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FONASBA

ECASBA

THE NEW

HORIZON

The Federation of National Associations of Ship Brokers and Agents

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PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

by President JAVIER E. DULCE

Dear FONASBA Members and Partners,

Welcome to the 61st edition of the FONASBA newsletter! This humble publication is a testament to the commitment we feel towards our common future, and we hope you will be pleased to hear that we aim at publishing 4 issues this year. This will allow us to be closer to you and to keep you better informed about all the activities in which FONASBA officers and members are involved.

As we accelerate the pace at which we connect with you, we are filled with immense gratitude for the support received by our global community of ship brokers and agents. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all past and present contributors whose dedication and expertise have enriched our newsletters with valuable contents. To our readers, your engagement and feedback have been instrumental in shaping this publication towards a renewed format that aims at becoming a good resource for our community.

The last months have been full of activities, during which we had the opportunity to visit many members and potential members and participate in various shipping events around the world. Notably for the second consecutive year, we went to Asia where we continue working on the expansion of our Federation in one of the most important region for the shipping business.

This introduction gives us a great opportunity also to launch the registration to the FONASBA 2024 Annual Meeting, scheduled for October from 16 to 18 in Athens. We are delighted to have a wonderful host and we are sure that with the IMU support we will have a memorable event for all delegates and partners.

As we celebrate this new edition, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering collaboration, promoting best practices, education and advancing the interests of ship brokers and agents worldwide. Together, let us continue to build a resilient and prosperous future for our industry.

Warm regards,



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ANNUAL MEETING

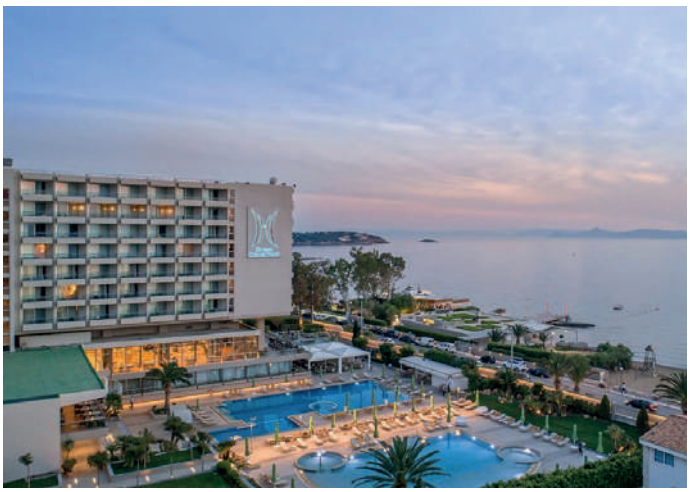


On behalf of our members in **Greece, the International Maritime Union (IMU),** we are pleased to announce that registration and hotel bookings are now open for the **FONASBA 2024 Annual Meeting,** that will take place just outside Athens. The plenary section of the meeting runs from **Wednesday, 16th October to Friday, 18th October,** preceded by the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday 15th (members only) and Evening Welcome Reception, and followed on **Saturday 19th by an optional excursion to Epidaurus, Ancient Corinth, and Isthmus.**

Our federation is at a pivotal moment, and we believe there is nothing more effective than gathering in person to strengthen our bonds!

Discover more and register now!





EXECUTIVE COMMITEE

Executive Commitee Meeting, London

The **FONASBA Executive Committee Meeting** took place in **London, United Kingdom,** on Friday, 14th June. During the meeting, several topics were discussed, ranging from the **Federation's activities** for the coming months to the **global maritime scenario,** including geopolitical aspects and the influence of AI on the business. Specifically, FONASBA aims to be more effective and relevant for its members by focusing on service quality, certifications, and training for ship agents and shipbrokers. Engaging debates and discussions took place among all the partners involved. **Thank you for your participation and for making this Executive Committee Meeting full of interesting exchanges and ideas.**





MEETINGS & EVENTS

FONASBA's Asian business mission / June 2024

In June 2024, FONASBA representatives visited several partners and associations in Asia, and specifically in **Indonesia, Singapore,** and the **Philippines**, to better understand the needs and challenges faced by local ship agents and ship brokers. Organized by the **Regional Vice-President for Asia, Mr. Takazo Iigaki,** to whom we extend our heartfelt thanks, and the **Japan Association of Foreign-trade Ship Agencies (JAFSA),** the trip provided an excellent opportunity for in-depth discussions with shipping professionals in Asia. This initiative paved the way for future significant collaborations in the shipping industry.





MEETINGS & EVENTS

FONASBA's European business mission / May 2024





In May 2024, FONASBA's representatives visited several Federation members in **Europe**, specifically in the **Mediterranean.** President **Javier Dulce** and Regional Vice-President for Europe, **Antonio Belmar da Costa,** visited the **International Maritime Union** in Greece to catch up on all relevant matters for FONASBA's members in Greece and to discuss plans for the upcoming **FONASBA annual meeting,** which will be held in **Athens from October 16th to 18th, 2024.**

The day after, they also visited the **Cyprus Shipping Association,** meeting with Chairman Andreas Papadopoulos and the Board of Directors, including FONASBA's former President, Mr. Chris Papavasiliou. After the Cyprus stop, they **visited the Association of Ship Agents in Malta,** a valuable partner since 1979.

