

E-Newsletter

MARITIME MATTERS

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE REGISTRY OF BELIZE

Navigating IMMARBE's High Seas



As we near the close of 2024, it's the perfect time to celebrate the significant milestones and transformations that have defined our journey this year. This period has been marked by dynamic changes in our leadership, bringing a fresh perspective and renewed focus to our mission. With an emphasis on innovation, operational excellence, and strong leadership, we have successfully navigated challenges and embraced new opportunities. These strategic shifts have positioned us for sustainable growth. Let's take a moment to reflect on our achievements as we look forward to an even brighter future together!

Training remained a cornerstone of our efforts in 2024. A series of specialized programs equipped our employees with the skills and knowledge needed to adapt to industry demands. From technical upskilling to compliance workshops, our efforts have ensured that our team stays informed about regulatory changes and global trends, positioning us for continued success.

Additionally, our active participation in International Maritime Organization (IMO) committee meetings this year showcased our dedication to engaging with the global maritime community. These meetings allowed us to contribute to discussions on regulatory advancements, sustainability, and the future of the maritime industry. These experiences reinforced our reputation and provided valuable insights to refine our operations.

As we look back on 2024, we celebrate the progress made and express gratitude to our employees for their unwavering dedication. Together, we have laid the groundwork for an even more successful future.

Unlocking Opportunities for 2025

The dawn of 2025 brings exciting opportunities for our continued journey of innovation, growth, and strengthening our presence in the maritime industry. With initiatives like the introduction of e-certificates, the launch of the Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) program, and our anticipated participation in Sea Asia, the year promises to be transformative.

The rollout of e-certificates is set to reform document management and compliance procedures. These digital certifications will streamline processes and services for existing and prospective clients.

By leveraging technology, we aim to improve efficiency and transparency, setting new benchmarks for operational excellence

The Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) program, another significant initiative for 2025, will focus on equipping maritime professionals with specialized skills and knowledge. Designed to meet the highest international standards, this program will play a pivotal role in shaping a skilled and compliant workforce, ready to tackle the challenges of the evolving maritime landscape.

Charting New Waters Together at Sea Asia 2025



**VISIT US AT SEA ASIA
25-27 MARCH 2025**

The Belize delegation, featuring the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE), Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit (BHSFU), Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry (BCCAR), and Finance Belize, is gearing up to make a significant impact at Sea Asia 2025, one of the region's premier maritime events. This event presents a unique opportunity for us to showcase our capabilities, connect with industry leaders, and explore new avenues for collaboration.

Our delegation will highlight not only our achievements but also the investment opportunities that Belize has to offer. With its strategic position bridging Central America and the Caribbean, Belize is rich in untapped potential. Finance Belize and BCCAR will emphasize the country's attractive incentives for foreign investment, including tax exemptions and streamlined business registration processes.

IMMARBE and BHSFU will be on hand to promote competitive registration fees while showcasing our robust legal frameworks and efficient services tailored specifically for international maritime businesses. At Sea Asia 2025, IMMARBE aims to expand its client base by demonstrating Belize's compliance with

international maritime safety and environmental standards.

BHSFU, the primary authority responsible for regulating and overseeing Belize-flagged vessels engaged in fishing and related activities on the high seas, plays a crucial role in managing our valuable marine resources. Their presence at Sea Asia highlights Belize's commitment to balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship, as they represent Belize during Regional Fisheries Management Organization meetings.

Sea Asia offers an unparalleled platform for our Belize delegation to solidify our status as a key player in the global maritime industry. By leveraging our strategic location, investment-friendly policies, and commitment to sustainability, we are positioning Belize as the premier choice for maritime business and innovation.

As Sea Asia unfolds, we are confident in our ability to foster lasting partnerships and pave the way for a prosperous future. We invite you to visit the Belize stand at the exhibition to discover how we are making strides in excellence. Register [here](#) to set an appointment, share insights, and explore exciting opportunities for collaboration. Let's make this event unforgettable together!



Celebrating Excellence: IMMARBE Honors Top Deputy Registrars

IMMARBE is proud to once again recognize the top three Deputy Registrar (DR) achievers who have excelled in their roles and made substantial impacts within our Registry. These outstanding individuals have exemplified unparalleled dedication, professionalism, and expertise, setting a high standard for excellence in the maritime industry.

We are especially pleased to highlight that two of our honourees, Mr. Mark Guang Ning and Mr. Erik De Koning, have previously been recognized for their exceptional contributions. Their repeated outstanding performance not only underscores their individual excellence but also reflects their sustained commitment to our mission and values. Their dedication serves as an inspiring example for all within our organization.

