



inside: Crews worldwide share how they keep their work environment and colleagues safe



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For more information on our work visit seasunday@missiontoseafarers.org

Join us to celebrate seafarers across the globe.

Welcome to the latest FAN!

This will be my last welcome to an edition of FAN, as Secretary General.

My successor, the Venerable Dr Peter Rouch, takes over on 1 August and I know you will enjoy getting to know him. I was delighted to learn of his appointment. He is a great person to lead the Mission forward into its next stage of development and no doubt the next edition of FAN will answer your questions about his plans for the future.

Peter joins us at an exciting time. We are starting work in a range of new ports; our key hub project is at a critical stage of development; new models of seafarer centre are in planning; and our wider programme areas continue to make great progress, including our new Happy at Sea app.

As ever, this edition of FAN showcases a number of key topics – including the vital issue of ministry to cruise ships. Ruth Campbell, one of our most dynamic chaplains, writes on this subject and is herself an extraordinary and ground-breaking practitioner of cruise ship work, as our European teams discovered at their recent conference.

Amongst much else, you can also read about our President's visit to Dubai. HRH The Princess Royal, attended several events for us over the course of a day, where she spoke passionately about seafarer welfare and the role of women in shipping.



Life at the Mission is never dull and I hope this edition will inspire you, as it does me, and further encourage your wonderful support. For that support we, and seafarers across the globe, are deeply indebted.

The Revd Canon Andrew Wright
Secretary General

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The Princess Royal Champions Seafarers Welfare

During her recent visit to Dubai, our President, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, underscored the crucial role of seafarer welfare services in the UAE and the significance of women in the maritime sector.

The Princess Royal began her visit with a tour of DP World's Jebel Ali Port, one of the world's largest container ports and a hub of maritime activity in the Middle

East. Here, she explored Box Bay, an innovation which aims to improve the safety, speed and energy efficiency with which shipping containers are handled.

CHAMPIONING FEMALE SEAFARERS

A conference on seafarer welfare, co-hosted by The Mission to Seafarers, DP World, and Women's International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA) UAE, united stakeholders from across



the industry. Here, the Princess Royal spoke passionately about the significant contribution of women to shipping and their role in addressing the global crew shortage.

Throughout the day, Her Royal Highness, met with key figures in the maritime sector, including Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World; Rania Tadros, President of WISTA UAE and Managing Partner of Stephenson Harwood in Dubai; as well as other members of The Mission to Seafarers' welfare team in the area.



“ Commitments were made to bring lasting change”

Commitments were made to bring lasting change, as Rania Tadros explains, “WISTA UAE signed Memorandums of Understanding with both The Mission to Seafarers and the Nautical Institute to further support individuals throughout the maritime industry.”

UNDERSCORING WELFARE SERVICES

The visit culminated with a dinner at the One&Only Royal Mirage Hotel, attended by leaders from the shipping industry and the broader business community. Here, The Princess Royal reiterated the indispensable role of seafarers and the continued need for support for their welfare.

“ The Princess Royal reiterated the indispensable role of seafarers”

Speaking after the event, Andrew Wright, Secretary General of The Mission to Seafarers, reflected on the visit saying, ‘Today’s visit by our President, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, has shone a deserved spotlight on the longstanding service of The Mission To Seafarers in the UAE.

‘Significant advances have been made in seafarer welfare in the UAE and we are grateful to everyone that has played a part in this, from our volunteers and supporters to the government and maritime authorities.’

“ Significant advances have been made in seafarer welfare”

Looking Back With Pride and Humility



As Andrew Wright prepares for retirement, he reflects on the challenges, changes and countless airports that have marked his tenure as Secretary General.

Nearly 12 years ago, on my first day, we gathered for a photo inside our then

office St Michael Paternoster Royal. I remember the Head of Communications ticking me off for wearing RNLI socks! So much has happened since then.

When I took up the role, as per best advice, I aimed to recruit people far more capable than me! I have had a

marvellous team, at leadership level and more widely. Alongside our robust and fast-developing port presence, our staff have innovated the WeCare programme, the Family Support Network, and the Seafarers' Happiness Index. Someone recently remarked that the Mission is really 'quite a thing' and indeed it is.

“ the Mission is really quite a thing”

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS

Developing and growing our diverse network of partnerships has been another key feature. Amongst much else, I loved chairing the International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA) for four years.