Together with its members, FONASBA is making waves and achieving great things!

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Asia Networking Event





FONASBA took part in a networking event in Singapore, together with the **Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers Singapore Branch.** The event was the perfect occasion for ship agents and ship brokers to convene in this pivotal location for the entire maritime industry.
Attendees discussed current challenges and opportunities, while also highlighting FONASBA's ambition to collaborate with shipping professionals in **Asia**.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

FONASBA met New York Propeller Club







FONASBA representatives convened with the **International Propeller Club of New York,** United States. The meeting proved to be a fruitful occasion for gathering together with partners and friends, engaging in discussions on current **Maritime industry topics,** as well as **regional and global challenges affecting the sector.**

Emphasis was also placed on addressing the opportunities and needs of American Ship agents and Ship brokers.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Dr. Dureid Mahasneh in action during CCI France Jordanie (CAFRAJ)



CCI France Jordanie (CAFRAJ) hosted a dynamic networking power breakfast, in the presence of the French Ambassador to Jordan, His Excellency **Alexis Le Cour Grandmaison.**

The event, held at the Kempinski Hotel Amman, began with Mr. Ibrahim Kattan, Executive Director of CCI France Jordanie/CAFRAJ, welcoming the distinguished guests and introducing the guest speaker **Dr. Dureid Mahasneh,** Chairman of the **Jordan Shipping Association,** and FONASBA **Regional Vice-President Middle East and South Asia.**

Dr. Mahasneh delivered a thought-provoking presentation titled ***"The Impact of the War in Gaza on the Supply Chain in Jordan and the Region".***

The presentation was followed by an engaging and interesting Q&A session, where attendees had the opportunity to delve deeper into the topics discussed and exchange ideas.

Singapore Maritime Week

From April 15th to 19th, the 18th edition of **Singapore Maritime Week 2024** took place at the **Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre.**

SMW is an annual gathering of the **international maritime community** aimed at advancing key industry issues and exchanging ideas to propel the sector forward. For the occasion, FONASBA was represented by Therry van Vreden, MA, who had the opportunity to connect with industry peers and stakeholders.



MEETINGS & EVENTS

FONASBA visited Cámara Marítima de Panamá







During the day at the **Cámara Marítima de Panamá (CMP),** FONASBA's representatives had the chance to visit the Panamá Canal with its administrator, Dr. Ricaurte Vásquez Morales. The visit was comprehensive and very useful to concretely see all the issues and challenges ship agents and transport operators face in exploiting this fundamental infrastructural link between the **Pacific** and **Atlantic Oceans.** Thanks to professionals like Mr. Morales and his team, hundreds of cargo ships each month can use this vital canal, easing business operations for ship agents and ship brokers involved in the area.

The visit was an excellent opportunity to **strengthen FONASBA's relationship in the area,** looking forward for future collaborations and initiatives to assist and support the Association's members!



FONASBA present during the Shipping Days

FONASBA participated in the Shipping Days event in La Rochelle on the 3rd and 4th of April. On that occasion, FONASBA took the opportunity to meet with French members of AMCF: Secretary General Mr. **J-P Bidoire** and President Mr. **J. Feltgen.** The French association has been a member since the beginning of our journey together in 1969.

A sincere thank you for these years of sailing together!



FONASBA and the Carribean Shipping Association

President Javier Dulce and Marcelo Neri, FONASBA Regional Vice President Americas, met with Milaika Capella Ras, General Manager of the **Caribbean Shipping Association,** and Juan Carlos Croston, Immediate Past President.

The meeting focused on future collaborations between the two organisations **to offer new benefits and networking opportunities to their members.**



MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cámara Interamericana de Asociaciones Nacionales de Agentes Marítimos

FONASBA engaged with key stakeholders in the Americas during the Congress of the **CIANAM - Cámara Interamericana de Asociaciones Nacionales de Agentes Marítimos** in San José, Costa Rica. President Javier Dulce joined Mónica Ageitos Link, President of CIANAM, Stephan Brunner, Vice President of the Republic of Costa Rica, and Erika Medina, Director of the Costa Rican Chamber of Shipowners (NAVE), for the opening of the General Assembly. In the afternoon, FONASBA Vice-President for the Americas Marcelo Neri also delivered a **speech addressing the current state of global Maritime transport,** discussing trends, geopolitical scenarios, and environmental dynamics. FONASBA expresses gratitude to NAVE and CIANAM for the warm invitation and extends heartfelt congratulations on their 20th anniversary.



