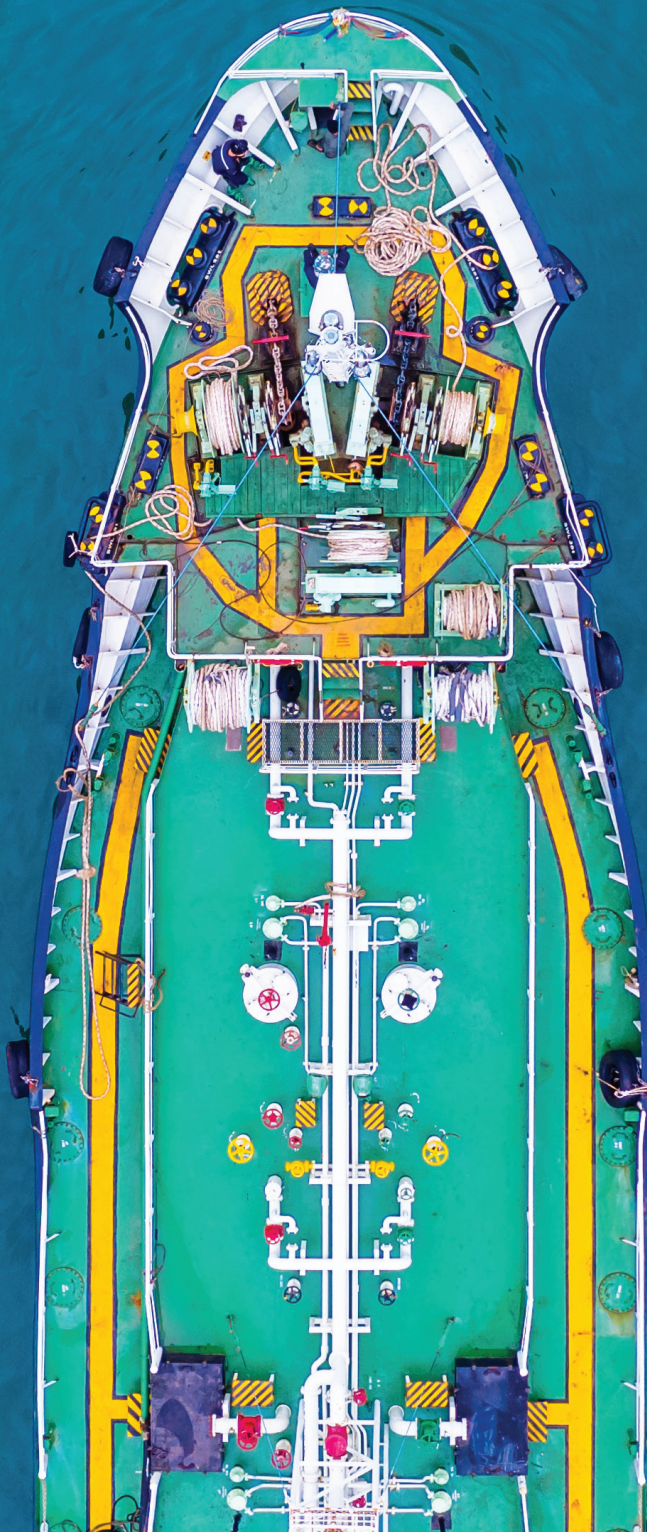


MARSHALL ISLANDS

REPORT



February 2025 • Vol. 35, No. 1
www.register-iri.com

LOOKING INTERNALLY TO ENHANCE CLIENT EXPERIENCES IN 2025



As 2025 opens, it does not look like a quiet year in shipping. With impending regulatory changes, rapidly approaching decarbonization targets, innovations in advanced technologies and alternative fuels, geopolitical activities, and sanctions, the industry will withstand a lot of transformation this year.

To prepare for these impending changes International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI), which provide administrative and technical support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator, have invested significantly in strengthening and developing specialized technical teams and expanding capabilities in global offices over the last decade. Today, the IRI team includes more than 450 resources, including some of the most experienced experts in the fields of alternative fuels and decarbonization technologies, as well as experienced security and safety personnel. IRI has strategically supported autonomous

decision making in regional offices to not only provide a rapid response to clients, but to ensure that decision making takes into account regional concerns and information. Additionally, active participation at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), frequent meetings with class societies and technical innovators, as well as interaction at the flag State level with port State control authorities ensures that our teams are well informed and a valuable resource for our clients as they plan, respond, and react to the changing marketplace. These investments have resulted in unparalleled client access to answers, decisions, and support from our teams. We truly are available 24/7/365.

This year, with so many external challenges on the horizon, IRI is working internally to enhance collaboration across our teams and offices to support a truly seamless client experience. From

(continued on page 3)

(Looking Internally to Enhance Client Experiences in 2025, continued from page 2)

hosting a global corporate training seminar to streamlining human resources and IT projects, increasing cross-communication opportunities between departments and offices, and listening to our teams for new ideas, we’re looking at how we can improve and enhance the client experience. For example, harnessing the power of technology, tools like our Technical Status Board allow full transparency across our technical department ensuring a team member in Houston and one in Singapore have the most up-to-date information on technical client requests and inquiries. Internal working groups and teams, such as the Corporate and Maritime Services Groups, the Cruise, Renewables, Gas, and Offshore Teams, or the Security Team work across offices and departments to not only synchronize operations, but also share expertise, best practices, and most importantly to build relationships so that we truly function as one global team.

We are fortunate that so many of our team members achieve 10, 15, 20 years and beyond with us, and recognize that those

anniversaries speak to the culture of our organization. We also recognize that to meet the forthcoming changes we need to support the development of the younger generation of maritime professionals so that they are prepared to lead and transition into more prominent roles.

Change is the only constant in this world, so we must be prepared internally as an organization to continue to adapt and evolve. Whether some of the uncertainty in the market is resolved this year or takes a little while longer, we know that other questions and players will arise in the market, and the status quo will change once again. IRI has been committed to evolving and transforming since its inception and I am confident that we are well prepared to meet the challenges of 2025. Our goal this year is to prepare internally for 2030, 2040, and beyond so that the client experience remains excellent, seamless, and exceeds expectations no matter what the future may bring.

Internal Transitions and Expansions Support Client Services



International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI), which provide administrative and technical support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime and Corporate Registries, has recently transitioned and restructured resources. This restructuring underscores the depth of expertise and experience within IRI’s global team and the collaborative nature of IRI’s client services. Notable transitions are highlighted below.

Regulatory Affairs Reorganizes under Nick Makar

The regulatory affairs and regulatory administration teams have been reorganized under Nick Makar, Senior Vice President, Maritime Administration/Regulatory Affairs. Nick has been a key member of the RMI delegation to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and part of the Registry’s regulatory affairs team for many years. Regulatory

affairs will now include 12 individuals spread across IRI’s worldwide offices, supporting RMI’s participation at the IMO, International Labour Organization (ILO), and other international regulatory bodies, as well as overseeing the implementation of new and revised regulations and standards into RMI national requirements.

Cruise Team Expands

The Registry has seen growth in the cruise market and has reorganized to ensure dedicated and experienced resources are available to support owners and operators in the traditional, niche, and specialty cruise markets.

(continued on page 4)

Hans Molver, formerly Senior Vice President, Investigations has transitioned to enhance IRI’s Cruise Team as Client Services Technical Lead – Cruise where he will serve in a business development and technical support role. Prior to leading the Investigations Department, Hans served as Senior Vice President, Technical for five years. He started his career as a marine engineer in the cruise industry before moving into compliance and oversight roles. With his technical background and cruise experience, Hans is strategically qualified to service the Registry’s growing cruise client base. In his new role, he will focus on serving and supporting cruise clients as well as stakeholders in his native Norway.