The depth of respect for our work was very evident last year when 64 teams from across the shipping industry joined our Adventure Race Japan. It is such partners who enable and fund our work.

And the importance of what we do was no more evident than during the pandemic. While being terrible for seafarers, it raised the profile of our work and the vital importance of seafarer well-being. This has been a positive legacy after some tough years.

Seafarers feel the world's crises first and hardest, another reality painfully clear during the pandemic. No other event has impacted seafarers so profoundly, outside of wartime. Then came war in the Ukraine and now the Red Sea crisis. The world is more turbulent than it was 12 years ago and it saddens me that there remains a lack of visibility among

the general public regarding the vital role of seafarers.

REASONS TO BE HOPEFUL

Looking back, it's clear that the Mission was built on heroes and heroines doing extraordinary work in challenging locations. As I have visited, I have been constantly reminded that today's work is also sustained by the heroism of our teams who often go far beyond the call of duty. I am humbled.

“ I will miss the Mission in so many ways”

While I will miss the Mission in so many ways, I'll be glad to bid farewell to airports after visiting 55 countries! I know, however, that it is the right time for both me and the Mission. I will continue to hold the Mission and its work in my heart, and may find new ways of contributing to maritime ministry.

So yes, I look back with shared pride and deep humility. What we have done we have done together. My prayers will be for the continued flourishing of The Mission to Seafarers and those it serves.

“ I look back with shared pride and deep humility”



Celebrating the Day of the Seafarer

As we approach the Day of the Seafarer on 25 June, crew from across the world share the precautions they take to ensure their colleagues are safe at work.



CAPT. WILLIAM D. COSEP, SHIPMASTER FROM THE PHILIPPINES

Safety at sea is of paramount importance, and as the captain of the ship, I bear full responsibility for the operations and safety of my crew and vessel. My top priority is maintaining safe working practices.

Upon joining a ship, my first task is to familiarise myself with the bridge equipment, engine, and ship layout. I then call the officers for initial instructions and conduct a comprehensive safety meeting for all crew members. I prioritise the safety of all individuals on board by ensuring that my orders comply with the company's policies, principles, and procedures.

My constant reminder to everyone is to uphold safety protocols and maintain

“ I prioritise the safety of all individuals on board”

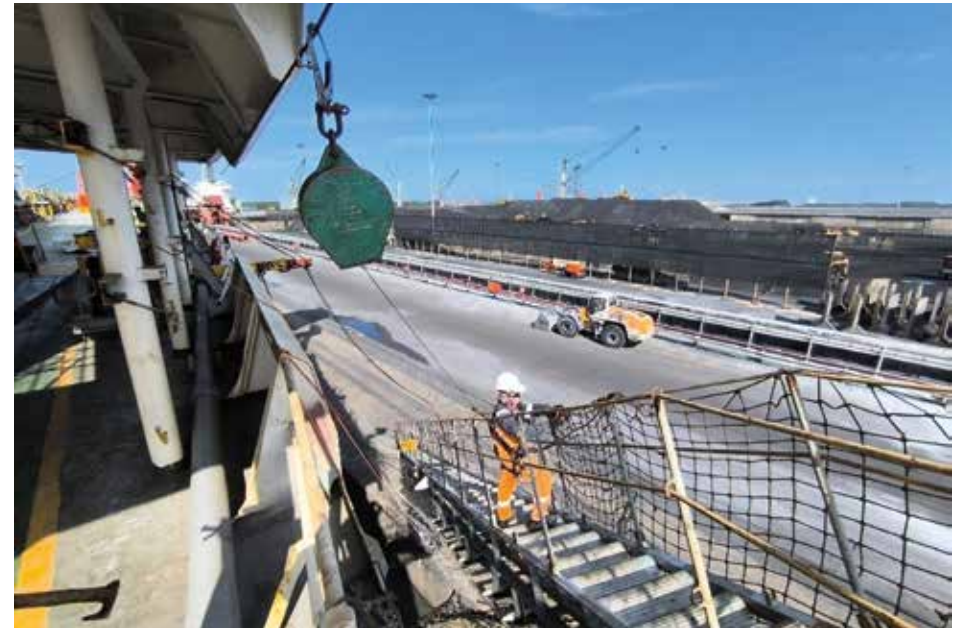
a safety culture on board. During critical operations such as docking and undocking, I use the VHF radio to instruct officers to remind their teams of the “Safety First” message prominently displayed on the ship.

