. Our commitment to safety is unwavering, and we achieve this by entirely avoiding trading in these areas.

Additionally, we strongly condemn the Russian-Ukrainian war, viewing it as a blatant violation of long-established international norms. In line with this stance, we adhere to sanctions and refrain from trading with Russia, Iran, and Venezuela. Our focus on integrity and seafarer welfare is unwavering.

We pride ourselves on partnering with top-tier customers and operating exceptional vessels. Protecting the lives and livelihoods of our seafarers

is paramount. By closing the door on high-risk trading, we effectively manage and mitigate potential dangers.

Investing in Strong Relationships...

With over 15 years of presence in the Philippines, we've developed a diverse crew base. Entering the gas business in 2015 demanded even greater specialization from our crews. Our successful partnership with Anglo Eastern, spanning eight years, underscored the importance of expert officers and engineers.

Recognizing Mumbai's pool of talented professionals, we established our own office to foster direct connections with our seafarers. This personal approach is rooted in our heritage as traditional Greek ship owners, where partnership between seafarers and owners is paramount.

Greek shipping's success relies on this organic collaboration, enabling seamless operations and a deep understanding of the needs at sea. By investing in strong relationships and localized presence, we ensure top-notch crew management and operational excellence.

Tapping into India's Maritime Potential...

When we began collaborating with Indian officers in 2015, we swiftly recognized their pivotal role in the future of seafaring. To establish a direct connection with the Indian market, we sought a front-row seat. Our Mumbai office, initially focused on manning, will evolve into a full-fledged management hub, unlocking additional commercial opportunities in the Indian subcontinent.

We're bullish on India's remarkable economic growth and aim to capitalize on this momentum. By planting our roots in this vibrant market, we're poised to ride the wave of success, embracing the country's burgeoning influence in global trade.

Pioneering Sustainable Shipping Solutions...

As a trailblazer in contracting advanced dual-fuel LPG carriers, we're intimately familiar with the complexities and specialized expertise required. Indian seafarers, with their exceptional skills, are ideally positioned to navigate this cutting-edge landscape.

Furthermore, our ownership and operation of ammonia carriers underscore our commitment to innovative, eco-friendly solutions. We firmly believe

ammonia will emerge as a vital zero-emissions fuel in the energy transition. As technology rapidly evolves, we're poised to capitalize on this shift, cementing our position at the forefront of sustainable shipping.

A Shared Goal...

Meeting the 2050 emissions target appears highly ambitious, considering the shipping industry's current snapshot. However, success hinges on crucial factors: substantial investment from the shipping community, effective regulation, and government-backed funding for infrastructure and technology.

I firmly believe that collective effort can make 2050 achievable. We're committed to playing our part, having invested in modern, eco-friendly vessels that align with our sustainable vision. By doing so, we're positioning ourselves to contribute meaningfully to this transformative journey.

Enhancing Maritime Efficiency through Innovative Investments...

We are committed to reducing our environmental footprint and boosting operational efficiency through strategic investments in our shipping fleet. This includes adopting cutting-edge technologies such as dual-fuel vessels and zero-friction paints, which significantly minimize energy consumption. Furthermore, we are upgrading our portfolio with the latest, state-of-the-art ships constructed at renowned shipyards, ensuring our fleet remains modern and sustainable.

Unlocking Efficiency through Digitalization in Shipping...

Digitalization presents a transformative opportunity for shipping companies to optimize their operations and reach new heights of efficiency. As modern ships and management systems grow increasingly sophisticated, harnessing data through digitalization becomes crucial. By leveraging digital technologies, management can tap into valuable insights, making informed decisions and streamlining processes to drive business growth and competitiveness.

Navigating Volatility and Regulatory Shifts in Shipping...

Shipping inherently mirrors the volatility of global commodity markets, characterized by boom-and-bust cycles. This unpredictability presents challenges when paired with the impending energy transition, which will be driven by regulatory requirements. The



shipping industry's traditional dynamics, fueled by commodity market fluctuations and entrepreneurial spirit, must now adapt to a structured transition framework. Integrating these contrasting forces over the next 25 years will pose a significant test for our industry.

Comprehensive Global Footprint...