Angela Plott was recently promoted to Vice President, Client Relations – Cruise. She has served as a shared resource between business development for the cruise market and a liaison to the regulatory team. Angela has more than 20 years of experience in the maritime field. Prior to joining IRI, she worked for the International Council of Cruise Lines, which merged with Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA).

Tom Jenkins Leads Investigations

Experienced Marine Investigator Tom Jenkins assumed responsibility for the Investigations Department from Hans Molver in September 2024. Promoted to Senior Vice President, Investigations, Tom has extensive technical and operational experience at sea and ashore. Originally from the United Kingdom, he served as a Master with the Royal Navy before transitioning to Deputy Director and Head of Casualty and Investigations for the Bahamas Maritime Authority. Tom joined IRI’s London office in 2022, and later transferred to the Long Beach office where he continued to work closely with investigations team members around the world.

These expansions and transitions serve to support changes in the global maritime industry and to ensure clients receive the highest level of technical expertise and client service.

Technical Department Provides Essential Support to RMI’s Quality Fleet



The next time you are buried under emails, consider this – the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator’s (the “Administrator’s”) Technical Team receives more than 400 emails a day requesting technical support and assistance for its

its resources with qualified and knowledgeable staff to provide timely and accurate information to stakeholders. Regional Technical Managers, Richard Dias in Hong Kong; Vasilis Kamitsis in Piraeus; Hung Diep in Long Beach; Senior Technical Support Manager Elizabeth Caswell in Houston; as well as shared resources in other regional offices field requests for technical assistance from owners, operators, Classification Societies (Class), Recognized Organizations (ROs), shipyards, naval architects, and other industry stakeholders. Technical assistance is a critical component to safe vessel operation and therefore, technical support is provided free of charge.

“Although the regulatory environment is increasingly complex, it has not kept pace with changes in technology. To meet the needs of owners and operators of RMI-flagged vessels as they evaluate solutions for decarbonization and efficiency on board, we work closely with industry stakeholders to review, assess, and evaluate technology and solutions,” noted Dave.

In addition to participating in joint development projects, technical team members regularly contribute to Hazard and Operability Studies (HAZOP) and Hazard Identification (HAZID) evaluations run by Classification Societies (Class) and other stakeholders to assess potential risks and hazards associated with new technologies and solutions. In fact, because the industry is changing so rapidly, the team has dedicated resources to assess, review, and evaluate new technologies.

“Discussions about new and advanced technologies with Class and ROs are essential to the Administrator’s work with owners/operators,” said Dave. “We greatly value these discussions and exercises. Our participation not only adds a flag perspective to the discussions in the early stages of technological review, but also brings additional expertise and insight back to the owners and operators.”

The Technical Department meets with members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) annually, both individually and as a group, to support strong working relationships and open discussion about technical trends. In addition to inquiries and requests, the Technical Department also is involved in pre-registration vetting—an essential component to maintaining a quality registry.

“Before a vessel comes into the Registry, we make an assessment as to whether the vessel can uphold the high-quality standards of our fleet,” said Dave. “Knowing the condition of a vessel is

critical for us, as well as for the owner/operator. We do not want any surprises in the registration process.”

Vessels more than 20 years of age require an age waiver and pre-registration inspection to enter the RMI fleet. Bulk carriers older than 15 years are required to undergo a pre-registration inspection while other vessels older than 15 years old require a review of previous safety surveys, including hull gauge reports. The Technical Department works in coordination with the vessel owner/operator, especially in situations where a vessel is being sold, to accommodate an owner’s needs or requirements of the seller.

The Technical Department’s pre-registration vetting process and coordination with the Fleet Operations Team are keys to the Registry’s outstanding, consistent, and long-term port State control record. The RMI Registry is the only registry in the world to achieve 20 consecutive years on the United States Coast Guard’s QUALSHIP 21 roster and remains whitelisted with the Paris and Tokyo Memorandums of understanding, while also maintaining favorable rankings with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

“The fact that the RMI Registry continues to grow year-after-year, while maintaining high-quality standards is a real testament to the coordination and cooperation of our teams, especially Technical and Fleet Operations,” noted Simon Bonnett, Chief Maritime Officer of International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI) which provide administrative and technical support to the registry. “We maintain a high-quality fleet because we continually invest in building the resources our clients need to make informed decisions in this dynamic market.”

As the industry continues to innovate and advance to meet the forthcoming decarbonization targets, the Technical Department will continue to strengthen its support of owners and operators of RMI-flagged vessels.

“We really view all of our owners and operators as partners, and we appreciate each and every request for information or assistance,” noted Dave. “We recognize that today’s technical environment is more complex than ever before, and it is not feasible to expect an owner or operator to successfully operate in this dynamic environment without support,” he concluded.

MIQC Meets in Cyprus



The Marshall Islands Quality Council (MIQC) held its spring meeting in Limassol, Cyprus in April 2024. Gathering biannually, the MIQC is a consultative consortium of shipowners, managers, industry experts, and leaders that gather for open dialogue and discussion to enhance Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry operations. MIQC meetings focus on the sharing of information and experiences and raising awareness and knowledge on a diverse range of industry issues. The April 2024 MIQC meeting, hosted by MIQC member Michael McBride, at the offices of Chrysses Demetriades & Co. LLC, included MIQC members, invited guest speakers, and RMI Registry personnel. Rear Admiral (RADM) Kevin S. Cook, United States Coast Guard (Retired) chairs the MIQC.

RADM Cook opened the meeting, with presentations from International Registries, Inc.'s (IRI's) President Bill Gallagher

(Reston); Chief Maritime Officer Simon Bonnett (London); Chief Commercial Officer Theo Xenakoudis (Piraeus); and Vice President, Maritime Brian Green (Fort Lauderdale) covering updates and news on the RMI Registry. This high-level insight set the stage for topical discussions on regulatory updates and outcomes from the International Maritime Organization and port State control trends worldwide. Prabhat Jha, Managing Director, MSC Shipmanagement Cyprus Limited, made a special presentation to the group. Dr. Thilo Dückert, Head of Product Development, OceanScore GmbH presented on the European Union (EU) Emissions Trading System/FuelEU Maritime Regulation.

The meeting concluded with a panel discussion on the situation in the Red Sea moderated by Brian Green, Vice President, Maritime (Fort Lauderdale). Joining the discussion were Captain Lee Stuart, Maritime Liaison Officer, United States Naval Forces Central Command; Russell Pegg, Maritime Security Advisor, Oil Companies International Marine Forum; James Wilkes, Managing Director, Gray Page; and Christos Kottas, Executive Director, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

MIQC meetings provide a platform for information sharing, open discussion, and strengthened relationships between industry stakeholders and the RMI Registry's team of professionals.

MIQC Meets in London



The Marshall Islands Quality Council (MIQC) held its end of the year meeting in London in December 2024. Gathering biannually, the MIQC is a consultative consortium of shipowners, managers, industry experts, and leaders that gather for open dialogue and discussion to strengthen the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry. MIQC meetings focus on the sharing of information and experiences and raising awareness and knowledge on a diverse range of industry issues. The December 2024 MIQC meeting included members, invited guest speakers, and RMI Registry personnel. Rear Admiral (RADM) Kevin S. Cook, United States (US) Coast Guard (Retired) chairs the MIQC.