Being protagonist during Breakbulk Europe 2024

FONASBA was present during the **Breakbulk Europe exhibition,** an event that provided a fantastic opportunity to meet the Chairman of the **Association of Rotterdam Shipbrokers and Agents,** Kees Groeneveld; Malte Kersten, Chairman of the Board of the **South African Association of Ship Operators and Agents (SAASOA),** and to have fruitful, intense, and inspiring talks with several industry leaders and policy makers.

NOTE FROM THE SECRETARIAT: INTERNAL NEWS FROM FONASBA

Agency Advisory Panel and Shipbroking Advisory Panel both started working earlier in the year

We are proud to announce that the **Agency Advisory Panel** has been nominated and has now started working proactively. To support the Chair **Simone Carlini MICS** and the Vice Chair Niklas Soltow, will be **Julio Delfino** from Argentina, **Antonios Venieris FICS** from Greece, **Ernesto Mock** and **Alessandro Risi** from Panama.

The Avisory Panel will be working to develop **further the distribution of FONASBA documents such as AAA and GAA.** Furthermore, will work to propose interesting speakers and topics to address at the next annual meeting. On the Shipbroking side, in support of the Chair, **Fulvio Carlini FICS**, and Vice-Chair **Mohammed El Mezouar**, there are now **Lisa Björklind** from Sweden, **Bahadir Tonguc** from the Netherlands/Turkey, **Patrick Brennan** from the US, **Søren Gammelgaard Nielsen** from Denmark and **Eugenio De Paolis** from Italy.

Among the points under discussion:

- the challenges of the brokers profession
- staying relevant despite the Digital disruption: continuous professional development
- be trusted: the power of Quality Accreditations and Networks.

This committee will also work on topics and possible suggestions for The Shipbrokers Committee meeting during our next AGM in Athens.



ECASBA

ECASBA Seminar



The **2024 Spring Seminar** organised in Madeira by Marco Tak, Chair of **ECASBA** - FONASBA Committee representing European brokers and agents in their dealings with the European Union - **was hosted by AGEPOR - Associação dos Agentes de Navegação de Portugal** in picturesque **Funchal**. This event was made possible by the commitment of Antonio Belmar da Costa, FONASBA Vice President for Europe. The seminar saw a good turnout, with the **AGEPOR National Board of Directors** (Navex, Orey, MSC, NAIP, and Pinto Basto) and **numerous FONASBA/ ECASBA members in attendance.**
During the seminar, FONASBA President Designate Fulvio Carlini met with Regional Governor Miguel Albuquerque and Port CEO Paula Cabaço. A huge shoutout to our partners: **Ports of Madeira, AGEPOR Members, Blandy's Group, Transinsular, S.A., Euromar, MSC Cruises and CLIA in Europe,** for which Martyn Griffiths provided insights into the latest news and trends in the **cruising sector.**

Marco Tak, ECASBA Chair, commented:

> *"The ECASBA European Seminar 2024 was a resounding success, featuring a comprehensive program of speakers, breakout sessions, and various panel discussions. A consistent lesson emerged throughout the day: as the professions of agents and brokers evolve with the times, we must remain flexible and adapt to new circumstances rapidly. Moreover, ongoing cooperation between the public and private sectors is key to success. We look forward to seeing you all in Brussels for our 2025 ECASBA seminar".*





ECASBA

#MoreEUBudgetForTransport

As part of the collective push for enhanced EU Transport Funding, **ECASBA** underscores the critical need for targeted investments in the **Maritime Sector,** a cornerstone of **Europe's transportation infrastructure.** Representing ship agents and ship brokers at the heart of shipping — recognized for its environmental efficiency and essential role in the seamless movement of goods and people — ECASBA advocates for **increased allocation of resources, grants, and support for Maritime Professionals.** These investments are vital for sustaining Europe's economic vitality and environmental goals, ensuring the maritime sector **remains a competitive** and attractive avenue for no regret investments, driving forward the **continent's transport network**.

READ MORE

ECASBA

New ICS2 Scheme

ECASBA has participated in the preparatory work for implementing the **ICS2 customs system** in the maritime sector (so-called Release 3) and subsequently **informed its members of the availability of detailed ICS2 information** provided by the European Commission. ECASBA has also co-signed **with worldwide partners** a letter with important statements on ICS2 R3. The requirements state that **detailed information about imported goods must be provided** before reaching the EU border and in certain cases even before loading. The goods description must be accurate and contain the 6 digits HS-code, as well as buyer and seller information. **Awareness and preparation are crucial to comply with these new regulations.** Collaborative efforts among all parties involved in shipments are essential to ensure smooth transitions and the continued movement of goods, and ECASBA urges all members in the business to start preparing for ICS2!

READ MORE

Mate's Standard Receipt form webinar

After the launch of BIMCO's revised Standard Mate's Receipt form, FONASBA held a new dedicated webinar on this topic. The one-hour webinar delved into the reasons behind the new form, the **usage of the Mate's Receipt,** and its legal implications. Among the presenters of the event: Grant Hunter, Director of Standards, Innovation & Research at BIMCO; Simone Carlini, Chair of FONASBA's Ship Agent Committee; Mark Brattman, Claims Director at ITIC | Professional Indemnity Insurance for Transport Contractors & Professionals.