With operations spanning North America, Europe, the Indian subcontinent, and Asia, we recognize the importance of a comprehensive global footprint in the shipping industry. To capitalize on emerging opportunities and optimize efficiency, we believe it's essential to maintain a widespread physical presence. This strategic approach enables us to operate as a true global player, poised to navigate the complexities and seize the advantages of an increasingly interconnected shipping landscape.

A Balanced Foundation for Future Growth...

Our business strategy is built on three core pillars: gas, clean petroleum products, and dry bulk commodities. We believe these sectors will drive global economic development in the years to come. The electrification of automobiles, for instance, will fuel demand for lithium and other dry bulk commodities. Meanwhile, our LPG and dual-fuel

carriers are poised to transport emerging fuels like ammonia. As countries like India meet their growing energy needs over the next 25 years, hydrocarbons will remain essential. With our diversified portfolio, we're confident in our ability to thrive in this evolving landscape.

Foster Lasting Relationships...

We take pride in operating some of the world's most advanced and efficient vessels. However, we recognize that our true strength lies in our people. To continue excelling, we rely on loyal and highly skilled seafarers to crew our ships. As a family-run business, we value personal connections and are committed to nurturing talent. Our Mumbai office serves as a vital link to India's exceptional maritime professionals, enabling us to foster lasting relationships with the best Indian seafarers and secure our continued success.

Source: MAREX Dec 2024 Issue

Western Shipping Announces Strategic Expansion into Indian Market

- Pratik Bijlani



Western Shipping Pte Ltd achieved a critical milestone in its global expansion on September 12, 2024, with the grand launch of "Western Crew Management Services (India) Pvt Ltd", its new Crew Management office in Mumbai. Western Shipping, founded in Singapore, is a global leader in marine services, focussing on ship management and technical support for a fleet of LPG and Product tankers. With a reputation for providing high-quality services, the company's operations include crew management, vessel maintenance, safety compliance, and environmental stewardship, serving clients globally.

The establishment of in-house Manning Office in Mumbai was crucial for following reasons.

- ❖ Mumbai, known as one of the world's busiest maritime hubs, is at the centre of India's shipping sector.
- ❖ Western Shipping strengthens its presence in the region for better access to India's large talent pool of seafarers and maritime specialists.

This approach not only enhances the company's crew management capabilities, but also allows for improved recruiting, training, and management of Indian

seafarers. The local presence in Mumbai is expected to strengthen communication and coordination with seafarers and their families, resulting in smoother operations and more effective crew management.

The Opening Ceremony began at the Premises with ribbon-cutting by the Owners "Mr. Alexandros Th. StafiloPATIS of Byzantine Maritime Gas PTE. LTD" and the Chief Guest for the day "Capt. (Dr) Daniel Joseph, Deputy Director General of Shipping (Crew), DG Shipping, Government of India".

Following the ribbon-cutting, Capt Yogesh Jadhav [Head of Crewing at Western Crew Management Services (India) Pvt Ltd] welcome the Owners, Chief Guest and other dignitaries including Seafarers by giving an inspiring address, adding, "This is something fresh; we started in India. As most of you are aware, we already have operations in Singapore, Greece, and Manila, as well as commercial offices in New York and London. So, having an office in Mumbai is a major milestone, and there are a number of things we're looking into to get started." His address emphasised the significance of the new Mumbai office and its potential to bolster the Indian shipping industry.

The expansion into Mumbai demonstrates Western Shipping's commitment to expanding its global network. India's expanding shipping industry provides





numerous prospects, and the Mumbai office improves partnerships with Indian shipowners and clients, preparing Western Shipping for new commercial endeavours. Furthermore, the office enables more localised services, such as better coordination of vessel operations, technical services, and compliance with both local and international marine regulations.

The evening event, which was held at JW Marriott, Juhu commemorated this significant achievement, allowing guests to network with notable industry figures such as Capt Mahesh Yadav, Director of Education and Training at FOSMA, Capt. S.M. Halbe, CEO of MASSA, Capt. Maneesh Pradhan, Chairman of MASSA, and Mr. Pawan Kapoor, Managing Director of the ISF Group. Capt. Hemant Arora, HSQE Compliance Manager/DPA and Capt. Karni Rathore,



Operations Manager at Western Shipping, welcomed the attendees.