RADM Cook opened the meeting, with presentations from President Bill Gallagher (Reston); Chief Commercial Officer Theo Xenakoudis (Piraeus); and other senior leaders covering updates and news on the RMI Registry. The meeting continued with a presentation from Fred Kenney, Cruise Line International Association (CLIA) Special Envoy- London followed by a focus session on Maritime Security with Vice President, Maritime Security, Evan Curt; Vice President, Maritime, Brian Green; and US Navy Central Command Maritime Liaison Officer Captain Lee Stuart. Timothée Noël, Maritime Team Leader, European Commission for Climate Action made a special presentation on emissions trading to the group. Erik Hjortland, Vice President, Technology, Odfjell Ship Management, presented a shipowner's perspective on decarbonization, while Dr. Grahaeme Henderson OBE FREng, Former President of Shipping, Shell, presented on safety. The meeting also included an update on activities at the International Maritime Organization (IMO). MIQC meetings provide a platform for information sharing and open discussion while also strengthening relationships between industry stakeholders and the RMI Registry's team of professionals.

2024 Classification Society Consultative Committee Meets in Athens

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry's annual Classification Society Consultative Committee (CSCC) meeting was held on 5 December 2024 in Athens, Greece. Recognized Organizations (ROs) from around the world were present. RMI representatives from Busan, Fort Lauderdale, Hong Kong, Houston, London, Long Beach, Mumbai, Piraeus, Reston, and Roosendaal offices participated in the meeting.

The annual CSCC meeting is primarily a technical meeting, focused on effective communication and client service across all parties and stakeholders. ROs play an important role in flag State operations, acting on behalf of the RMI Maritime Administrator (the "Administrator") by providing plan approval, survey, and certification services that facilitate meeting the Administrator's statutory obligations.

The Administrator's Technical Department sets the agenda for the meeting based on collected data, technical trends and changes, procedural matters, action items from the previous meeting, and RO collaboration. The Athens meeting opened with introductions and an update on the RMI Registry from Chief Maritime Officer Simon Bonnett. The meeting continued with a series of discussions on: Remote Surveys; Lifting Appliances – International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, Chapter II-1, Regulation 1/3-13; Permanent Means of Access – Annual

Inspection by Crew for Oil Tanks on Tankers; International Code of Safety for Ships Carrying Industrial Personnel; and Ballast Water Management before breaking for lunch. Afternoon sessions continued with discussions on: engine room escape routes, revisions to fire protection systems and appliances; an update on fleet operations and port state control matters; European Union Mutual Recognition; and the Hong Kong International Convention for Safety and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships. The meeting concluded with a review of the RO oversight structure and an open discussion and review of action items.

The ongoing period of international regulatory change underscores the importance of CSCC meetings to foster a high standard of client service and quality across the fleet. The annual CSCC meeting fosters strong professional relationships between the flag State and the Administrator's ROs to support open dialogue and shared vision.



The Maritime Services Group Meets in Reston

The Maritime Services Group (MSG) met at the Reston headquarters of International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI) in October 2024 for the final MSG meeting of the year. IRI President Bill Gallagher and Chief Maritime Officer Simon Bonnett opened the meeting with remarks and updates on the Registry, while Chief Commercial Officer Theo Xenakoudis provided an in-depth analysis on current market conditions and challenges. Baron Bigler, Senior Vice President, Government Relations, from the Majruo office, provided an overall update on the Republic of the Marshall Islands.



The two-day meeting included updates and presentations from departments on both the status of operations and projects under development. Representatives from Baltimore/Annapolis, Fort Lauderdale, Geneva, London, Long Beach, Majuro, New York, Piraeus, Reston, and Vancouver offices were in attendance. The MSG, which has met regularly for more than a decade, gathers to review fleet performance, operations, and assess strategic goals across offices and departments, building strong relationships to support global client services.

The October meeting facilitated the sharing of perspectives, knowledge, and experiences from the Registry's teams, which contributes to the support of the growing RMI-registered fleet. Action items and takeaways from this meeting aim to assess and strengthen operations to enhance client services, ship safety, seafarers' welfare, ship security, and environmental compliance.

INDUSTRY INSIGHT



RMI Flags Two Dual-fuel LNG Car Carriers



The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Registry celebrated the naming of LIAO HE KOU and MIN JIANG KOU, two 7,500 space dual-fuel pure car and truck carriers (PCTCs) in July 2024. The vessels are operated by COSCO Shipping Specialized Carriers Co., Ltd and managed by Wallem Ship Management Limited out of Hong Kong.

Both vessels are designed to comply with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Tier III emission standards and include innovative and advanced environmental technologies on board to enhance vessel engine optimization and reduce emissions while underway. The single engine and single propeller propulsion system uses an LNG dual-fuel main engine, single bow thruster, and an electric roll-on roll-off (RO/RO) system. These technologies are expected to achieve a carbon reduction rate of more than 24%. LIAO HE KOU and MIN JIANG KOU are 199.9 meters long, 38 meters wide, and have space for 7,500 vehicles across 13 vehicle decks, four of which are adjustable.

LIAO HE KOU and MIN JIANG KOU, designed by Shanghai Ship Research and Design Institute (SDARI) and built by Fujian Shipbuilding Group were delivered in July at a naming ceremony in Fujian. Members of the Registry's Shanghai office were on hand for the ceremony. The RMI Maritime Administrator is currently providing technical support for additional newbuild dual-fuel vehicle carriers with expected delivery in 2026 and 2027.

Global Seminars Strengthen Relationships and Increase Understanding

Changes across the maritime industry have resulted in an increasingly complex operating environment. To help stay abreast of changes, discuss opportunities and challenges, and provide a platform for information sharing and innovative thinking, four seminars were hosted in late spring and early summer 2024. Held in Mumbai, Manila, Roosendaal, and Baltimore/Annapolis, these regional seminars showcased the 'one team' mentality within the organization, where resources across the globe are expected to provide the highest level of customer service and technical support.

The Mumbai Filing Agents Seminar, held in late May 2024 included participants from across Asia and focused on administrative and operational discussions related to documentation and assessments. Captain Sanjay Maini, Country Head-India opened the meeting, which included presentations from Seafarers' Documentation, Seafarers' Manning & Training, and Seafarers' Services. The seminar also included a lengthy question and answer session, allowing filing agents the chance to discuss recent trends, challenges, and opportunities they see in their local areas. With more than 2,000 filing agents approved to receive and file seafarer applications, this seminar is an example of the value the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry places on quality control, open communication, and consistency across its network.

The Manila office hosted a three-day Investigations and Nautical Inspector Seminar in late May 2024. International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI), which provide administrative and technical support to the RMI Registry, brought together nautical inspectors and investigation resources from across Asia. This seminar included presentations from IRI's fleet operations, fleet quality and compliance, seafarers' services, and investigations departments. Sascha Dyker, Fleet Operations Manager based in Asia, included several discussion topics to facilitate information sharing and to create opportunities for discussing challenges, improvements, and strategic solutions. The seminar offered participants an opportunity to meet and connect with key personnel from across Asia and the Americas, to better understand the cooperation between the 28 worldwide offices and departments. The final day of the

seminar included in-depth technical discussions, presentations, and observations from the Investigations team.

In early June 2024, IRI's Roosendaal office also hosted a Nautical Inspector Seminar to support inspectors and resources located in Europe and North Africa. Jan-Rinze Haveman, Fleet Operations Manager (Roosendaal) opened the seminar with an overview of fleet statistics and an update on port State control trends, specifically focused on the Paris Memorandum of Understanding. The seminar included sessions on pilot boarding safety, digital resources for inspectors, as well as updates on Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN), deficiencies and observations, and discussions on evaluations, quality reporting, and more.

Participants also reviewed recent headline-making incidents in the maritime industry, including a discussion of the situation, evaluation processes, and any future implications that may impact RMI-flagged vessels.