Continuously reinforcing this message ensures that safety is always their primary concern, making them accountable for their own safety and that of others.

My role involves monitoring the crew to safeguard them against injuries, illnesses, and incidents caused by fatigue. It is important to prioritise sufficient rest and carefully plan work schedules, particularly when undertaking demanding tasks such as cleaning cargo holds during brief voyages. Making rest a priority prevents fatigue-related accidents.

Ultimately, safety is not just about avoiding danger but also about staying near to God, who is our only weapon when we are working away from home.

“ Prioritising rest helps prevent accidents caused by fatigue.”



JEROME B. ANDAYA, CAPTAIN FROM SOUTH AFRICA

During my early days in seafaring, safety was often neglected by seafarers, including myself, until overcomplacency and negligence nearly took my life. We now follow these clear rules.

SAFETY UP

Before launching, the chief officer leads a meeting to issue a checklist for rigging the pilot and gangway ladders. Once approved by the captain, the crew prepare safety gear like the fall arrestor device (FAD), harness, and inflatable vest. Only then do they rig the gangway ladder, ensuring stanchions are secure and a safety net is in place so crews can safely board.

SAFETY IN

Onboard a ship, accidents can happen. The captain, often called the ‘old man,’ ensures everyone adheres to the company

“ Having good safety measures onboard will ensure they can return home.”

safety procedures tailored for the vessel. Crew members must follow these protocols to mitigate risks in designated areas and tasks.

SAFETY DOWN

When it comes to leaving a ship, seasoned seamen gear up to rig the gangway ladder, armed with safety equipment and know-how. They secure a gangway net, so seafarers can safely disembark, confident in a safe journey home.

SAFETY OUT

When a seafarer's contract ends, they want to get home as quickly as possible. Having good safety measures onboard will ensure they can return home to their family and can relax and recuperate well until the sea calls them back again.

Celebrating Volunteers

Our volunteer heroes, who work tirelessly to support seafarers across the world, share their experiences.



JOHN HILL, VOLUNTEER AT TAURANGA, NEW ZEALAND

I became a ship visitor during the Covid pandemic, when the Mission had to close. No shore leave was allowed and the government-sponsored Ship Welfare Officer, the only remaining support for seafarers in Tauranga, needed a hand.

I know from my own life at sea that seafarers are often isolated, feel vulnerable and miss the family they've left behind. And so, I gain a great sense of fulfilment from being able, however briefly, to ask

how life's treating them, let them tell me about their family, how long they have left on their contract and how good (or bad) the cook is.

The Mission to Seafarers could not function without volunteers, not just visiting ships, but hosting seafarers, driving them to the shops, making them feel welcome and giving them a safe haven for a few hours.

“ The Mission to Seafarers could not function without volunteers”

DR ALLISON NEAL, VOLUNTEER TREASURER FOR THE HUMBER PORTS, UK

When I accepted the role of treasurer for the Humber Mission to Seafarers, I imagined drowning in complicated spreadsheets or counting coins by candlelight — neither of which appealed to me as I am far from being a trained accountant.

“ it's a far more dynamic role”

In reality, it's a far more dynamic role responding to the needs of seafarers as they arise. From funding sweet treats and SIM cards to supporting families during crises and supplying PPE, our tasks vary widely. We handle everything from ordering supplies to fundraising for Christmas and other events.

Like the seafarers we serve, much of our work goes unseen, yet we're unwavering in our dedication to caring for them in every possible way.



JOANNE FLORES PAROHINOG, FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK VOLUNTEER, THE PHILIPPINES

I am Joanne Flores Parohinog: teacher, mother of three and volunteer at the Altavas Chapter as a Programme Officer for years now. I am happily married to retired seafarer Bosun Edwin A. Parohinog.

The word volunteer means a lot to me. It is not an easy task, having multiple things

to accomplish while volunteering, but I am happy to perform these tasks for free. Volunteering is a vital part of bringing vision and mission into focus and making a difference. Like a healing grace that gives meaning and purpose, touching everyone's life, it brings hope and glory, especially to those in need.

“ it brings hope and glory”

Port Round-Up

At the halfway point in the year, we reflect on the many and varied ways that our chaplains and port centres have been supporting seafarers across the world.

