

# IRClass targets Asian owners

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Singapore

With a flurry of new offices being opened across Asia, the Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass) is actively seeking to add Asian ship-owners as part of a drive to expand its books.

IRClass, which revealed last week that it was in the process of opening new offices in Indonesia and the Philippines, is hoping the addition of non-Indian owners will help it meet its target of expanding the size of its register by three million gross tons this year.

The society, which became a full member of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) in 2010 and obtained European Union recognition in 2016, is also hoping to get “recognised organisation” (RO) status in other Asian countries that it currently has representative offices in, such as Singapore.

IRClass managing director Suresh Sinha tells TradeWinds that not having RO status in Singapore, despite having a presence in the city-state since 2002, has precluded it from being able to classify Singaporean-flag ships.

“We are doing all the big flags except Singapore,” he said. “We have had several meetings with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore so we hope that this can be done soon.”

IRClass currently enjoys recognitions from 36 maritime administrations across the globe, and Sinha says it is working on another 16, including Cyprus, Greece, Indonesia, the Philippines and Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia.

Approximately 20% of the 1,700 ships totalling 12.7 million gross tons that are under full class with IRClass are flagged outside of India under 24 different flag administrations.



**SURESH SINHA:** Managing director of the Indian Register of Shipping Photo: Jonathan Boonzaier