In August 2024, Brian Poskaitis, Senior Vice President, Fleet Operations hosted a global fleet operations seminar in Annapolis, Maryland. Regional managers and nautical inspectors from across IRI's 28 worldwide offices gathered for the two-day training seminar. Steve Garcia, Senior LNG/LPG Specialist conducted an in-depth training on low flashpoint fuels / gas-as-fuel. The second day

concentrated on global operations and the three strategic objectives of the fleet operations team: quality, compliance, and value. Bill Gallagher, President of IRI, stressed to the global team the importance of "keeping the ships moving while understanding the value of safety and operational readiness, which allows us to assist owners and operators of the RMI-flagged fleet with navigating the complexities of the current regulatory requirements." Brian highlighted the importance of the seminar's role play and scenario simulations, which enhance the understanding and awareness of what owners, operators, and crew navigate on a daily basis.

These seminars are conducted to support open communication with stakeholders and enhance engagement across departments. Hosted by various offices, these seminars offer local and regional participants global expertise and perspective, as well as the opportunity to share their personal experiences and local/regional trends.





PORT STATE CONTROL UPDATE

RMI Registry Personnel Continues Dialogue with Global Port State Control Authorities

An active dialogue and information sharing with port State control (PSC) authorities around the world is important to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry. As mutual stakeholders in maritime safety, flag State and PSC authorities play significant roles as important safety nets in safe vessel operation and protecting the safety of seafarers and the marine environment.

The Registry recognizes that building understanding and awareness with partner organizations enhances safe vessel operation and overall maritime safety. These partnerships and meetings, often held annually, focus on building professional relationships, discussing trends, and the internal activities within the RMI Registry to support safe vessel operation and compliance, as well as feedback from PSC authorities on any areas of concern or of special attention.

International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI), which provide administrative and technical support to the RMI Registry, utilize its network of regional offices and personnel to support these partnerships and meetings. In spring 2024, Brian Poskaitis, Senior Vice President, Fleet Operations based out of the Baltimore / Annapolis office and Captain Theodore Lalas, Fleet Operations Manager based out of the Piraeus office, met with Italian PSC representatives in Ravenna, Rome, and Venice to discuss PSC trends, the flag State's operations, and focus on high-quality and safe vessel operation. These meetings follow onto meetings from 2023, when Brian and Theodore, alongside Captain Vincenzo Bellalba, Senior Nautical Inspector and Fleet Operations representative in Italy, met with Italian PSC authorities in Rome, Naples, Salerno, Taranto, Brindisi, Civitavecchia, Livorno, Genoa, and Savona. Italy is a member of the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), an international inspection regime for foreign flagged ships, with whom the RMI remains white-listed.

Captain Theodore Lalas also attended the 24th Meeting of the Black Sea MoU Port State Control Committee Meeting in Batumi, Georgia in late March 2024. The meeting was chaired by Captain Cosmin Laurențiu Dumitrache, General Director of the Romanian Naval Authority and key topics emphasized the importance of collaboration among member States to ensure safe navigation in the Black Sea region. Black Sea MoU members include the PSC authorities of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, Türkiye, and Ukraine. The meeting was attended by observers of Moldova, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Abuja MoU, the Indian Ocean MoU, the Tokyo MoU, and the Viña del Mar Agreement (VDM).

(continued on page 11)

(RMI Registry Personnel Continues Dialogue with Global Port State Control Authorities, continued from page 10)

Across the Atlantic, Brian and Davis Kong, Vice President, Fleet Operations based out of Ft. Lauderdale met senior officials at Transport Canada in Ottawa and Montreal. Annie Ng, Head of Asia and Managing Director- Vancouver Office joined Brian and Davis for meetings with Transport Canada representatives in Vancouver. Franco Piccirillo, General Manager, South America and Captain Luiz Frietas, Regional Director, South America met with the Prefectura Naval Argentina (PNA), representing the VDM. Prefecto General Hugo Gabriel Cafaro, Secretary of the VDM, Prefecto Mayor José Fernando dos Santos, Undersecretary of the VDM and Head of the Navigation Safety Department at PNA, and Subprefecto Florencia Otero, Officer of the VDM, to discuss PSC performance, trends, and activities in the region. Franco and Captain Frietas shared the RMI Registry's ongoing activities and operations noting that the Registry strives to maintain its reputation for high standards of compliance and professionalism.

In Australia, Brian; Captain Sascha Dyker, Regional Fleet Operations Manager for the Far East; and Guarav Dewan, Deputy Fleet Operations Manager in Australia met with PSC officials in Western Australia including Freemantle, Port Hedland, and Karratha. Brian, Guarav, and Alex Schultz-Altman, Senior Maritime Safety Advisor also met with Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) officials in Canberra at AMSA's headquarters. Topics of discussion included crew welfare and fatigue, improved communication of port State and flag State activities in regional ports, and joint efforts to improve maritime safety in the Tokyo MOU region.

Also in Asia, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore held its 15th foreign flag annual meeting at MPA Singapore headquarters in August 2024. Sascha presented on the Registry, while Captain James Tao Zhou and Princet Ang joined Sascha in represented the RMI Registry at roundtable discussions in support of safe and compliant vessel operation.

The RMI Registry adheres to the idea that open communication, dialogue, and information sharing between the flag State and PSC authorities benefits all owners and operators of RMI-flagged vessels in supporting safe and compliant vessel operation. To see RMI's PSC detention trends, please click [here](#).



CORPORATE UPDATE

Corporate Services Group Meets in Greece



(TCMI), Legal and Trade Compliance, and internal trends. President Bill Gallagher and Chief Commercial Officer/Managing Director-Piraeus Office Theo Xenakoudis presented a session on Best Practices in the Face of Global Pressure. Guest Speaker Maria Gkoutskiou, Partner, Major & Grove International Law Firm presented ‘Business Beyond Borders: Company Formation and Obligations in Key Jurisdictions’.

Team members from Dubai, Fort Lauderdale, Piraeus, Hamburg, Houston, Istanbul, London, Long Beach, Majuro, Reston, Shanghai, Singapore, and Zurich were present. Since the CSG formalized in 2019, the annual meetings have resulted in a strengthening of internal processes and procedures, as well as the enhancement of a ‘One Team’ culture to support client service worldwide.

The Corporate Services Group (CSG) held its annual meeting in Athens in January 2025. Modeled off the Maritime Services Group (MSG), the CSG is a cooperative group of corporate team members from across the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry’s 28 worldwide offices as well as key departments that support or work in tandem with the RMI Corporate Registry. The group meets annually to discuss Registry updates, compliance and reporting changes, initiatives, best practices, and to discuss trends, market conditions, and more. The January meeting included both virtual and in-person participation.

Denise Francis, Senior Vice President, Corporate welcomed participants before key senior leaders provided updates on The Trust Company of the Marshall Islands, Inc.

ESR Seminars Focus on Information Sharing

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Corporate Registry held two seminars on Economic Substance Regulations (ESR) in the fourth quarter of 2024. Designed to update the international business community on RMI ESR changes and to provide an opportunity for information sharing and discussion, both the webinar and the in-person seminar in Athens included professionals and stakeholders from the maritime and legal communities. More than 200 individuals participated in these seminars, which covered topics from updates to the RMI ESR Reporting Portal; European Union (EU) Whitelist; ESR Audit Procedures; and future EU Requirements. Speakers included a range of legal and maritime professionals from International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI), which provide administrative and technical support to



the RMI Maritime and Corporate Registries, as well as RMI licensed attorneys and qualified intermediaries Damien Magee, Vanessa Tzoannos, and Maria Gkoutsiou. Alison Wilson, Senior International Counsel, Head of Office (IRI Long Beach) coordinated the in-person event which included a lively Q& A session after the panel discussion and Diego Ramirez (IRI Ft. Lauderdale) coordinated the webinar.

The RMI Corporate Registry evolves to adapt to the demands of the modern international business framework, while remaining compliant with international guidelines and regulations. Accessibility and communication, hallmarks of the Registry’s customer service-oriented philosophy, underscore the RMI as a jurisdiction of choice for international shipping companies and business professionals.



ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE REPORTING PORTAL

In accordance with the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Economic Substance Regulations, all entities, including foreign maritime entities, must complete an annual declaration on economic substance through the Registrar of Corporations’ online portal. Click [here](#) for more information.



YACHT UPDATE



RMI Yacht Program Continues to Push the Boundaries

In July 2024, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry achieved a new milestone upon reaching 1,000 registered yachts. International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI), which provide administrative and technical support to the RMI Registry, reflected on this milestone as a recognition of the yacht team’s efforts and dedication to running a solution focused registry.

“For our team, this milestone reflects the trust and confidence yacht owners and stakeholders have placed in the RMI Registry. It underscores the considerable efforts of our dedicated team, whose commitment to continuously delivering high level technical, registration, marine safety, and administrative support services have been pivotal,” commented Patrick Bachofner, Director, Geneva Office and Worldwide Director, Yachts.

The RMI Registry opened to yachts in 2001, establishing a dedicated Yacht Team soon thereafter, and creating a solid foundation of yacht specific resources. Today the Yacht Team has expanded resources in Fort Lauderdale, Geneva, Istanbul, London, and Roosendaal. Most recently a new Yacht Safety Manager, based in Fort Lauderdale, was hired to leverage additional technical and safety expertise for clients operating in the Americas.

“We have experienced significant growth since the global pandemic by adapting to what the market needs and staying ahead of industry challenges. The market is responding to this proactive approach, which allows us to focus on delivering rapid, efficient, and excellent services,” noted Jo Assael, Yachts Commercial Director based in London.

In 2018, the RMI Registry streamlined the registration process for yachts under 24 meters (m) and has since experienced substantial growth in the under 24m yacht sector with over 25% year-on-year growth since 2023.

“The feedback we received was specific for this segment. Our process needed to be streamlined for yachts under 24m,” said Ionna Hernandez, Business Development Manager, Yachts based in Fort Lauderdale. “We reviewed our processes and adapted, adjusting our vetting and registration processes to better meet the needs of the market.” Similarly, the RMI Registry’s Yacht Engaged in Trade (YET) program, introduced in 2015 to respond to client needs, also continues to see significant growth. From 2019 to 2024, the RMI Registry saw an average year-on-year growth of nearly 40%, reflecting the continued popularity of this program and the RMI Registry’s ability to generate innovative industry leading solutions.

(continued on page 15)

(RMI Yacht Program Continues to Push the Boundaries, continued from page 14)

“We have an incredibly diverse yacht fleet,” noted Marc Verburg, Director, Yacht Operations, based in Roosendaal. “From 12m catamarans to motor yachts over 100m, a luxuriously restored and cared for 100-year-old sailing yacht, rebuilt offshore support vessels, hybrid battery-powered vessels, and everything in between, the diversity of the fleet represents our high-quality, personalized service. We treat each vessel as unique and carefully consider its technical needs and requirements,” Marc continued.

The Yacht Team has intentionally worked to strengthen technical and professional relationships with shipyards in the last ten years as well, building a reputation for being practical while also supporting the client’s vision. This solution-driven philosophy has been particularly attractive to captains, shipyards, and clients.

“We collaborate and assist the yards with regulatory compliance as they navigate innovative new technology, such as battery-power and hybrid power generation, digital automation of key systems, and new applications of building materials,” said Marc. “We have demonstrated our capability and expertise in handling complex situations, guiding yards through the regulatory framework with pragmatic approaches while ensuring safety and environmental standards are maintained.”

The effort to include all stakeholders, from the client’s side as well as within the Registry, requires strong communication and teamwork to meet client expectations.

“We maintain a ‘client needs’ approach, recognizing that a yacht is a highly emotional asset for its owner. We want to find a way to fulfill their dream while maintaining a safe, secure, and environmentally sound asset in terms of compliance,” noted Patrick. “We aim to think outside the box to find solutions. That’s attracted owners who value compliance, while also wanting operational flexibility,” continued Patrick.

The RMI Registry pulls on the yacht team’s technical expertise and specialists to support the dynamic global yacht. The RMI Yacht Code 2021, as amended through August 2023 (hereinafter, the “Code”), is the most significant update to the Code since it was first released in 2013. The Code reflects a commonsense and practical approach to evolving safety and technical issues, as well as the expansion of the YET program in 2022.

“We are constantly evolving to augment our client services,” noted Patrick. “That adaptability and willingness to find a solution has drawn so many unique yacht projects to our program, and earned us a reputation for being practical, innovative, and supportive,” he concluded.

“For our team, this milestone reflects the trust and confidence yacht owners and stakeholders have placed in the RMI Registry.”

— Patrick Bachofner, Director, Geneva Office and Worldwide Director, Yachts

RESCUES AT SEA



In keeping with one of the finest maritime traditions, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) honors owners and operators whose vessels and crew participate in rescues at sea. Between September 2023 and May 2024, the Administrator recognized seven RMI-flagged vessels with Certificates of Commendation for their assistance in rescues.

ANTIGONI B, managed by A.B. Maritime Inc., was underway in the Ionian Sea en route to Nemrut, Turkey when it received a distress call from the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center Olympia Radio regarding a distressed fishing vessel nearby. The Master immediately diverted course and after receiving instructions from the On Scene Commander, launched a Search and Rescue operation for distressed individuals. The Master and Crew of ANTIGONI B spent the next six hours recovering individuals from the water. A total of five individuals were recovered and transferred into the care of a Greek Coast Guard patrol boat. Shortly after, ANTIGONI B was released and resumed its planned voyage to Nemrut, Turkey.

APPALOOSA, managed by Seastar Chartering Ltd., was underway in the Atlantic Ocean, en route to Houston, United States, when it was notified of a Spanish sailing vessel requesting urgent fuel assistance. The Master diverted course to the location of the distressed vessel. After skillfully maneuvering through heavy weather, the Master, Officers, and Crew resupplied the vessel

with 150 liters of diesel fuel. The sailing vessel was able to safely resume its course and APPALOOSA resumed its planned voyage.

AVANCE POLARIS, managed by Northern Marine Management Limited, was underway in the Pacific Ocean when it was notified by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) of a distressed and dismantled sailing vessel in the area. Immediately altering course, the Master and Crew located the distressed sailing vessel and rescued one adult, two children, and an infant from the vessel. An individual remained on board the distressed vessel to motor it back to land. The four rescued individuals were provided with aid and disembarked at the next planned port of call in Hawaii.

BASILIS L, managed by Tsakos Conbulk Service (TCB) LTD, was underway in the Mediterranean Sea when it was contacted by the Italian Coast Guard about a boat in distress with 47 persons on board and instructed to contact the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) Libya. After working with MRCC Libya, BASILIS L diverted course and after two attempts, located the distressed

vessel. Due to heavy weather, the 47 passengers of the distressed vessel remained on board. While awaiting assistance from a shore rescue boat BASILIS L was able to skillfully supply food, water, and gasoline to the distressed boat despite the harsh weather. A short while later MRCC Rome took over the operation, appointing BASILIS L the On Scene Coordinator. BASILIS L made contact with two nearby vessels for additional assistance. After several attempts made by the assisting vessels to transfer the passengers on board, the distressed boat capsized. BASILIS L immediately took action, launching a search and rescue operation. Shortly after, two additional vessels and two aircraft arrived and BASILIS L was released by MRCC Rome to resume its planned voyage.

BITTERN, managed by Eagle Bulk Ship Management (Singapore) PTE. LTD, was underway in the Pacific Ocean, en route to Fukuyama, Japan when the Crew spotted a small boat with two passengers signaling for help. Afloat for 12 days without engines, the individuals had run out of provisions, water, and were in need of assistance. Carefully maneuvering alongside the small boat, the Crew rescued the two individuals and brought the small boat aboard BITTERN. The Crew provided the rescued individuals with food, water, and clothing. BITTERN continued on its planned voyage, and at a scheduled stop in Long Beach, California the two individuals were disembarked to the care of USCG.

