

# **"HUMAN ERROR"**

**THE CHALLENGES FACING MARINERS TODAY**

Copenhagen

**WHY IS THERE A SHORTAGE OF  
SEAFARERS?**

**"To err is human ..."**



**"To err is human ...**



**... but to really foul things up  
requires a computer"**



**"To err is human ...**



**... but to blame the other guy  
even more so"**

**CREW COMPETENCY**  
+  
**RESPECTED COMMAND STRUCTURE**  
+  
**PROFESSIONALISM**  
=



**ACCEPTABLE RISK**

## SHORTAGE:

- Seafarers
- Superintendents
- Surveyors
- Pilots



*“We are supposed to be underwriting a risk – not a certainty!”*



## **JULY 2007: Ship Orders:-**

- |                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| • 9 Capesizes             | <b>USD 1.1B</b> |
| • 12 Handysizes           | <b>USD 400M</b> |
| • 12 Bulkers 35,000 DWT   | <b>USD 360M</b> |
| • 5 2,200 TEU Cont. ships | <b>USD 150M</b> |

**The industry is already seriously undermanned; Where will the expertise come from to man these vessels?**





*“The end of the practical ‘hands on’ Marine Engineer may well be in sight”*



## PORT STATE CONTROL

- Crew navigating on GPS only; no chart corrections being made – charts out of date
- Inadequate sanitation, sewage system inoperative, some toilets don't flush
- The air conditioning system does not work
- Provision room temperatures are too high
- The gangway is unsafe
- The engine room is poorly lit and oil on the tank tops a fire hazard
- Crew were unable to demonstrate use of the fire pump or hold a proper fire drill
- Instructions are not in the common language on board
- Cockroach infestation noted in public areas and mess room – accommodation needs fumigation

## WHO WOULD WANT TO GO TO SEA?

- Poor on-board conditions affect safety
- Fatigue
- Multi-national / multi-cultural crews and lack of social fabric on board
- Isolation of individuals
- Endless paperwork
- Potential criminalization
- Poor morale
- Poor treatment by authorities and lack of freedom



## "ANCIENT PROVERB"

*"The mistakes of doctors and nurses are covered by the earth and the mistakes of shipmasters and crew are covered by the insurance"*





By extension of hull coverage under the present 'liner negligence clauses' this could be expanded to;

*"The mistakes of shipmasters, crew and anyone's negligence, error in judgement or incompetence which causes an accident .... are covered by the insurance"*