Education Vice-President Jakov Karmelic takes the stage in Rijeka

FONASBA's educational activities are not only limited to traditional courses but also include awareness initiatives and stand-alone events.

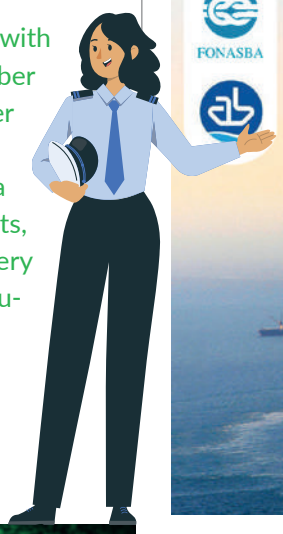




Recently, **FONASBA's Education Vice President, Jakov Karmelic,** participated in two different events: the celebration of Women in Maritime, with the inspiring lecture **"Women at the Helm"** at UPAH, Rijeka, and a speech at the **International Logistics course** at the University of Rijeka.

Operating in an increasingly complex and regulated sector of the maritime industry, ship brokers and ship agents must be trained and educated to a very high standard to comply with complicated and detailed instructions, understand and act on complex legal conventions and be fully aware of the rules and regulations applicable to the port environment in which they work.

FONASBA partners with a number of its member associations to offer education and training courses covering a wide variety of subjects, levels, languages, delivery methods and course durations.



ICS COURSES

In partnership with the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, we offer part-time study solutions that learners can undertake alongside their work.

The Institute courses are available worldwide, delivered 100% online, and supported by expert tutors. Among other solutions for Agents and Brokers, we offer the "**FONASBA Certificate in the Fundamentals of Shipbroking".**

Registrations are open throughout the year. Please enquire for this entry level course or other ICS courses emailing gmd@fonasba.com

ACB COURSES

Course	Dates	Information
FONASBA/ACB Liner Shipping Transportation	September 2024	Designed to introduce students to international liner shipping transportation
FONASBA/ACB Ro/Ro Cargo Shipping	October 2024	Focused on operating procedures, and latest industry updates
FONASBA/ACB Blockchain in Shipping and Logistics	November 2024	Designed for industry professionals and international trade students.
FONASBA/ACB Liner Shipping Transportation	April 2025	Designed to introduce students to international liner shipping transportation
FONASBA/ACB Shipping Agency in Tramp Business	May 2025	A modular course tailored to those working in the tramp and liner sectors

ASBA COURSES

In partnership with ASBA in the USA, we offer a practical entry-level course for new entrants to the ship agency sector: the **FONASBA Agent Diploma.** The course is held online with registration open throughout the year and provides a general understanding of the maritime industry with a detailed foundation on ship agency. The FONASBA Agent Diploma is open to employees of company members of any of its members. FONASBA thanks to its wide network of first-class professionals can help solving any education and training needs.

FONASBA Tailored Courses

Please feel free to contact us to discuss bespoke solutions tailored around your requirements:

gmd@fonasba.com

Women in *Shipping*

Barbara Carabetti is CEO and Founder of Dock&Discover of Cemar Bc srl, and she is also the President of Asamar Lazio, the Port Agents Association of the ports of Rome, Fiumicino and Gaeta, in Italy. Carabetti was featured within **#WomenInShipping (WiSH)** for her extraordinary career. She began as a tour guide in Civitavecchia, gradually expanding her services to cruise tourists before specializing in broader port agency and logistics services. Her effort and dedication have made her a respected figure in the industry and a valuable role model for young professionals entering the shipping business today.

READ MORE



Shoba Rao, is General Manager at **Rais Hassan Saadi Group.** With 25 years of experience in the shipping sector, Rao began her career in the maritime sector with an MBA and **Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers** exams during her time in Dubai, after



pursuing a different academic path. Rao highlights the dynamism of the maritime industry both in terms of daily activities and growth possibilities, which has granted her a progressive career path. She received **valuable mentoring** during her early career years, and this is why she now takes a **proactive approach to mentoring,** also advocating for more visibility and recognition for women in the industry.

READ MORE



Nayana Nandkumar, manager of Dubai members association DSAA - DUBAI SHIPPING AGENTS ASSOCIATION, was awarded with an **Honorary Doctorate** within the **International Maritime Club (IMC) Honorary Doctorate Leadership Excellence Awards event.** The award honours individuals who have demonstrated exemplary leadership qualities and made significant contributions to the maritime & shipping Industry. Mrs. Nandkumar, apart from her role at DSAA, serves as a board member of **Women in Logistics & Transport M.E.,** an organization that advocates for women's achievements in the industry. She also holds the position of **Deputy Regional Vice President M.E. & ISC for FONASBA,** contributing her expertise towards shaping international shipping policy. Her influence stretches to the **JA Seafarers Centre (JASC),** where she is a board member, and she also serves as the Agent in M.E. for **Bureau International des Container - Paris,** a worldwide leader in container transportation. Her extensive roles reflect her unwavering dedication to the industry.