SEAHOPE, managed by Navarone S.A., was underway in the Atlantic Ocean, en route to Port Alfred, Canada, when it received

a distress call from the Master of a sailing vessel requesting search and rescue assistance. SEAHOPE immediately diverted course towards the reported location of the distressed sailboat. Upon arrival, the Crew located six individuals aboard a life raft. The Master was able to safely maneuver close to the life raft and carefully transfer the distressed individuals on board. SEAHOPE then resumed its planned voyage, and all six individuals safely disembarked at Port Alfred.

SILVER CAROLYN, managed by Columbia Shipmanagement GmbH, was underway in the Caribbean Sea when it received a distress signal from a boat approximately 50 miles off the coast of Cuba. The Master immediately diverted course and within several hours was able to locate the boat with 11 individuals on board. Upon arrival, the Crew was able to safely transfer all 11 individuals on board SILVER CAROLYN and offer food, water, and clothing. Two days later the rescued individuals were transferred to the care of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center Havana, and SILVER CAROLYN was able to resume its planned voyage.

[Click here](#) to view all
**Certificates of Commendation
and Letters of Recognition.**

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



CHRISTINA V Receives IMO Bravery at Sea Award

Captain Leo Malunes Sacmar Jr. and the crew of the bulk carrier CHRISTINA V, managed by Alexandria Shipping (Hellas) S.A., received special commendation from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly for their role in the rescue of 145 migrants in the Mediterranean Sea in October 2022. IRI Chief Commercial Officer and Managing Director, Piraeus Office Theo Xenakoudis presented the certificate at Alexandria Shipping (Hellas) S.A.'s office in Greece in July 2024.

While underway in the Mediterranean Sea, Captain Leo Malunes Sacmar Jr. received a distress call from a disabled vessel reportedly adrift with 70 individuals aboard. Captain Sacmar notified Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) Rome and was instructed to proceed to the location of the distress call. Upon arrival, CHRISTINA V notified MRCC Rome that a large number of individuals were aboard the disabled vessel, and CHRISTINA V was appointed On Scene Coordinator to begin rescue operations. Approximately one hour after pulling alongside the vessel, all 145 individuals aboard were rescued. CHRISTINA V provided medical assessment, food, water and sanitary facilities to the rescued individuals while coordinating a rendezvous point with MRCC Marsala. Three days later, all rescued individuals were safely transferred to the Italian Coast Guard and CHRISTINA V resumed its planned voyage.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator congratulates Captain Malunes Sacmar Jr., and the crew of CHRISTINA V for their exemplary commitment to the safety of life at sea which is one of the finest traditions at sea.



MARLIN LUANDA Receives 2024 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery At Sea



Captain Avhilash Rawat and the Officers and Crew of the oil tanker MARLIN LUANDA, chartered by Trafigura Beheer B.V. and managed by Suntech Ship Management PTE. Ltd., received the 2024 International Maritime Organization (IMO) Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea on 2 December 2024 at IMO headquarters in London. IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez presented the award for their role in protecting 23 lives aboard as well as the marine environment after the vessel was struck by an anti-ship ballistic missile.

While underway and fully loaded with a cargo of Naphtha in the Gulf of Aden on 26 January 2024, MARLIN LUANDA was struck by an anti-ship ballistic missile fired by Houthi forces from the Yemeni coast. The strike caused an intense fire in one of the vessel's starboard cargo tanks, which the Crew immediately deployed firefighting equipment to combat. Captain Avhilash Rawat notified United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) and sent a distress call to coalition naval forces in the area. Support from United States, Indian, and French Naval warships arrived on the scene to assist the Crew with firefighting efforts. The Indian Navy provided ten personnel with specialist firefighting equipment, while the United States and French Navy provided essential low-expansion firefighting foam. The fire raged for hours, but Captain Avhilash Rawat and Crew, demonstrating immense bravery and professionalism, relentlessly continued to fight the fire. After a total of approximately 20 hours of firefighting the fire was fully extinguished with no injuries suffered by the Crew or damage caused to the marine environment. MARLIN LUANDA resumed its voyage to a safe harbour for inspection and necessary repairs.

Upon accepting the award, Captain Avhilash Rawat expressed his sincere appreciation for the courage, professionalism, and dedication of his Crew, stating, "your support and trust were invaluable during those critical hours, and together, we overcame challenges that seemed insurmountable."

Captain Avhilash Rawat also took the opportunity to express his appreciation for the quick thinking and support provided by the onboard security team from Ambrey, as well as the Indian, French and United States naval forces that responded quickly and efficiently to their aid. Captain Avhilash Rawat expressed his gratitude for the immense support provided by Suntech Ship Management PTE. Ltd., Trafigura Beheer B.V., and the families of the Crew. Captain Avhilash Rawat concluded his remarks with appreciation for seafarers, noting, "as we sail through both calm and stormy waters, let us remember that it is our unity, skill, and determination that strengthen us and keep us committed to the work we do."

The Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator congratulates Captain Avhilash Rawat and the Officers and Crew of MARLIN LUANDA for their exemplary commitment to the safety of life at sea and the protection of the marine environment.

REGIONAL OFFICE NEWS

Honoring Half a Century of Service in HONG KONG and PIRAEUS

Fifty years ago, regional offices in Hong Kong and Piraeus opened. These offices, first operating as marine safety centers, supported clients of International Registries, Inc.'s (IRI's) predecessor company and have anchored the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry's growth in Europe and Asia. Without access to today's modern electronics and digital tools, these offices served as bridges between the business day in Europe, Asia, and headquarters in North America, ensuring that clients had access to support during their local business hours. The benefits of a decentralized structure were realized early on, and Piraeus and Hong Kong quickly grew into regional hub offices, supporting new office locations in each region

(continued on page 22)

A Nexus of Global Shipping: Celebrating 20 Years in SHANGHAI

Broadening to support and enhance client services, International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI), which provide administrative and technical support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry, chose to expand in Asia in 2004 by opening an office in Shanghai. IRI's Head of Asia, Annie Ng, recalls Shanghai in the early 2000s as a hub of international finance activity, with global clients using financial institutions from Shanghai to support fleet expansion and development.

"Shanghai was, and still is, a center of financing for international trade. In 2004 the Chinese economy was very robust, especially in sectors that were starting to privatize. We saw an office

(continued on page 23)

Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries at the End of 2024



The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry's continued growth and milestone achievements are the result of the diverse, strong, and innovative team of professionals in its 28 worldwide offices. At the end of 2024, we recognize and celebrate three outstanding team members who celebrated 25-year milestone anniversaries: Peggy Yeung (Hong Kong), Regina Jibke-Anitok (Majuro), and Annie Ng (Vancouver).

Regina Jibke-Anitok serves as Office Manager of The Trust Company of the Marshall Islands, Inc. (TCMI) in Majuro. In her supervisory role Regina oversees staffing, scheduling, logistics, and accounting.

Baron Bigler, Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs in Majuro commented on Regina's contribution to the Registry.

"Regina is a valued contributor to the success of the TCMI team. She is the third longest standing employee in Majuro and her work is essential to the success of our operations. Her community outreach work translates to her leadership in the workplace, and I congratulate her for her long-term success."

"I am deeply humbled and greatly appreciative of the long 25 hard-toiling years of personal and professional growth and career development," remarked Regina as she reflected on her tenure. "I wish to take this golden opportunity to express the most sincere gratitude from my family and me to the management and leadership of team TCMI for the faith and trust bestowed upon me."

