

E-Newsletter

MARITIME MATTERS

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE REGISTRY OF BELIZE



MAIDEN EDITION

Charting a New Course

We are delighted to present the maiden edition of the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize E-Newsletter, Maritime Matters designed to be a beacon of information and insight for all stakeholders in the maritime industry. In this inaugural issue, we aim to provide valuable updates, industry trends, and expert perspectives to keep you abreast of the latest developments.

As we embark on this journey together, our commitment to excellence, transparency, and innovation in ship registration remains at the forefront. Through this newsletter, we look forward to fostering a sense of community among ship owners, operators, and maritime professionals, and to sharing knowledge that will drive progress and success in the ever-evolving maritime landscape.

Join us as we set sail on this exciting venture, dedicated to serving the needs and interests of our esteemed stakeholders. Thank you for your continued support, and we hope you find this newsletter to be a valuable resource in your maritime matters.

WORLD MARITIME DAY

It is indeed a fitting occasion to launch our inaugural newsletter during the month of September, as we also celebrate World Maritime Day. This convergence of events allows us to highlight the importance of the maritime industry and showcase our commitment to promoting excellence within the field.

World Maritime Day serves as a reminder of the crucial role that the maritime sector plays in global trade, transportation, and sustainable development. By launching our newsletter during this significant month, we not only commemorate the achievements of the industry but also reaffirm our dedication to



26-September-2024

upholding the highest standards of professionalism and service within the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize.

As we embark on this new endeavour, let us use this opportunity to connect with our stakeholders, share valuable insights, and foster collaboration within the maritime community. Together, we can navigate the challenges ahead and steer towards a brighter future for the Registry.

Enhancing Maritime Excellence

In a dedicated pursuit of maritime excellence, the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize is actively engaged in fortifying standards of compliance within the maritime industry. These proactive measures are not only aimed at ensuring strict adherence to regulatory frameworks but also at safeguarding the reputation and integrity of our registry.

The recent advancements encompassed achieving maximum participation at the prestigious Posidonia exhibition, serving as a clear indicator of the transformative strides underway within the registry. Furthermore, plans are underway for a robust presence at the upcoming Sea Asia exhibition, presenting an invaluable opportunity to engage with key stakeholders in the Asian market. Additionally, strategic efforts are being directed towards expanding our network of designated offices in key locations to catalyse business development initiatives. These strategic moves highlight our unwavering commitment to fostering growth and excellence within the Registry.



(IMMARBE Delegation at Posidonia – June 2024)

In addition to these milestones, our heightened presence at International Maritime Organization (IMO) meetings and workshops underscores our dedication to staying at the forefront of industry developments and regulatory compliance. Moreover, we have recently launched a series of initiatives focused on fortifying our fleet capabilities and minimizing detentions, further solidifying our commitment to operational excellence and sustainable growth within the maritime sector. These concerted efforts exemplify our proactive approach towards enhancing standards and fostering innovation in the industry.



(Sanction workshop hosted by the United States)

As part of our comprehensive initiative, staff engagement in training workshops and meetings on IMSAS, AML compliance, sanction protocols, and LRIT training has been prioritized. This investment in continuous learning and development underscores our unwavering commitment to equipping our team with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate complex regulatory landscapes and uphold the highest standards of operational integrity. By fostering a culture of continuous improvement and expertise enhancement, we are poised to elevate our performance and ensure sustained success in the dynamic maritime industry.

Recognizing Excellence

Celebrating top three performing Deputy Registrars

In acknowledgment of exceptional performance and unwavering dedication, we are delighted to showcase the top three Deputy Registrar (DR) achievers who have excelled in their positions and made substantial impacts on our Registry. These outstanding individuals have exemplified unmatched dedication, professionalism, and expertise.

We express our sincere congratulations for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions. Their unwavering commitment and exceptional performance not only inspire others but also reaffirm our dedication to nurturing a culture of excellence and high achievement within our Registry.

While we applaud these top performers, we also recognize the collaborative efforts of our entire team of Deputy Registrars, whose relentless efforts and commitment propel our ongoing achievements. Congratulations once more to our top-performing Deputy Registrars for their exceptional dedication and remarkable contributions to our organization.