WATCH MORE

QUALITY STANDARD

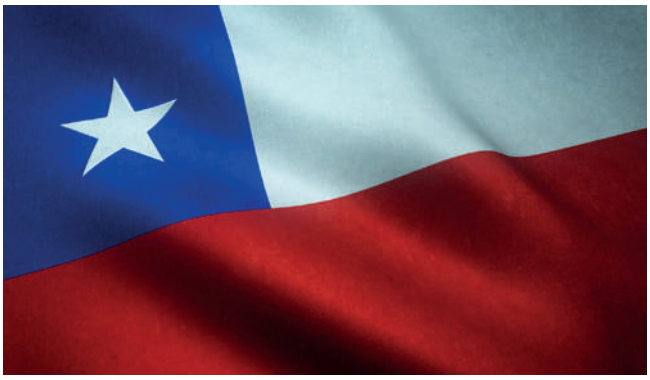
Türkiye is now compliant with FONASBA Quality Standard



Türkiye has become the 49th country to adhere to the **FONASBA Quality Standard (FQS).** This was possible thanks to the successful work of the Istanbul Shipowners and Agents' Association and the Maritime Association of Shipowners and Agents that have coordinated the launch of the Standard criteria for local operators! The launch of the accreditation scheme in such an important country will definitely boost the focus on quality and compliance! Designed to assist ship owners and ship operators in identifying well-founded, professionally run ship agents and ship brokers, the FQS accredited companies in Türkiye will be able to easily demonstrate their tangible commitment to excellence.

DISCOVER MORE

ASONAVE contributes to FONASBA Quality Standard



FONASBA's member **ASONAVE in Chile** is now actively contributing to the FONASBA Quality Standard Scheme with its first three accredited companies. Special thanks to **Claudio Morales**, ASONAVE Vice President, for his great support in promoting the FONASBA Quality Standard in Chile.

VIDEO

Spokespersons

Raymond Troch
Chair of the Inspiring Our Future Committee

WATCH THE VIDEO



SOCIAL

Let's dive into the post published by FONASBA's members!

- Centro de Navegación - FONASBA Anniversary
- FENAMAR - FONASBA Anniversary
- ASONAVE - FONASBA Anniversary



FONASBA ARTICLES

Enhances FONASBA's Influence in Maritime Sector

by Capt. Mike Robarts FICS, International Maritime Organization (IMO) Goodwill Ambassador

The **Federation of National Associations of Ship Brokers and Agents (FONASBA)** has expressed great satisfaction with the recent appointment of **Capt. Mike Robarts as an IMO Goodwill Ambassador (GMA).** This strategic move is anticipated to bolster FONASBA's presence and influence within the GMA program. Capt. Robarts has already begun his duties, engaging in discussions with key maritime institutions. In addition to institutional dialogues, Capt. Robarts is dedicated to fostering an interest in maritime affairs **among schoolchildren.** He aims to promote the shipping industry as a **viable and exciting career path.**

Over the past six months, Capt. Robarts has been balancing administrative responsibilities with active engagement in his new role. The **IMO has been supportive,** organizing meetings and providing a project framework, including materials for social media and face-to-face events. These meetings have also outlined key dates for IMO anniversaries and celebrations, such as the **International Day for Women in Maritime, Bravery at Sea Award, Day of the Seafarer,** and **World Maritime Day.**

On the administrative front, Capt. Robarts has established relationships with **local schools** to **promote maritime awareness.** He has successfully linked with three schools covering a broad range of ages and education levels. Activities for younger children include meeting a seafarer, reading maritime books, and engaging in treasure hunts with a lifeboat compass. For older students, project work and presentations focus on maritime trade and technical elements of ships. Higher-level education involves discussing the role of the IMO and the United Nations, highlighting the importance of shipping.

Capt. Robarts' recent activities include:

- Meeting with the Shipping Minister
- Speaking to key stage two students about ships and the Battle of the Atlantic
- Touring a conservation project and wildlife patrol on a local boat
- Participating in a Shipping Professional Network London panel discussion on the Human Element and future careers at sea
- Attending a maritime lunch with Prince Edward

Looking ahead, Capt. Robarts aims to engage with local media and **expand the school projects to cover at least six schools by the end of the year.** He continues to collaborate with organizations such as the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and the Sea Ambassadors. Additionally, he has been invited to participate in two parade ceremonies to remember seafarers and is involved in a pilot podcast project for seafarers.

Capt. Robarts hopes that the work planned and executed thus far meets the expectations of the FONASBA Council.