Mr. Panos Zavlagas and Mr. Alexandros Th. Stafilopatis delivered speeches on the company's history and development

progress. Mr. Panos highlighted the company's growth and shared his vision for the future, stating, "Today, with the official opening of our new crew management office in Mumbai, we are entering the final phase of our plan, which is to fully manage in-house all LPG vessels, which will be completed in the next two months, and enter the fast-developing Indian money market."

The inauguration of the Mumbai office is a critical milestone in Western Shipping's global strategy, assuring the company's continued leadership in ship management while creating new opportunities for Indian seafarers. In closing, Mr. Panos stated, "I am absolutely confident that with the high quality people we have in Western Shipping offices in Singapore, Manila and Mumbai, our success is guaranteed."

Source: MAREX Dec 2024 Issue



Western Shipping Southeast Asia

20 Years of Honoring Seafarers and Families

"To all the children whose fathers and mothers work in the shipping industry, your parents are doing an amazing job. We're so proud of them!", exclaims Ms. Lara Stafilopati, Executive Director of Byzantine Maritime Corporation, at the opening program of the Western Shipping Southeast Asia Inc. (WSSEAI) 20th Anniversary and Family Day celebrations on November 22, held at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club Pavilion in Mandaluyong City.

Ms. Lara called on stage Bella, daughter of a seafarer working on one of WSSEAI tanker ships, who proudly told her and the crowd, "I would like to be seawoman just like my father."

The Greek shipowner reacted quickly saying "This is so inspiring, and we can't wait to have her onboard one of our vessels."

In her speech, Ms. Lara presented a short video produced by the Union of Greek Shipowners (UGS) about the importance of shipping, which resonates the importance of seafarers' contributions to the world.

She stated, "We've been working with the Filipino seafarers for more than three decades now. And the Filipino seafarers that stood by us all these years are deep in our hearts."

Ms. Lara also expressed her gratitude to the seafarers' families. "Without you, we couldn't do this - the families and the wives who stayed behind to support all of the men that



Shipowner Lara with Bella, a proud seafarer daughter



Honors for 20 years of Loyalty



WSSEAI outgoing Pres Gaerlan (left), Ms. Lara and Mr. Kyriakos Savvoglou lead the traditional cake-cutting

are onboard who work so hard to have their mind peaceful to really focus on their work to keep the seafarers safe."

Recognitions

Plaques of recognition were bestowed to loyal seafarers who had served the company for 5 to 20 years.

WSSEAI President RAdm Bayani Gaerlan also received a plaque in appreciation of his dedicated leadership throughout his successful presidency. He was succeeded by

seasoned Captain Joseph Raluta on December 12, following his retirement.

RAdm Gaerlan expressed his profound gratitude to shipowners Stafilopati for their "continuing support, trust and confidence to the management and staff of Western Shipping, both for manning agency and training center."

"This support and trust inspire us to perform our task with rigor and dedication."

He also thanked Capt. Belal Ahmed, Western Shipping Pte. Ltd. CEO and Managing Director, for his "continued guidance and assistance."



Incoming WSSAI Pres Capt. Joseph Raluta (middle) with Western Shipping Pte. Ltd. Capt. Hemant Arora, HSQE Compliance Manager (left), and Capt. Ketan Vaze, Fleet Personnel Manager

Capt. Belal was unable to attend the event for compelling reasons, but he extended his congratulations for attaining 20 fruitful years of service. "He joins us to continue our selfless commitment not only for the betterment of our company but also for our contribution to the maritime industry here and abroad," relayed Gaerlan.

Family-focused

A Holy Mass kicked off the family-centered celebrations, attended by hundreds of seafarers and their families, management and staff, guest and industry partners.

The kiddos were treated to an early Christmas party featuring magic shows, games and cash gifts. The shore-based personnel and cadets wowed the crowd with their impressive dance presentations. A live band performed. There were photo booths, raffles, sumptuous food, and, most importantly, a sense of family belonging throughout the large venue.