Peggy Yeung joined the Hong Kong office 25 years ago as a secretary. Hired by President Bill Gallagher, Peggy has grown from handling administrative and bookkeeping duties to supervising all activities as Office Manager in Hong Kong. Peggy oversees human resources and accounts, working closely with Annie Ng, for the offices in the Far East. She enjoys the multinational nature of the company and interacting with people from all over the world. In

the last 25 years Peggy has played an integral role in supporting the expansion of the organization's footprint in Asia from one office in Hong Kong to 11 full-service offices.

"The biggest portion of my adult life has been spent working; the environment and the company morale are the keys to keep me motivated to grow as a professional. As the industry and the fleet continues to expand, I'm proud to be a part of this organization, which is fully supportive of its teammates and offices. That trust and positive work culture is what has led to our growth and expansion across Asia," said Peggy.

Annie Ng, Head of Asia, celebrated 25 years with the company in 2024. Since moving to Vancouver in 2022 to open a new office, Annie continues to oversee operations in Asia.

"The biggest benefit of working on the West Coast is that I am only three hours behind Reston headquarters, so I'm a strong bridge between working hours at headquarters and in Asia. I'm able to work closely with Asian owners and operators that have offices on the West Coast while coordinating operations between North America and Asia," said Annie.

While in Vancouver, Annie has overseen the continual expansion of key resources in Asia, with the goal of providing real-time maritime technical assistance and guidance to owners and operators of RMI-flagged vessels. Under Annie's leadership and strategic coordination with in-country office managers, the Registry continues to provide tailored services for local clients. Please click here to see an in-depth article on Annie's transition to Vancouver and in celebration of her 20th anniversary.

Many other team members celebrated milestone anniversaries in 2024, please join us in celebrating their anniversaries! Click below to view the video below.

celebrating
**MILESTONE
ANNIVERSARIES**
at the end of
2024





and expanding corporate and maritime departments throughout Europe and Asia. Today, IRI provides administrative and technical support to the RMI Maritime and Corporate Registries through 28 offices in key financial and maritime hubs worldwide.

Annie Ng, Head of Asia and Managing Director of the Vancouver office, credits the opening of the Hong Kong office with the Registry’s growth and success in Asia.

Annie commented: “I joined the company in 1999 and in 2005 became Managing Director of our Far East offices. During those short six years we opened three new offices in Asia. Having the hub office in Hong Kong, with intimate understanding of local business practices, and relationships with local stakeholders helped to establish IRI’s strong presence in Asia. We were the first foreign flag administration to open a full-service office in Asia and the additional regional offices, which today stand at nine across Asia, have strengthened our reputation for technical expertise, knowledge, and excellent client service.”

Hong Kong celebrated their milestone anniversary earlier this year at Marine Money Hong Kong’s reception, while Piraeus honored its milestone anniversary at Posidonia in June 2024. “It was really special for us to be able to celebrate this milestone at Posidonia,” noted Theo Xenakoudis, Chief Commercial Officer and Managing Director of the Piraeus office. “We attribute our success to a team effort, not only by the Registry’s team members, but also thanks to our clients and colleagues who put their trust in us and allow us to earn their business,” he concluded.

opening in Shanghai as an opportunity to be closer to our clients, and to serve them with local cultural understanding and global perspective,” remembered Annie.

The Shanghai office opened to support corporate formations from global clients using Shanghai based financial institutions. Captain Ming Chen, Country Head-China, who joined IRI in 2006 to support the enhancement of regional maritime services, recalls the burgeoning private shipping market at the time.

“In the early 2000s, China’s private shipping industry was in the early stages of growth and development, and the situation was rapidly changing to meet the demands of the global economy. Over the last two decades, Chinese tonnage has grown exponentially, as have related maritime technology and support services throughout the country,” said Captain Chen.

The rapidly increasing scale of the Chinese fleet fueled the expansion of shipping companies, ship management companies, and financial institutions in Shanghai and across China. The Shanghai office, which now supports a staff of 14, collaborates with other regional offices in Dalian and Qingdao to support efficient inspection and certification services throughout the country for the significant number of RMI-flagged vessels that call at China ports.

“When the office opened, the industry was rapidly expanding to match global demand for trade in Asia,” remembered Annie. “Captain Chen and I were on the road constantly visiting clients and stakeholders. Being in Shanghai allowed us to meet, respond, and collaborate with clients regularly and gather first-hand market information. Our presence assured them that the RMI was an international player committed to supporting the Chinese market.”

By 2018 the RMI Registry was the fastest growing flag in China. Today more than 900 Chinese owned vessels are flagged in the RMI. As of 2023, China was the largest ship owning country by tonnage, with mergers and acquisitions creating some of the largest large-scale state-owned shipping enterprises as well as significant shipbuilding capacity.

“There has been a real nexus of capability, capacity, and services in Shanghai and across China,” said Captain Chen. “The Chinese ship building industry is increasing capacity for liquefied natural gas (LNG), ultra-large container vessels, and luxury cruise ships.

At the same time Shanghai continues to be a major contributor in ship financing and ship management.”

With the globalization of China’s shipping industry, the Shanghai office plays an important role as a link between China and the rest of the world in both shipping and non-shipping sectors. Because of significant global investment in China, the Shanghai office works closely with both corporate and maritime clients. Close working relationships with other IRI offices across the continents offer clients access to expertise in China and beyond. As a nexus of shipping, the Shanghai office continues to adapt to market trends, often participating in international discussions with global shipowners and operators to support the transition to green technology.

“Chinese shipowners are highly interested in regulations surrounding the sustainability of global shipping and many have begun actively optimizing their fleet structure,” noted Captain Chen, who helps facilitate information sharing between the RMI Maritime Administrator’s delegation at the International Maritime Organization and Chinese shipowners. “We see numerous shipowners building and delivering dual-fuel ships, as well as increased maturity of manufacturing and capability in the area of electric and battery power.”



As a center for international trade and the global shipping industry, Captain Chen and Annie see the Shanghai office as a critical support office for the future.

“Many global stakeholders are located in Shanghai, and coupled with the expansion of ship building capabilities, support services, insurance, and ship management companies, there is no place like it in the world,” noted Annie. “Shanghai will continue to play a major role in client services and support for owners and operators of RMI-flagged vessels calling in China and RMI registered business entities doing business in China.”

Hans Krijger’s Two Decades of Perspective



As Hans Krijger celebrates his 20th anniversary at International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI) he is struck by how much the industry has changed in the last two decades. Hans joined IRI in 2004 as a Nautical Inspector after nearly 15 years as a maritime engineer and superintendent. He helped formally establish IRI’s Roosendaal office, which he now oversees as General Manager. In addition to running the office, Hans acts as a key link between technical and marine safety teams, working to build relationships between nautical inspectors, owners and ship managers, and external stakeholders such as port State control (PSC) authorities and Classification Societies.

“The high degree of knowledge and complexity required both on board and on shore to operate ships is very intense compared to 20 years ago. The industry is asking seafarers to perform in this complex environment, while also squeezing the time they have to train, apprentice, and learn,” said Hans. “Owners/operators need partners today in a way that they never have before; it’s not an industry where you can operate on your own.”

Building quality relationships to support owners and operators of Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)-flagged vessels as they continue to navigate this increasingly complex environment has been the focus of Hans’ time at IRI.

“It was exciting to be a part of the grand vision,” noted Hans, who as the first in-house nautical inspector, transitioned to build out the nautical inspector training program for the Registry. That grand vision, first described to Hans by IRI President Bill Gallagher and retired United States Coast Guard (USCG) Rear Admiral Robert North, was to have the highest-quality fleet in the world,

with a reputation for strong technical support and service. Hans remembers the novelty of such a vision.