Mr. Mark Guang Ning
Designated Office
CHINA



Mr. Erik DE Koning
Designated Office
ROTTERDAM



Mr. Young Mo-Gu
Designated Office
KOREA



Championing Seafarers

A tribute to unsung heroes of global trade

Seafarers are the unsung heroes of global trade, tirelessly working behind the scenes to keep the world's economy afloat. Their work is not only physically demanding but also mentally challenging, as they must cope with long periods of isolation, unpredictable weather and the pressures of operating in a highly regulated environment. Despite these challenges, seafarers continue to perform their duties with dedication and professionalism.



Recognizing the indispensable role of seafarers, IMMARBEL has remained steadfast in honouring their contributions and prioritizing their well-being.



This year we were proud to partake in two activities organized in partnership with the Women in Maritime Association Caribbean (WiMAC), Belize Chapter. Representatives from both IMMARBEL and WiMAC Belize Chapter boarded the vessel Carnival Dream and organized a marathon. This joint effort exemplified our shared commitment to shedding light on the significance of seafarers and fostering a healthy, supportive environment within the maritime sector.



The marathon saw maritime professionals, seafarers, and supporters from diverse backgrounds come together to not only tackle a physical challenge but also symbolize unity, fortitude, and resilience—qualities synonymous with the seafaring profession.

IMMARBEL remains dedicated to advocating for seafarers' rights, enhancing their working conditions, and honouring their pivotal role in driving the global economy forward.



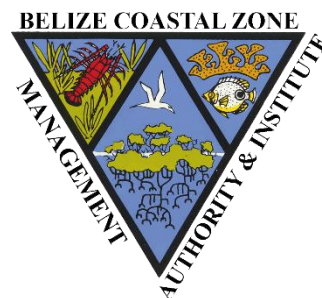
Belize Establishes Maritime Technical Committee

The Maritime Technical Committee (MTC) received approval from Cabinet based on meetings held the 26th and 27th of February 2024, for the national strategy to address IMO Instrument Code III. This approval marks a significant step in enhancing Belize's maritime and port operations.

The MTC plays a crucial role in maritime security, safety, and environmental protection. The committee is tasked with fortifying the responsibilities of each entity involved, while also focusing on optimizing the human element and efficiently managing technological resources, materials, and finances.

With the recent Cabinet approval, the remit of the MTC has been expanded, along with its membership. The updated committee now includes IMMARBE, Belize Port Authority, Belize Coast Guard, the Department of the Environment, the Ministry of the Blue Economy, the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI), and the Belize Tourism Board (BTB). This broadened membership reflects a commitment to incorporating diverse perspectives and expertise in the planning and execution of sustainable management and protection of Belize's marine resources.

This strategic expansion underscores Belize's dedication to advancing its maritime capabilities and ensuring that all aspects of maritime and environmental stewardship are comprehensively addressed. The MTC's enhanced role will be pivotal in guiding the nation's adherence to international maritime standards and promoting sustainable practices in Belize's maritime sector.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT



Meet our Staff

Know our Management Team

At the heart of IMMARBE lies talented and dedicated employees. Our management team is instrumental in steering the Ship registry toward success. In our feature newsletter, we are pleased to introduce some of the key members of our team, giving the opportunity to learn more about the individuals who lead with vision, integrity and passion.

By getting to know our IMMARBE employees, you'll have a better understanding of the diverse expertise that guides us forward. Each employee plays an important role in navigating the complexities of a Ship Registry. The unique strengths and backgrounds are critical to our shared success.

On assumption of Senior Deputy Registrar (Acting) role, a brief bio of Mrs. Valarie Lanza's career and educational background was shared in a press release. You can view that release [here](#).



Mrs. Valarie Lanza
Senior Deputy Registrar (Acting)

Ms. Felicia Vargas
Registration Manager & Deputy Registrar



Over the past 20 years in the maritime industry, I've navigated challenges and triumphs with each role I have held in the international flag state of Belize. Each voyage was an opportunity for me to contribute innovative ideas for the development of the flag state. Seeing these projects unfold while I contribute to reshaping the Belize flag state for future generations has been fulfilling. Some of the voyages had rough seas and each challenge faced helped me grow into the maritime professional I am today. One of the most rewarding aspects of my journey has been mentoring the younger generation who are seeking to build careers in the maritime sector. Their enthusiasm and determination ignite my own passion for the field.

