

Posidonia Cup reflects power of Greek shipping

This year's Posidonia Cup, sponsored again by Lloyd's Register, launched Posidonia 2008, the Greek celebration of shipping and the sea, on May 30, 2008.

With 67 yachts taking part, this year's event reflected the strength and growth of Greek shipping. Over 500 crew members took part, including two Olympic medal winners.

In 2008 a new category named 'classic yachts' was added to the event, allowing traditional boats of rare beauty (such as *Aello*— see article on page 11) to participate. Lloyd's Register Chairman, David Moorhouse, fired the starting gun from the Hellenic Offshore Racing Club's committee boat.

"The Posidonia Cup 2008 was a great sailing competition and

a good warm-up for the China Olympic Games," said Sofia Bekatorou, the Athens 2004 gold medallist, skipper of *Aegeas* which finished fourth in the Performance Division under the colours of Korean shipbuilder STX. Bekatorou's husband and fellow Olympian Andreas Kosmatopoulos was also a crew member for the team.

"We are particularly conscious of the historic maritime tradition of Greece," said Apostolos Poulouvasilis, Area Manager, Marine Business for Greece, East Mediterranean and Adriatic,

Lloyd's Register. "At Posidonia – the biggest and most significant of global shipping exhibitions – we have sponsored the Yacht Racing Cup since 2004. Lloyd's Register also offers ongoing annual support to the Hellenic Offshore Racing programme through the exclusive sponsorship of a participating boat. Additionally, because Lloyd's Register is acutely conscious of its Corporate Social Responsibility in Greece, it is planning a number of initiatives

to support cultural events in Greece, especially those incorporating the elements of a 'noble contest'."

Alan Gavin, Marine Business Director, Lloyd's Register, said: "We are honoured to be able to contribute to the success of this unique event which is a fitting celebration of the Hellenic maritime tradition." Lloyd's Register confirmed that it would be sponsoring the next Posidonia Cup in 2010.



The 2008 Posidonia Cup featured 67 yachts

Flag state spotlight

IMMARBE issues new Code of Standards for yachts in commercial or private use.



At Posidonia 2008, the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) introduced its new Codes of Standards for yachts, in commercial or private use, which came into effect from June 1, 2008. The Director General, Mr. Angelo Mouzouropoulos, proudly stated that his Administration sought to provide ease of use, clarification and enhancement to standards that already exist. The three codes developed cover the following:

- yachts of 24 metres and above and 500 gt and over but less than 5,000 gt (super yachts);
- yachts of 24 metres and above and less than 500 gt (large yachts);

- yachts of less than 24 metres (small yachts).

Owners can now benefit from standards appropriate to their yacht and additionally, owners of super yachts and large yachts will benefit from the technical requirements of the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) Large Commercial Yacht Code (LY2) which has been incorporated into the new Codes.

In order to produce the most practical standards, IMMARBE consulted with a working group that comprised a multitude of specialisations within the industry and, as such, were able to incorporate regulations such as CAP 437 for helicopters.

The new standards are intended to give the safest construction and operational practices while not detracting from the overall aesthetics of a yacht's design.

As one of IMMARBE's Recognised Organisations, and the leader in the classification of yachts, Lloyd's Register is pleased to work together with owners during the design stages to build yachts to IMMARBE's Code of Standards.

For more details relating to these Codes of enhanced standards and other information about yacht registration at IMMARBE, please visit www.immarbe.com/yachts.html