

# New legislation in Belize

Capt. Encarnacion Samaniego, director of the Belize Registry (stand 658), heads a delegation of registrars, representatives and lawyers at Posidonia “to increase our representation and registration offices in Europe and in particular Greece,” he says.

In recent years the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (Immarbe) has embarked on a clean-up campaign to comply with international standards and as a result has improved quality as well as tonnage with the registration of newbuildings.

In October 2009 Immarbe gained ISO 9001-2008 certification. In addition, the Registry has always been a supporter of the IMO voluntary audit which will take place in October of this year.

“We want to maintain quality because this is very important to the Registry, to keep our QualShip 21 performance of four consecutive years and improve the rate of detentions in worldwide Port State Control,” says the head of Immarbe.

The Registry is promoting its new shipping legislation that will be passed in the next couple of months. This new merchant marine law will create incentives and update the registration of naval mortgages in Belize, an innovation for the Registry, and one that officials hope



*Immarbe stand with Capt. Encarnacion Samaniego (left) and Annette Garel (centre)*

will bring in much new tonnage.

During the last financial year (ended March 31), registration of vessels was up 6.39% to 831 vessels – including 26 newbuildings - totalling 1,739,968gt, up 9.32% compared to a year previously, reports Belize Deputy Registrar Annette Garel.