Today, I continue to navigate the waves of changes aspiring to endure and evolve as an established woman in the maritime industry. As a WiMAC member, I will keep on inspiring and supporting others to become just as vested. I am privileged to share my experiences in innovation and accepting changes. These are the key instruments needed to chart a course of making a difference in the sector and Belize.

Eng. Eduardo Simon
Technical Manager



Since taking on the role of Technical Manager, my primary and ongoing goal has been to shift away from the traditional concept of "The Boss" and foster a collaborative, team-oriented environment rooted in a horizontal leadership model. This approach empowers each member of the department to take responsibility and be accountable for their performance. By embracing this structure, we have successfully minimized errors, enhanced collaboration, and ensured that recognition is given where it is truly deserved.

I am particularly pleased when my team evaluates the quality of work we deliver, as their support is essential to our success. I actively encourage constructive feedback because I believe there is always room for improvement. My leadership style is grounded in leading by example, sharing my expertise, and cultivating a culture of mutual learning. Knowledge transfer is fundamental to our growth, both personally and professionally, and it fosters a deeper sense of responsibility toward the registry. When my team sees me actively supporting them, they are inspired to "pay it forward."

One of the biggest challenges I am addressing is promoting a strong sense of corporate belonging. While this is a multifaceted task, I believe it is essential to take the first steps and lead others toward this shared goal.

Mr. Edmond Staine, MPM
Seafarer Manager



My message is one of hope: individuals should strive to excel in their chosen path, recognizing the transformative power they possess to shape their future and drive positive change.

I grew up in the Port area of Belize City. My community knew two things; the port existed, and big ships would dock. Many of my neighbours were stevedores, employed to load and unload ships. My own voyage in the Maritime sector began in a support role. At that time, I didn't know that I was embarking on a journey so dynamic and in a sector so significant.

Now, I take great pride in being a manager at the Belize ship registry. Having the responsibility of implementing international conventions, knowing the potential of enhancing the direction of our sector is something I treat with utmost seriousness, and it brings great fulfilment.

Belize is advancing in the maritime sector, introducing new requirements and conventions. This will lead to the development of additional compliance programs, benefiting our country economically and driving the creation of new regulations, policies, and implementation strategies. These advancements will significantly shape the trajectory of our sector.

Mrs. Vanessa Gomez
Accountant



My journey began in the Technical Department as a Technical Officer, where I gained valuable experience before transitioning into roles such as Seafarer Officer and Financial Officer III.

In 2015, I became the Accountant, responsible for supporting budget and forecast activities, overseeing assigned tasks for subordinate accounts, and preparing for audits. I also coordinate the accounting policies and procedures within my department.

Additionally, I have received extensive training in International Financial Reporting Standards, International Standards on Auditing, and I am a certified ISO 9001:2015 Internal Auditor.

Throughout my career at IMMARBE, I have continuously contributed to the financial and operational success of our organization.