The gathering concluded with traditional cake-cutting and singing-while-holding-hands traditions.

Growth opportunities

Inspired by the Anniversary theme, "Sailing Through Two Decades: Navigating Success and Innovation," Ms. Lara announced, "Our company is growing. It's renewing its fleet. They're coming more eco-friendly," but gave assurance that, "No matter how much we grow, we are always a family."

Prior to the Anniversary and Family Day celebrations, WSSAI hosted a Crew Safety Conference at the Marco Polo Ortigas Manila on November 20 and the Prestige Tower on November 21 in Ortigas, Pasig City, themed "Stop Me from Unsafe Acts."

Presenters were senior executives from Western Shipping Pte. Ltd.; with guest speakers including officials from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

In a rare opportunity, Ms. Lara was interviewed by Marino World. She emphasized that Decarbonization is their company's top priority, and the whole shipping industry is making huge effort to decarbonize.

"For us particularly, we do want fuel-efficient ships, we want to be efficient in every way by the paints, by the technology, by anything that we can do to make it as efficient as possible."

She added, despite the advancements in AI and technology, the shipping industry remains in high demand for talented seafarers.

The Filipino seafarers, who number approximately 700, constitute the majority of the seafarers in the bulk carriers and tankers of the WSSAI fleet.

Ms. Lara anticipates an even more promising future since Filipinos have a very deep knowledge of the sea. "We're so happy with their temperament, loyalty, hard work. I see that they have a drive within them to excel, be educated and be promoted." *mw*



Byzantine's Lara and Crewing Manager Capt Dimitrios Davaris (middle) with the WSSAI management and staff



WSSAI Team for safe and sustainable shipping

Source: Marino World Nov-Dec 2024 Issue

Internship Programme



WELCOME to Join WSP

Western Shipping has been engaging interns since 2010. Throughout the years of internship collaboration with Bachelor in Maritime Studies, Nanyang Technological University and subsequently Diploma in Marine Engineering, Singapore Maritime Academy, valuable support is gained for the business and our existing employees. Internships also provide WESTSHIP with the opportunity to discover new talent and future employees. Interns are taking on entry-level tasks, lessening the administrative burdens for our colleagues to handle other work, though some of our interns may also go beyond administrative duties.

GETTING READY FOR YOUR NEXT STEP

WESTSHIP believes that by offering hands-on experience in the ship management aspects, this enhances the student's knowledge in a valuable way to gain real-world experience outside of the classroom and explore their interests for guidance in the personal career goals and employment expectations.

During the internship period in WESTSHIP, the following are performed –

1. Orientation

- ❖ Brief on Company policies, structures, operations, safety and security matters
- ❖ Introduction to fellow colleagues within WESTSHIP for him/her to be effective in work

2. Supervision

- ❖ Plan and discussion on the internship requirements with the intern to ensure learning objectives are met.
- ❖ Guidance including guiding the intern on the tasks, setting performance expectations and encouraging the intern to raise queries to clarify job responsibilities.
- ❖ Periodic feedback on his/her performance.

3. Mentorship

- ❖ Assigning an experienced mentor to share job prospects, career paths and industry trends.
- ❖ Motivating the intern with his/her work experience and career journey in the industry, this may include understanding of professional and personal ethics, attitudes and values.



2024 –

Mr. Ryan Irfan Bin Muhammad Imran
from Singapore Maritime Academy

2023 –

Ms. Priya Darshini DO Kumar &
Ms. Tok Pei Qi
from Nanyang Technological University

**Don't judge
each day by the
harvest you
reap but by the
seeds that you
plant.**

- Robert Louis Stevenson



Have Fun!