1 PANAMÁ



In Panamá, the team recently prayed with a crew following the unexplained

death of one of their younger seafarers. They were comforted to know that our Family Support Network will be supporting their friend's family in the Philippines. Our teams in Los Angeles and Halifax will also continue to support the crew when their ship docks there.

3 AÇU, BRAZIL



The challenges for female seafarers, often with few female crewmates, are significant.

Our team prioritises their well-being. On International Women's Day in March, Chaplain Revda. Dilce Paiva de Oliveira was heartened when two female seafarers shared experiences of crew respect, a promising shift in a male-dominated industry.

2 BALTIMORE, USA



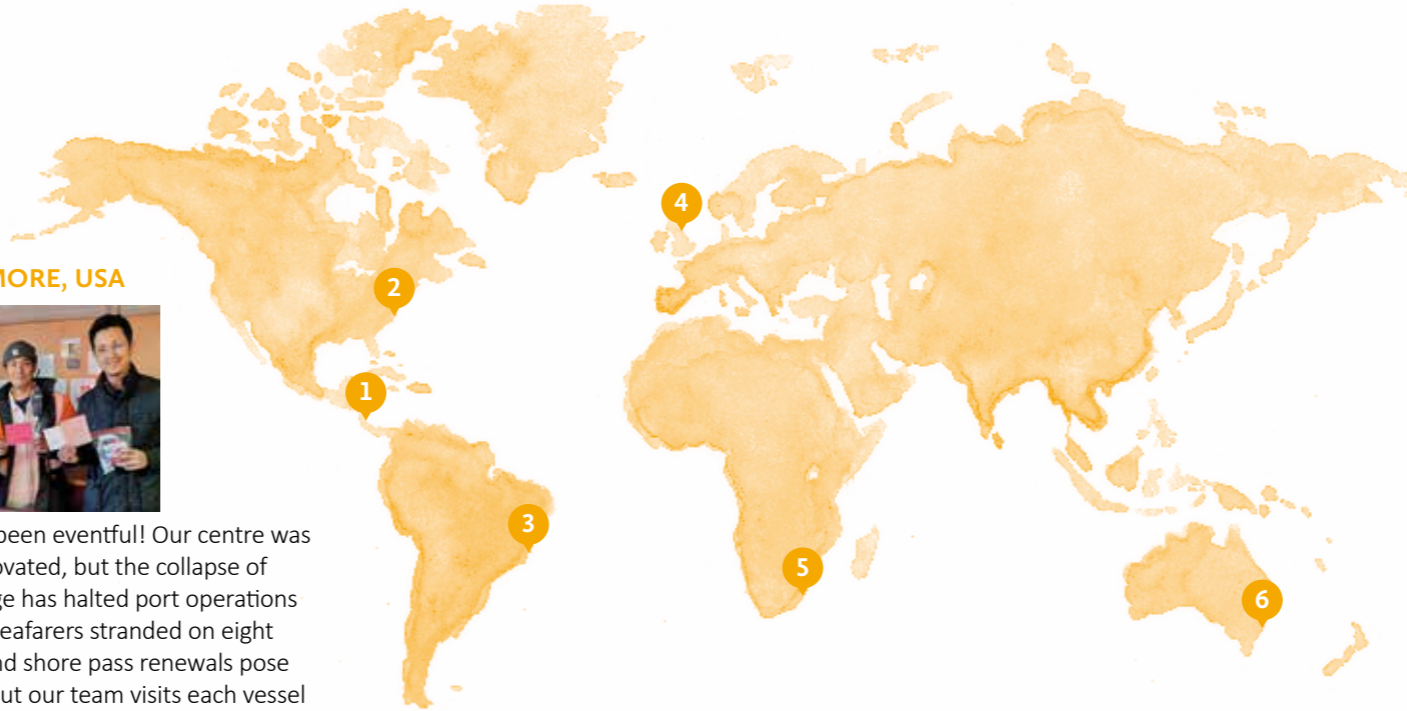
Things have been eventful! Our centre was recently renovated, but the collapse of the Key Bridge has halted port operations leaving 159 seafarers stranded on eight ships. Visa and shore pass renewals pose challenges, but our team visits each vessel regularly and we're collaborating with the International Transport Federation and other agencies to support them.

4 SOUTH TEES, ENGLAND

The team welcomed a vessel which had been at sea from Japan for 60 days. Together with our colleagues at Stella Maris, we took the crew shopping and to enjoy a beer. Our team have also been busy completing International Shipping Port Security (ISPS) training to improve their integration with local port authorities.