FONASBA ARTICLES

World Wide Shipping Association General Assembly: Sharing expertise



The maritime industry today is characterized by an utmost complex backdrop of environmental and geopolitical uncertainties heavily **influencing cargo flows.** In this challenging context, the most appropiate "antidote" is a **good dose of knowledge sharing,** while networking in a group of highly skilled and renowned maritime professionals. Consequently, a favorable and facilitative atmosphere for the efficient exchange of information must be created. In fact, the mission of **WWSA** is to be a **one point global shipping information port** for international business collaborations and also a focal point for advice, consultation and dialogue on matters concerning the **global shipping industry,** or, in other words: an **active business platform.**

WWSA successfully celebrated the **General Assembly on May 21st** at Marriott Hotel Rotterdam, where Mr. **Fulvio Carlini,** FONASBA President Designated, made an engaging and memorable presentation to the WWSA members. WWSA Chairman Mr. **Godwin Xerri** highlighted the importance of **new maritime strategies** and sharing **expertise in shipping.** As he said ***"Knowledge is the only treasure that increases on sharing. Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championSHIPS."***

In the meeting, many well reputed WWSA members were present. Amongst them, the Argentinian, AMD-Agencia Marítima Dulce, S.A. who had a delegation headed by Javier E. Dulce, President AMD and FONASBA. Founded in 1879, Agencia Marítima Dulce provides Agency Services, professionally, with one of the best standards in the major ports of Argentina, being one of the most experienced and prestigious companies in the industry. In addition to those previously mentioned, other top-level speakers in our industry also intervened, generating great interest and debates with the audience present. These were:

- **Jostein Bjørgo,** Commercial Director Wilson EuroCarriers AS
- **Alex Garroch,** GM Group Agency and Customer Success DA-Desk
- **Josh Rose,** Agency Relationship Mngr DA-Desk
- **Chris Hardy,** Regional Manager - Europe & Africa Swire Shipping
- **Nithin Menon,** Head - Europe, Africa, South Asia, Middle East Swire Shipping.

Among the topics covered, the following stand out: Key commercial trends within the maritime industry; Geopolitical challenges and disruptions as a risk and an opportunity for business; Efficient operations within the new challenges: Sustainability and clean energy; Technological Integration: Digitalization of procedures; How can shipping companies remain competitive in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

After the meeting, a dinner was organized where the participants continued conversing lively and preparing for the intense days ahead at Rotterdam's Ahoy fairground hosting BreakBulk Europe.

For any information, please contact wwsa@wwsa.info



FONASBA ARTICLES

FONASBA and the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN)



FONASBA is partnering with the The Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) and can offer its members special access to their well-established Anti-Corruption course for agents! Corruption drains resources and imposes significant financial costs on the industry, leading to indirect expenses through unfair competition, inefficiency at ports, and undermining efficient trade. It also takes a heavy psychological toll on affected maritime professionals, associated with insecurity, criminality, and other forms of corruption both at sea and on land.

The Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) is a global business network striving for a corruption-free maritime industry to enable fair trade to the benefit of society at large. MACN and its members work to eliminate maritime corruption by raising awareness, implementing Anti-Corruption Principles, sharing best practices, collaborating with governments and NGOs, and fostering a culture of integrity. MACN's efforts focus on three pillars: Capability Building, Collective Action, and Collaboration. Read our latest annual report.

MACN has implemented collective action initiatives since 2012, with our first project being in Nigeria. In 2023, we launched an e-learning platform dedicated to the Nigerian Ports Process Manual for Integrity Alliance members. A total of 241 stakeholders participated in Ethics and Leadership training and Train the Trainer programs for Government compliance staff across Eastern and Western ports. Additionally, The Port User Integrity Alliance expanded to include over 273 national port users as members. Read more about our project in Nigeria here.

Further, MACN has commissioned a new study by QBIS to quantify the cost of maritime corruption for the industry and society. This study puts a dollar value on the cost of corruption for the private sector, government, and society, taking into account some of the hidden indirect costs resulting from corrupt practices across the maritime supply chain. The findings demonstrate a clear economic benefit and a compelling business case for proactive anti-corruption measures by both governments and businesses. Read a summary of the study.

Under the Capability Building pillar, MACN offers various methodologies and programs to its members. For instance, our Global Port Integrity Platform (GPIP) provides a comprehensive assessment of integrity in ports and terminals worldwide by leveraging multiple data sources and incorporating MACN's anonymous incident data, capturing over 60,000 reported corruption incidents. With Port Integrity Risk Scorecards available for over 200 ports and terminals, GPIP offers valuable insights into port-level challenges. By shedding light on corruption risks, GPIP allows for evidence-based conversations and empowers the maritime industry to identify and reject corrupt demands during port visits.

Read more about the Global Port Integrity Platform

FONASBA ARTICLES

The world fleet's varying progress

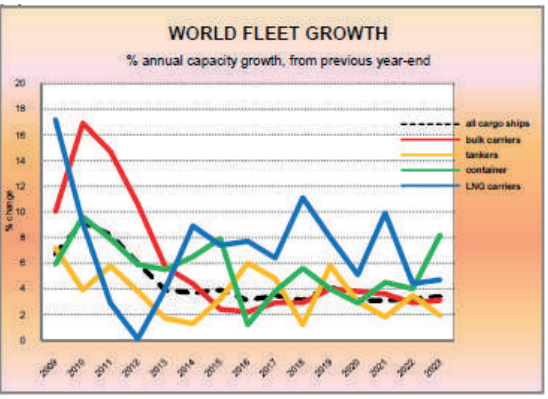


Richard Scott

by Richard Scott FICS, committee member, London & South East Branch, Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers

Changes in the world fleet of merchant ships affect the activities of ship agents and brokers in many countries. During the past year and into 2024, different parts of the fleet - bulk carriers, tankers, container ships, gas carriers and other ship types - have been growing at widely differing rates, and some of these features look set to continue.