“Twenty years ago, the industry scarcely recognized the value and impact of quality programs like the USCG’s QUALSHIP 21 initiative,” said Hans. “We were one of the first flags focused on striving for quality in all aspects of safe vessel operation. For two decades we’ve learned, adapted, and grown with owners and operators of RMI-flagged vessels as the regulatory environment has changed. Because of the increased complexity of rules and requirements on board, quality today requires a higher level of knowledge, experience, and support than ever before. It’s not something someone can learn overnight.”

With the support of senior leadership, Hans took hold of the nautical inspector training program, supporting the expansion of in-house nautical inspectors as the safety inspection program decentralized. Today, the fleet operations team is decentralized with regional nautical inspectors, training programs, and resources that continue to work closely with PSC authorities and Classification Societies to identify trends that could be addressed through training and technical support.

“Nautical inspectors are often the face of the flag State, going on board to not only inspect and verify vessel compliance, but also to be a resource for the crew,” said Hans. “We recognize that crew often feel limited, with quick turnaround times, and increased pressure to perform and comply quickly. Our in-house inspectors recognize this when they board a vessel and reach out with a goal to support and assist. We want to build a strong relationship through trust and respect, creating a culture of support and teamwork.”

RMI flag State inspections occur at least annually, with nautical inspector training seminars and sessions happening frequently throughout the world to keep pace with technological advancements and trends. Thanks to those inspections and the technical support provided to owners/operators, the RMI is the only flag in the world to achieve 20 consecutive years on the USCG’s QUALSHIP 21 roster. Innovation is one way to remain at the top.

“Right now, we’re working on a training program with engine manufacturers to target inspections of dual-fuel engines,” said Hans. “As these engines roll out, our nautical inspectors will need hands-on training not only on safe equipment operation, but

(continued on page 26)

Rob Lomas: Sparking Connections



“The input and information provided by shipowners is highly valuable as conventions and codes are developed and interpreted. Fortunately, the RMI Registry is interested in that input as part of the regulatory process,” said Rob. “Initially I had a lot of meetings over coffee, building relationships through informal discussions, and creating opportunities for people to share ideas and connect,” he continued. As a connector of people and organizations, Rob naturally moved into a business development role within IRI, building connections and relationships that became essential as the pandemic slowed in-person meetings and travel.

“Going from discussions over coffee to virtual platforms was a big change,” Rob remembered. “Thankfully, the groundwork was already there, and we were able to bridge stakeholder engagement with these digital platforms.”

During his tenure at IRI, Rob continued to build connections between people. Outside of the organization, Rob served as Chair of the Associate Members Committee for the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO) for six years, supported the development of hazardous cargo regulations at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and worked on the anti-corruption convention.

“I see this type of work as information sharing in its most beneficial form. Most flag States don’t get involved in this type of work, but corruption plays a role in safe and efficient vessel operation. We quickly saw that the Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) appreciate this type of flag State involvement,” Rob noted. “We actively encourage reporting to the Marine Anti-Corruption Network (MACN); it has been fascinating to see how things have changed even in the last three or four years.”

While in his business development role, Rob developed an efficient system to share information between business development team members—tracking client history and interactions for transparency across the offices. “Rob is the best kind of colleague—one that always looks to share information and find new ways to connect people,” said Simon Bonnett, Chief Maritime Officer, who works alongside Rob in the London office. “Rob’s forthcoming and engaging communication style, focused on sharing, encourages team

(continued on page 26)

(Hans Krijger’s Two Decades of Perspective, continued from page 24)

also any potential concerns or issues. We need to stay prepared, educated, and available to RMI owners/operators,” he continued.

Hans travels frequently to support fleet operations, present at seminars, and globally to meet with PSC representatives and authorities. He works diligently to link offices, inspectors, and departments to ensure that the Registry’s global inspection team members are trained and briefed on the latest developments. He credits his family’s flexibility for his ability to support the global team.

“My family understands my passion for the work I do and the people I work with,” noted Hans. “Their flexibility is what allows me

to travel around the world building relationships, supporting team members, and strengthening our efforts worldwide. I couldn’t have done this for the last two decades without them,” he concluded. As Hans continues to support safe vessel operation and advance nautical inspector competencies, Bill Gallagher reflected on what Hans has helped accomplish in the last twenty years:

“Hans has been instrumental in building relationships that support our vision of a high-quality fleet. From PSC representatives to partnerships with Classification Societies and coworkers, Hans connects with diverse people and teams to strengthen the RMI-flagged fleet and raise the standards of safe vessel operation industry-wide.”

(Rob Lomas: Sparking Connections, continued from page 25)

members to engage with each other and find innovative solutions,” he continued.

“If I have knowledge, there is no point in keeping it to myself,” Rob responded. “I like having an open-door policy, you never know what someone will be able to spark off of an idea or discussion.” That ability to communicate, collaborate, and help people spark ideas from each other will serve Rob as he looks to his next chapter and continues to serve his community. After retirement, Rob plans to continue working on the Members Code of Conduct

Committee in his community, helping guide standards in public life for elected Local Councillors. He’s also tinkering with the idea of exploring his passion for railways and railroad preservation projects.

“The industry is rapidly changing and innovating. People like Rob are special to the industry, and represent the best of us,” said Bill. “We’ve all learned from him and become better leaders because of his open communication style – he will certainly be missed,” concluded Bill.

RMI’s Marine Safety Poster Provides Visual Reminder to Put Safety First

To support safe vessel operation, the RMI Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) issues Marine Safety Advisories designed to raise awareness of safety or environmental issues. As a visual reminder to put safety first, the Administrator has created the below posters for use on board. Please feel free to download and distribute these posters.

Click Here for Marine Safety Advisories

Click Here for Yacht Safety Advisories

Visit the [Marine Safety Posters](#) page on our website for additional information.



Attention Seafarers
the Republic of the Marshall Islands
Maritime Administrator reminds you to put
SAFETY FIRST

PREVENT FATAL FALLS
FALLS are the #1 RISK TO LIFE on board

Ask yourself:
"Where is my harness, lifeline,
or fall arrest equipment?"

**ALWAYS USE
FALL PROTECTION**



If in doubt:
STOP, ASK, and REPORT.



Attention Yacht Crew
the Republic of the Marshall Islands
Maritime Administrator reminds you to put
SAFETY FIRST

PREVENT FATAL FALLS
FALLS are the #1 RISK TO LIFE on board

Ask yourself:
"Where is my harness, lifeline,
or fall arrest equipment?"

**ALWAYS USE
FALL PROTECTION**



If in doubt:
STOP, ASK, and REPORT.

OFFICE RELOCTAIONS

Our **Houston, Piraeus** (Corporate), and **Roosendaal** offices have moved. Please update your records per below. Phone, fax, and email remain unchanged. For more information, please visit our [worldwide offices page](#) on our website.



HOUSTON
580 Westlake Park Blvd Suite, 750
Houston, Texas 77079
United States of America
houston@register-iri.com



PIRAEUS (corporate)
47-49 Akti Miaouli Street
Livanos Building, 2nd Floor
185 36 Piraeus, Greece
piraeus@register-iri.com



ROOSENDAAL
Aanwas 53
4704 SC Roosendaal
The Netherlands
roosendaal@register-iri.com

- QUALSHIP 21
VESSELS
- E-ZERO
VESSELS
- PSC DETENTION
TRENDS
- FLEET
HIGHLIGHTS
- PRESS
RELEASES
- UPCOMING
EVENTS



Locations marked on the map include: Vancouver, Long Beach, Baltimore/Annapolis, Houston, Ft. Lauderdale, New York, Washington, DC/Reston, Piraeus, Hamburg, London, Zurich, Geneva, Istanbul, Dubai, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, Dalian, Qingdao, Seoul, Tokyo, Busan, Imabari, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei, Manila, Singapore, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

www.register-iri.com | info@register-iri.com

[CONTACT US](#)[VIEW ALL OFFICES](#)