THE MISSION OPERATE IN 200 PORTS IN OVER 50 COUNTRIES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.ORG/OUR-PORTS



5 RICHARD'S BAY, SOUTH AFRICA



Our team in Richard's Bay have been ministering to two seafarers who ended up in adjacent beds on the same hospital ward after sustaining injuries on board separate ships. The seafarers, from the Philippines and Indonesia, have received prayer and practical support in the form of home-cooked meals, care packages, SIM cards and clothing.

6 SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



Chaplaincy is a 365-day-a-year job and the Revd Tay Un Hui has been working through the public holidays to support seafarers. From helping a seafarer send money home following a death in the family to visiting another who was recuperating in a local hotel following open-heart surgery, the team are always on call.



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Cruise Crew Matter Too

Ruth Campbell, our Port Chaplain for London, is tackling the neglected issue of cruise ship crew welfare by establishing a dedicated lounge in the Port of Tilbury Terminal.



is far from a charmed life. It was against this backdrop that I knew I needed to do something to make their lives that little bit better.

CREATING SPACE

I approached the port management at the London International Cruise Terminal in Tilbury to see if it would be possible to create a cruise crew lounge in some empty office space. I wanted this to be an area that cruise crew could use when they came ashore to relax with a cuppa; share a conversation with family and friends via free Wi-Fi; and chat with fellow crew members away from their work environment.

I was delighted when the port management agreed and duly allocated three unused offices. With funding from The Seafarers' Charity, the Merchant Navy Welfare Board and a private donor, we transformed the space into a series of seafarers' lounges, with a kitchen and attractive seating.

I have also mobilised a volunteer team to help me run this facility. Without them and our generous funders, this vision could not have become a reality.

IN-DEMAND SERVICES

This facility will be used by 8,000 seafarers each year and approximately 200 crew members each time a cruise ship docks at Tilbury. The crews constantly talk about the joy they experience here and how valued they feel in the knowledge that a recreation space has been specifically created for them.

They talk about experiences in other ports where they feel of little worth due

to the fact they cannot use the areas and facilities exclusively for the passengers. The facility at Tilbury is unique in that it is exclusively for the cruise crew; it's their space created just for them.

IMPROVED MORALE

I have been amazed by the impact this facility has had on crew morale and wellbeing. One of the innovative additions was a communications pod allowing crew to speak to family and friends in privacy. The pod was designed as a London phone box and my expectation was that it would be used more as a decorative piece for photos and selfies.

“ There is a real lack of private space onboard”

To my astonishment, 18 cruise crew used the facility on a practical level within the first two hours to contact family and friends. They told me that there is a real lack of private space onboard the cruise ship, the simple act of being able to have a private conversation was one they greatly appreciated.

“ The overwhelming message I receive from the cruise crew is ‘thank you.’”

I have always been a champion of seafarers but now I am a champion of both merchant and cruise crew. Their needs may be different but both groups need the support of organisations such as the Mission and Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest. The overwhelming message I receive from the cruise crew is 'thank you'.

How you can support us

There are many ways in which you can support our work with seafarers around the world.

Find out more about getting involved

Please tick the box below and fill out the contact details panel overleaf to find out more about:

- Fundraising
- Remembering The Mission in your Will
- Volunteering
- Involving your company
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We will send you regular updates about the work, needs and impact of The Mission to Seafarers.

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Please detach this form and send it in the Freepost Envelope Provided.

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When we talk about sea blindness, we often think of our merchant seafarers carrying cargo around the world. But it also applies to those carrying passengers on cruise ships. Cruise ships are huge villages, sometimes with a population of several thousand, sailing around our oceans, and life on board is incredibly hectic.

There's a constant requirement to meet the needs of the passengers; the

pressures of change days with passengers disembarking and then embarking within a few hours; your break can be as little as 20 minutes; there's a lack of private space; and then there's the isolation and separation from family for months at a time.

“ It is far from a charmed life”

When you consider all of the above, your view of crew on cruise ships changes. It

Seafarers Happiness Index

The latest report from the Mission to Seafarers reveals a notable uptick in seafarer happiness, rising from 6.36 to 6.94 out of 10 for the first quarter of 2024.