World fleet capacity measured by deadweight tonnes grew by 3.4% in 2023, a slightly quicker pace than the 3.2% seen in 2022 and 3% in each of the two preceding years. But among the main vessel type groups there was slow to moderate growth in tankers and bulk carriers, contrasting with much faster expansion in container ships and gas carriers.



Activity at ports and elsewhere reflects the numbers of vessels trading as well as the carrying capacity of the fleet. According to data compiled by Clarksons Research, fleet growth based on numbers of individual vessels has been lower than deadweight increases, at 2% last year and below 2% in preceding years. At end-2023 the entire world merchant ship fleet was comprised of 109,000 ships, about 60% of which is cargo-carrying tonnage.

An uneven pattern unfolds

The varying growth rate outcomes among ship type groups were a response to evolving freight market performances and changing perceptions of what is likely to happen to demand/supply balances in future years. Fleet growth rates are what results from volumes of newbuilding ships delivered and existing ships recycled. So current enlargement partly reflects decisions made (especially ordering new ships) some time ago.

At the bottom of the list of growth rates in major segments in 2023 was tankers, seeing just under 2% in deadweight capacity over the twelve months to the end of the year. Deliveries of newbuildings plummeted to the lowest since twenty-two years earlier when the fleet was less than half its present size, while scrapping was minimal.

Bulk carrier fleet capacity in 2023 grew at a rate of just over 3%, broadly in line with progress in recent years. Both newbuilding completions and scrapping were similar to volumes seen in the previous twelve months.

Gas carriers by contrast saw an accelerating sprightly performance last year. The world fleet's capacity expanded by well over 6%, although there was a noticeable difference between liquefied natural gas carriers that saw 5% growth and liquefied petroleum gas carriers with an 11% growth rate.

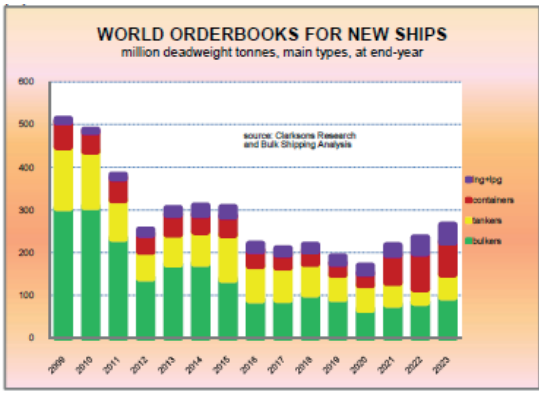
Argably container ships were the star performer. Fleet capacity expansion was 8% in 2023, a doubling of the annual growth rate and a sharp contrast to preceding years. Newbuilding deliveries surged, more than doubling from the previous year to a record high level, while scrapping offset only a fairly small proportion.

How will these trends evolve in 2024?

Tentative estimates point to the world merchant ship fleet as a whole seeing its growth rate edging upwards this year (over the twelve months to the end of 2024). Accelerating container ship and gas carrier capacity expansion probably will lead the advance. The tanker and bulk carrier fleets may experience slowing or stable growth respectively.

High newbuilding orders for container ships, after already causing an upsurge in deliveries last year, are likely to result in an even larger volume of deliveries during 2024. Assuming that recycling of older tonnage remains limited, growth in the world fleet of these ships may continue accelerating, perhaps reaching 10%.

In the gas carriers segment also, a strong newbuilding deliveries trend is likely to persist. This year's total may be almost a third higher than seen in the previous



twelve months, as a consequence of surging LNG carrier completions. Gas carrier recycling is likely to remain minimal, and consequently fleet growth could reach around 8%.

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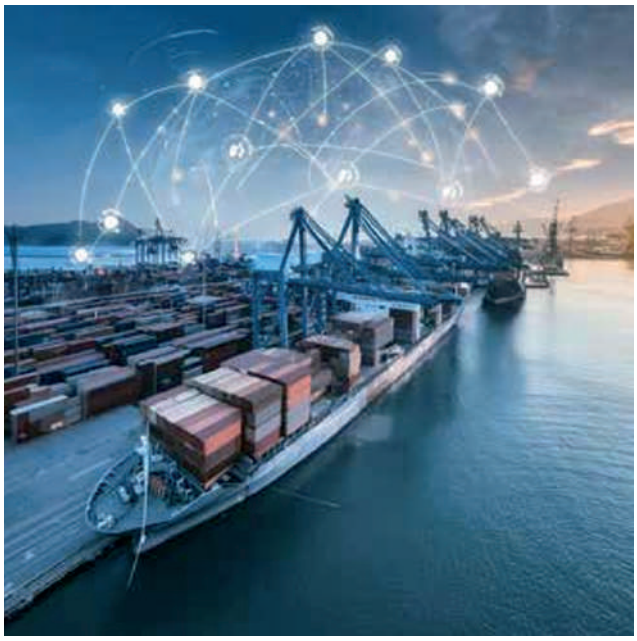
Artificial intelligence and India