Company

Welfare

FAMILY * SMILE * FOOD * MUSIC * DANCE

Annual Dinner

2024



Celebration Onboard



Arizona Lady



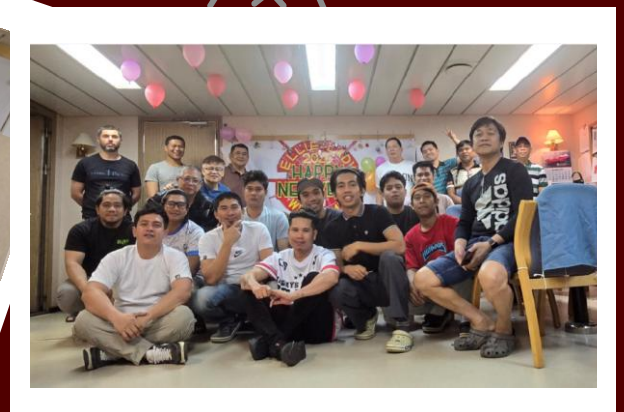
Katherine Lady



Marcellus Lady



Ellie Lady





Chrysopigi Lady



Eagle Ford Lady



Bakken Lady



A Mariner's Perspective

My Journey with Western Shipping Pte Ltd.

By Capt. Milind Karkhanis

- LPG Chrysopigi Lady

As a master mariner with extensive experience at sea, I have had the privilege of working with various maritime organizations. My tenure with Western Shipping Pte Ltd has been particularly rewarding, marked by unwavering support and a commitment to excellence that has significantly enhanced my professional journey.

ABOUT WESTERN SHIPPING PTE LTD

Established in Singapore in 1987, Western Shipping began with a focus on agency business and crew management. In 1992, following a change in ownership, the company transitioned into technical management. By 2000, Western Shipping expanded its services to include the management of Medium Range (MR) tankers, and by 2006, it was managing a fleet of ten ships. Today, the company manages a modern fleet of tankers, including MR (oil/chemical), Panamax (LR1), and Aframax (LR2) vessels, engaged in worldwide trade.

GLOBAL PRESENCE AND EXPERTISE

Operating from its headquarters in Singapore, Western Shipping maintains a robust global presence with associate offices in New York, London, Manila, and Athens. With over 20 years of experience in ship management, the company boasts a team of more than 1,000 rigorously trained employees, both ashore and on board. Their fleet of high-performance ships traverses oceans and calls at ports worldwide, underscoring their commitment to efficient, safe, and trustworthy operations.

COMMITMENT TO SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Western Shipping places a strong emphasis on maintaining the highest standards of health, safety, and security, striving to minimize any adverse impact on the environment. This commitment is evident in their operations and the support provided to seafarers, ensuring that every voyage is conducted with the utmost regard for safety and environmental stewardship.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND GROWTH

Throughout my association with Western Shipping, I have experienced firsthand their dedication to their crew. The company's emphasis on training and development has provided me with opportunities to enhance my skills and advance my career. Their proactive approach to crew welfare and professional growth fosters a supportive environment where seafarers are valued and motivated to excel.

CONCLUSION

My journey with Western Shipping Pte Ltd has been marked by professional growth, unwavering support, and a shared commitment to excellence in the maritime industry. I am proud to be part of an organization that not only values its seafarers but also upholds the highest standards in ship management, safety, and environmental responsibility.

Message from DPA

Achieving Excellence in Safety



At WESTSHIP, safety is more than a priority; it's a fundamental part of our culture and operations. We are thrilled to share that we have achieved two consecutive years with zero Lost Time Incidents (LTI) and Total Recordable Case Frequency (TRCF) incidents.

All this has been possible because of shared responsibility between onboard and ashore team.

This achievement not only reflects our dedication to workplace safety but also demonstrates the effectiveness of our proactive safety initiatives.

Our safety journey is rooted in continuous improvement. We take a hands-on approach with regular risk assessments, safety training, and the implementation of best practices across all levels of our organization. Through open communication channels and a commitment to near-miss reporting, we empower employees to identify potential hazards before they lead to incidents.

Our leadership team sets a strong example, ensuring that safety is always at the forefront of decision-making. Every employee whether onboard or ashore, from top to bottom, is involved in maintaining this safety culture, creating a work environment where each individual feels valued and protected.

While we are proud of this **two-year** safety record, we recognize that there is always more work to be done. Our commitment to safety is ongoing, and we will continue to innovate, adapt, and strive for excellence to ensure our people's well-being.

This achievement is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and safety-first mentality that defines WESTSHIP.

Hemant Arora
DPA

Thank You

**From the Management Team of
Western Shipping Pte. Ltd.**