POSITIVE TRENDS

Improvements in several areas, including better financial security, regular wages, positive crew dynamics and improved connectivity onboard, are making an impact.

Additionally, more seafarers reported that their companies were promoting crew well-being, through activities such as better access to recreational facilities, shore leave and high-quality food.

“ I have a 100-day fitness challenge for all crew”

One captain told us, ‘We have activities on board like basketball and now, as a Captain, I have a 100-day fitness challenge for all crew.’

It’s also encouraging to see health and safety being prioritised, along with more training opportunities, which have strengthened seafarers’ skills and career growth.

PERSISTENT CHALLENGES

However, the work-life balance of seafarers is an ongoing concern. One seafarer put the demands of the job in context by saying, ‘Can your task



performance and job skills potentially kill you and everyone aboard if you lack the alertness required for overall safety? At sea they do.’

Issues such as extended contracts and limited shore leave persist. While poor management practices, including inadequate leadership, discrimination and limited career opportunities, are also hindering seafarer morale.

One problem emerging in the first quarter of 2024 is fraudulent reporting of working hours, which compromises both seafarer rest periods and safety standards.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Mission, along with industry partners, continue to be proactive in addressing these challenges through global support networks, digital solutions, and advocacy efforts.

As Andrew Wright, Secretary General at the Mission reflects, there are reasons to be hopeful, “Between us, we have the tools at our disposal to make a difference to the lives of those working at sea, and it is up to us to act.”



Collaboration in Richards Bay

The rapid response to a medical evacuation from The Mission to Seafarers and the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) in Richards Bay, South Africa highlights the importance of collaboration.

A swift and coordinated response led by NSRI’s dedicated crew resulted in the successful medical evacuation of a 33-year-old Egyptian crewman in urgent need of medical attention.

This seamless operation was made possible by the unwavering support and trust built between the Mission and NSRI over the years. Our local chaplain, Mark Classen, and his wife, Eva, played pivotal roles in facilitating communication with the patient’s family abroad, showcasing the personal care and attention the Mission provides to seafarers in distress.

HISTORY OF PARTNERSHIP

The collaboration between the Mission and NSRI in Richards Bay is a testament to the vision set out by

“ the Mission’s commitment to caring for seafarers”

Revd. Bill Christianson, former Secretary General and Port Chaplain, who laid the groundwork for such partnerships. Moreover, the commitment of Mark and Eva to prepare care packages for seafarers, underscores the Mission’s commitment to caring for seafarers in need.

These packs, filled with essentials, including clothes, toiletries and SIM cards donated by local churches, Women’s Institutes and others, symbolise the deep connection between the Mission and the community. By fostering relationships like these, the Mission ensures that seafarers receive the support and comfort they need during challenging times, highlighting the crucial role the Mission plays in safeguarding the well-being of those who navigate the world’s oceans.

“ seafarers receive the support and comfort they need”

The Seafarers Happiness Index measures the well-being of seafarers through ten key questions about their work and life. To read the report in full visit www.seafarershappinessindex.org.

Regional Collaboration

Our teams regularly gather in person annually or biennially at regional conferences to share ideas, challenges and inspiration.

Since we introduced our regional team structure in 2014, the conferences have been a platform to promote unity and common working. They also ensure there is effective support, strong accountability, and a firm foundation for future development across the organisation.

The first two of this year were the inaugural conferences for our newly appointed Regional Directors, Revd. Steve Morgan for Europe and Revd. John Attenborough for the Middle East and South Asia (MESA).

UNITY IN EUROPE

In March, the Europe team congregated in Hertfordshire for their conference themed 'Better Together: Collaborating for Best Practices.' Away from the busyness of day-to-day port life,

chaplains, volunteers, ship visitors, and centre managers could delve into topics ranging from partnership building to volunteer management.

Revd. Steve Morgan reflected on how important the personal interaction was, saying, 'We all work in isolated situations so by coming together, sharing and learning from each other we feel more connected and supported.'

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Meanwhile, the MESA team convened in April at the Dubai International Seafarers Centre. With attendees hailing from Jordan, UAE, India, Sri Lanka, Bahrain, Cyprus, and Egypt, the conference showcased the full range of cultures and challenges within the region. Also present at the conference were



colleagues Nina Edy, Communications Manager, Verity Relph, Grants and Impact Manager and Andrew Wright, Secretary General, for whom this was the final regional conference he would attend at the mission.