Mrs. Kenisha Allen
Administrator



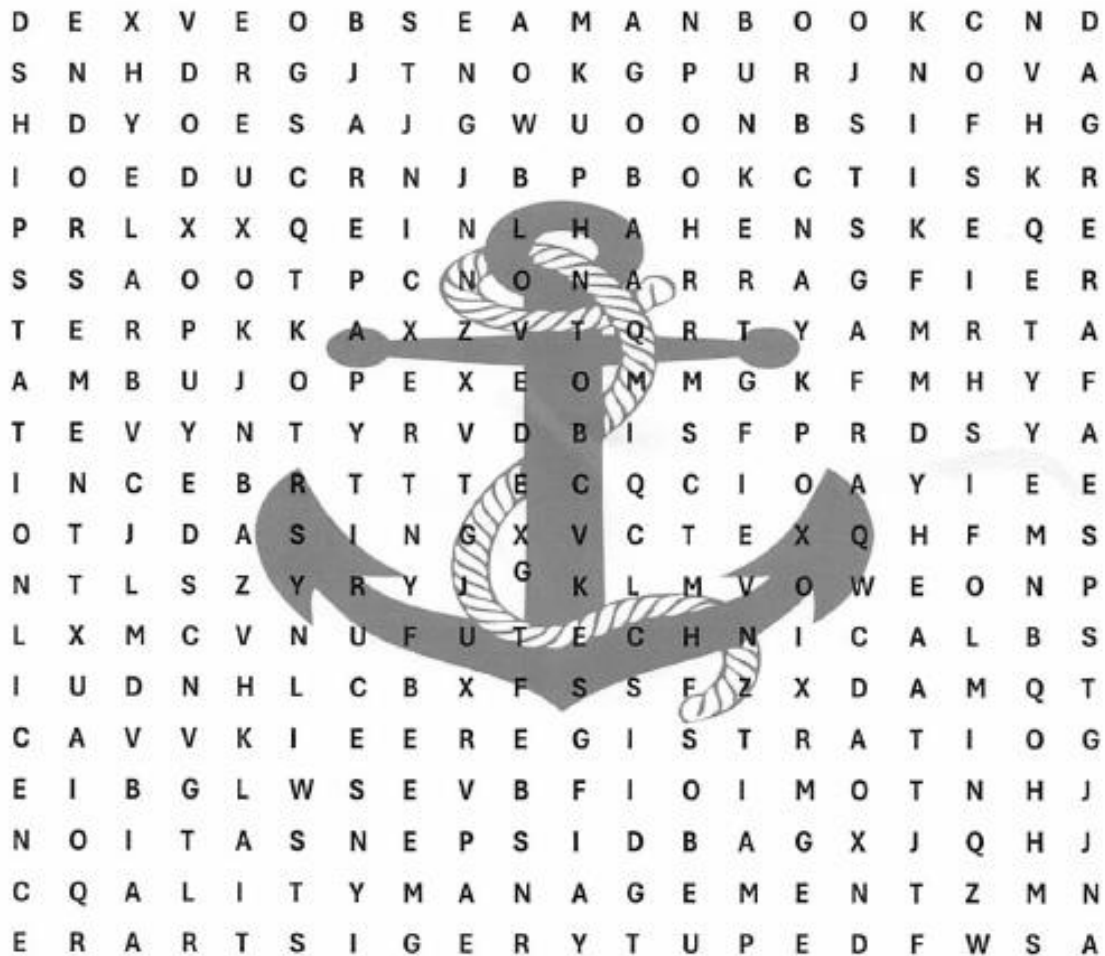
Although, I am fairly new to the Friendly Flag of Quality, I'm dedicated and committed to achieving IMMARBE's objective to be known as a fair employer and driving an office culture that fosters cohesion within the workplace. It's essential for us to celebrate and acknowledge each other's efforts.

Collaborating with these impassioned managers and discovering facets of the maritime sector has been quite an experience. I've spent the past year strengthening my administrative proficiency with learning more about the maritime sector. I am thankful for the opportunities I have had to meet dedicated maritime professionals and be guided by their expertise.

My enthusiasm lies in the learning prospects. As we strive for implementing sustainable practices, and cultivating advancement, continuous learning is important. Our industry requires safety and global coordination, staying informed and knowledgeable ensures operational efficiency and fosters progress.

Advocating for gender equality and empowering women to confidently excel alongside their male counterparts is another key priority for me. In May 2024, I had the privilege of being inducted as a member of the WiMAC Belize Chapter and was sworn in as Vice-President on the General Council. I am truly grateful for these opportunities and eager to continue learning and growing in this role.

Dive in, discover hidden terms from the world of ship registry and sharpen your skills as you go. Ready to navigate your way through these words? Anchors aweigh!



BUNKER

DEPUTY REGISTRAR

DISPENSATION

ENDORSEMENT

FISHERIES

IMO

INVOICE

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

REGISTRATION

SEAFARER

SEAMBOOK

SECURITY PAPER

SHIP STATION LICENSE

TECHNICAL

TONNAGE



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