

Indian Register Class aims at minimising risks and optimising vessels' performance

Since the opening of its Greek office in 2010, the Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass) has actively engaged with the Greek shipping market to offer its full range of classification services.

According to Mr. Suresh Sinha, Managing Director of the Indian Register of Shipping the Greek maritime market is important to IRClass and we focus our services in this region due to the large concentration of ship owners.

Mr. Sinha spoke exclusively to ELNAVI and told that the IRClass looks forward to establish strong links with the Greek shipping community and build on the business relationships which the team in Piraeus has developed.

- Can you give us a profile of Indian Register of Shipping?

- Indian Register of Shipping is a member of IACS since 2010 and operates 44 years as a non-profit company and non-governmental autonomous organization.

The headquarters are in Mumbai operating 26 offices in India and 24 offices outside India. The worldwide network of India Register of Shipping expands.

Today the Indian Register of Shipping classed fleet stands at 13m gt of which 10m gt of the total dwt represent Indian flagged ships. The Indian Register of Shipping classed fleet is continuously expanding the last years.

We are also approved from the most important flags and administrations. In total 41 flag states have recognized our organization and the chairman of Indian Register of Shipping has been appointed as vice-chairman of IACS.

Finally, we meet the criteria of an E.U. approved R.O. and we have granted the E.C. accreditation. At the same time we work hard for our approval from the USCG.

- Describe your activities in the Greek shipping market.

-As we have mentioned before the Indian Register of Shipping internationally expands and since 2010 we have selected Piraeus as our 1st office in Europe.

We continue opening offices in London, Rotterdam and Istanbul and we plan to expand our offices in Europe.

In Piraeus we have established some local business which will further increase in the future.

Our class society operations are flexible and approachable at all levels aiming at the risk minimization and vessels' performance optimization without compromising quality.

We can also have competitive rates since we operate on a non-profit basis and we invest in the R&D activities, expansion of offices, new services and improving IT infrastructure.

-How do you face the new regulatory requirements of BWMS and sulphur cap 2020?

- We take very serious all the above requirements and rules which are going to have a tremendous impact in shipping.

We have issued guidelines of BWMS and we have upgraded our EU MRV and IMO DCS services.

We are working with all IACS committees for the safety of the new fuels (LFSO, LNG) and we are very active to issue guidelines on scrubber systems. We believe that the scrubbers are a commercial subject that makes sense only for newbuilding vessels not for the existing fleet. We also express our concerns how the IMO and EU will regulate in the future if many countries do not accept the scrubbers in their coastal waters.

-Describe the CSR activities of the Indian Register of Shipping.

- Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass) continues to engage in its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, developing a business practice in which success is measured not only by customer satisfaction but also by positive social impact. Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass) has actively and successfully engaged in numerous CSR initiatives as listed below:

In past 4 years (2016-19), Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass) has supported and provided various digital education tools like Computers, e-learning classrooms & basic infrastructure including furniture, ceiling fans, green boards & playground equipment to various schools: Vajreswari New English High School – 2016, Ulhas Parisar Prathishtan, Maharaj Ashram School – 2016, Shree Gadge Parisar Prathishtan Ashram School (Shahpur) – 2017, Datta Samant Madhyamik Vidyalaya – 2017, Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj School Dhamangaon – 2018, Shree Gadge Maharaj Ashram School, Valan – 2018, Tribal School at Parali – 2019, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar School, Shirole – 2019.

IRClass also fulfils its environment responsibilities by contributing and implementing renewable energy power through its Solar panel installations and waste water management system installed at its Head Office.

Regarding Education initiatives, IRClass has instituted Prizes for students in Law Courses in memory of our Director, late Mr. S. Venkiteswaran. The idea behind the awarding these prizes was to pay our tribute to late Mr. Venkiteswaran, who was an internationally acclaimed stalwart in the field of Maritime Law, but also to encourage law students to make their own mark in the legal field. IRClass has been awarding the prizes for the past 4 years which include a citation and a cash prize to the students securing highest and second highest marks across 16 subjects of Mumbai University's Law course.



Mr. Suresh Sinha, Managing Director of the Indian Register of Shipping with Mr. Stefanos Papandreou editor of ELNAVI