by Roshan Miranda, Macsons Shipping, India

Anurag, a logistics coordinator and an acquaintance of mine, had been with a logistics company having a pan-national presence for seven years. As a route planner, he had weathered many changes, but this one felt different. His company recently integrated an AI system to streamline operations, improve efficiency, and stay competitive in the rapidly evolving shipping industry. Soon, rumours of impending layoffs began circulating among his colleagues. Within days, the reality set in, and sadly, Anurag got laid off one morning.

Well, the owner of the logistics firm is certainly not to be blamed here. His attempt to introduce AI was perfectly in line with industry philosophy, which compels entities to evolve, adapt, and grow to stay relevant and competitive. He only did what was expected of him in the best interest of his organization. Now, this leaves the topic worthy of debate.

Then, if not the business owner, who is to blame? Artificial Intelligence? No, not at all? the "progressive" in me refused to accept it. Isn't AI a great leveller and force multiplier, creating paradigm shifts that businesses can exploit to bypass conventional growth paths? Doesn't AI help democratize creativity, making it accessible to those who previously lacked resources or training?



But no sooner I had these on my mind, the "skeptic" in me surfaced and started seeking answers. In order to analyze this phenomenon pragmatically, things have to be viewed from India's perspective. We need to assess how this AI-driven disruption going to benefit the nation and how the disruption can be perceived from India's point of view? whether to be seen as a light bulb moment? a white knight saviour in disguise? or a masquerading terminator? a harbinger of doom from the abyss?

To understand this, we must have to put things into perspective. India, with a median age of 28 and 600 million people below 30, was recently crowned the most populous country in the world, surpassing China. The remarkable economic progress it has made over the last few decades positions it on the cusp of becoming an economic miracle. It is the capitalization of such a large workforce, seen as a demographic dividend for the nation which is going to bring that miracle into manifestation. And India's economy has never been in such a sweet spot before in its entire history. But, having said that, although the nation has made extraordinary progress, the growth rate in the employment sector lags. With around 16 million people joining the workforce annually, job creation has always remained country's top priority. Despite efforts, the rate of job creation in India continues to be insufficient. This is surely a cause for concern that adds to the already existing fair share of Gordian knots the country is working to untie.

In this scenario, can a country like India handle another challenge like unregulated AI? Imagine AI tools running unregulated, causing unprecedented disruption across industries, halting job creation, and ruining the economic future of millions of tech-savvy youths. Semi-skilled workers, who make up three-quarters of the youth population, would be even more affected. The scene would be more like witnessing a China shop being raided by a bull.

With the genie now out of the bottle, think tanks here compare this AI-driven disruption to the disruption ushered in by the advent of power looms in the late 18th century British India, which ended up decimating India's handloom industry, rendering thousands jobless. Experts fear that this AI-driven revolution might repeat that scenario, targeting the nation's white-collar workforce this time—the very demographic advantage that is believed to catapult India into the elite league of developed nations. The shipping industry is not spared here either. If AI disruption extends the possibility of creating a one-man unicorn if exploited unethically as widely believed, then the country, if caught off guard and unprepared, would experience only an "atomic bomb" moment rather than the anticipated light bulb moment.

However, the question now is, can India be able to navigate this transformative landscape without harming itself? Possibly yes. A prominent business leader recently emphasized that India's advantage lies in its youthful population and their aspirations, and not in technology. He suggested that a sort of moratorium on AI could help control its impact, allowing time to adapt before unleashing it fully. Hope our policy makers are listening

Meanwhile, a few days back, while strolling down the street, I happened to meet Anurag again. He looked upbeat and more cheerful than I expected. Yes, his demeanour was indeed hiding good news as you guessed. After two months of relentless searching and upskilling, he had finally landed a job at a startup. The role was different but it offered the much need glimmer of hope to him. Well, upon seeing determination and hope in his eyes, the "optimist" in me bubbled forth and rejoiced. After all things ended well for Anurag! Was truly comforting to witness it.

Incidentally, the take away here is, if AI is here to stay, which definitely will, then adaptability should be the key. Apparently, the whole of our humanity's future progress seems to rely solely on the collective collaboration of all stakeholders to re-imagine education, equipping individuals with the skills and mindset necessary to thrive in an AI-driven world and lead purposeful lives while addressing AI's ethical considerations all along. Hope this idea takes the centre stage soon in all the forthcoming policy discussions in the country.

Well, I am glad that like everyone else I too shall have a role to play in it, however insignificant it is.