“ It was joyful to see our team interacting”

Discussions ranged from emerging opportunities in port expansions to the vital role of chaplaincy and welfare work. Reflecting on the event, Revd. John Attenborough remarked, 'The MESA region is going through exciting times with so many possibilities. It was joyful to see our team interacting and enjoying each other's company.'

“ Port chaplaincy can be a lonely task”

SUSTAINING AND INNOVATING

Embedded within the fabric of regional conferences is a profound sense of

camaraderie. Port chaplaincy can be a lonely task, so conferences are an opportunity for our team to meet with those who truly understand the challenges it involves. It's through these relationships that our teams are sustained and the unity of the Mission strengthened.

The conferences also serve as catalysts for innovation and progress. Revd. John expressed optimism about his region's future, citing advancements in terminal operations in Egypt and potential expansion in Kolkata, Mangalore, and Chennai in India alongside The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Jebel Ali in the UAE.

“ A regional conference helps us to reimagine our work”

Moreover, the conferences underscore the Mission's commitment to adapt and innovate. As Revd. John aptly noted, 'A regional conference helps us to reimagine our work and moves us forward.'



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Creativity at Sea

Meet Rajkumar, a seafarer and artist who creates masterpieces inspired by his time at sea.

Rajkumar Paringadi is a seasoned seafarer with more than 22 years' experience. He may be a fitter by profession, but art is his creative outlet after a tough day's work.

Using scrap metals and nuts and bolts found aboard ships, Rajkumar transforms mundane materials into captivating masterpieces, each imbued with his unique vision. The artwork he produces is both an escape from the relentless challenges of life at sea and inspired by it.



On a creative level, Rajkumar channels his experiences of travel and the majesty of the ocean into his work. On a practical level, the skills he has gained as a fitter have helped him hone his craft.



Rajkumar is responsible for all the structural repairs required on a ship. It's a role that requires incredible patience and dexterity, both of which have helped him become adept at the intricate craftsmanship, which characterises his art.



Reflecting on his journey, Rajkumar shares a poignant life philosophy: "You cannot turn creativity into life, but you can always turn your life into creativity."

SHARE YOUR STORIES

If you'd like to share your own seafaring tales and experiences, we'd love to hear from you. Please send your stories to: contactus@missiontoseafarers.org

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

In his last reflection for FAN, our outgoing Secretary General, the Revd Andrew Wright, reflects on the importance of cultivating a culture where there is both order and freedom.

Bishop Philip of Winchester is Chair of the Church of England's Partnership for World Mission and a good friend of The Mission to Seafarers. As it happens, he and I were also in the same class at school! On the day that his appointment was announced, the first thing he did was visit a ship in Southampton.

Afterwards, he reflected: 'I was blown away by the sheer scale of relentless activity there. Yet also, hidden out of sight, are the crew of many ships who spend months on board enabling world trade – and providing us with so much of what we need.

'So it was a privilege to visit some crew members with Father James and to see God's church extend such loving care

and concern to people who really are on the margins: out of sight of much of the world, but certainly not overlooked by our God.'

Under his current email signature, Bishop Philip has a quote from the English author and Christian apologist G.K. Chesterton: *'The more I considered Christianity, the more I found that while it had established a rule and order, the chief aim of that order was to give room for good things to run wild.'*

CREATING SPACE TO RUN WILD

That is what I have aspired to help us do over these last years. Rule and order in measure are important. The Mission to Seafarers, at international, regional and local level needs to be well governed,

rooted in its core purposes and values, professional in its conduct, accountable, and effectively supported.

Sadly, a danger for all organisations is that they become consumed and diminished by the demands of governance. Chesterton reminds us that the chief aim of that order is 'to give room for good things to run wild'.

While I look back at my time at the Mission with enormous humility, I do so also with pride in the achievements of so many. Good things have run marvellously wild across so many ports.

“ Good things have run marvellously wild”

I rejoice in changing models of port support, in expanded ship visitation, in new ports, in the possibilities of our fledgling 'key hubs', and other new ideas. I rejoice too in the extraordinary development of our new wider programme (including the Family Support Networks), in our digital work, in the renewed dynamism of our fundraising and the successes of our London-based head office team.

As I move to retirement, my prayer is for a strong organisation, of course, but above all that good things may continue to run wild.

“ My prayer is for a strong organisation”



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