IMMARBE extends warmest congratulations to our top three performing Deputy Registrars for their continuous outstanding accomplishments and invaluable contributions. Their unwavering dedication and exceptional performance not only motivate their peers but also reaffirm our commitment to fostering a culture of excellence and high achievement within our Registry.

While we celebrate these top performers, we also want to acknowledge the collaborative efforts of our entire team of Deputy Registrars. It is their relentless commitment and teamwork that propel our ongoing achievements and drive us towards our collective goals. Each member plays a vital role in our success, and it is this spirit of collaboration that strengthens our organization.

Once again, congratulations to our top-performing Deputy Registrars for their exceptional enthusiasm and noteworthy contributions to IMMARBE. Your hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed, and we look forward to seeing your continued impact as we navigate the future of maritime excellence together. Let us all strive to uphold the values of professionalism and commitment that define our Registry



Mr. Mark Guang Ning
Designated Office
CHINA



Mr. Erik DE Koning
Designated Office
ROTTERDAM



Mrs. Yoyo Wang
Designated Office
CHINA

IMMARBE's Annual Toy Drive

This holiday season, the dedicated employees of IMMARBE, the Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit (BHSFU), and generous local donors, including Caribbean Sprinter, came together to spread some much-needed "Christmas Cheer." This marks the second year that IMMARBE has organized an annual toy drive, rallying our community spirit of giving to bring joy to the students of Ephesus S.D.A. Primary School.



Employees of IMMARBE and BHSFU enthusiastically came together to support the holiday toy drive for Ephesus S.D.A. Primary School, demonstrating a strong community spirit. A diverse range of toys, including educational games, was donated to ensure every child received something special. Cash contributions facilitated the purchase of additional gifts and wrapping supplies, ensuring no student was left out. Employees also volunteered their time to sort, wrap, and distribute the gifts, creating a personalized and joyful experience. This collective effort not only spread holiday cheer but also reinforced the commitment of IMMARBE and BHSFU to uplifting their community. Thank you to all who donated and participated- you've truly made this season brighter.



Belizean High School Students Gain Hands on Experience in the Maritime Industry

In an initiative aimed to bridge the gap between education and employment, two Belizean secondary-level students are gaining valuable hands-on experience through on-the-job training program. This program allows the students an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in a professional environment while developing critical skills for future careers.

Over the Christmas holiday break, the students were assigned to various departments where they shadowed professionals, completed tasks and learned about the maritime industry firsthand.

During their training, they were exposed to a range of professional activities such as assisting with data entry, organizational tasks, learning about IMMARBE and BHSFU processes and participating in our regular activities.

As a key supporter of youth development in Belize, IMMARBE is dedicated to nurturing young talent and fostering a culture of learning. This initiative not only equips students with practical skills but also opens their minds to the exciting possibilities of a career in the maritime field. By providing these experiences, IMMARBE is helping to build a skilled workforce for the future and inspiring the next generation of maritime professionals.

Developments and Achievements in Belize's Maritime Sector

Belize Coast Guard celebrated their 19th Anniversary with Inauguration of Sector South Headquarters

The Belize Coast Guard marked its 19th anniversary in November with a historic milestone- the official inauguration of the Coast Guard Sector South Headquarters at the Port of Big Creek,

This significant development underscores the Belize Coast Guard's ongoing assurance to strengthening maritime security and enhancing its operational capabilities in Southern Belize.

The anniversary celebration brought together government officials, military leaders and community members.

The newly inaugurated headquarters is strategically located at Belize's principal deep-water port. It will serve as a critical hub for operations in the southern region, allowing for improved coordination.

This is a testament to growth and resilience. The new facility will ensure that the Belize Coast Guard continues its 19-year legacy of protecting Belize's waters and securing its maritime future.

You can read more of this achievement [here](#) from the Government of Belize Press Office.

Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit (BHSFU) represented Belize at ICCAT meeting November 2024.

A landmark achievement which has been in the making for the past five years came to fruition in November 2024.

Belize has benefitted from an increase in its bigeye tuna catch limit, rising from 1,603 tons to 1,956.33 tons, reflecting the growing involvement in sustainable fisheries.

You can read more about it from The Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit recently released December 2024 issue of [Quarterly Catch E-Newsletter](#).

IMMARBE Attends Countering DPRK Illicit Maritime Activities Symposium

We are proud to announce that Mr. Ryan Silva, from the Registration Department of IMMARBE, recently participated in a significant maritime industry symposium hosted by the U.S. Department of State, the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This event brought together private sector maritime stakeholders and Southeast Asian representatives to address the critical issue of illicit maritime activities linked to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The symposium served as a platform for government officials and maritime sanctions experts from the U.S., ROK, and Japan to discuss pressing topics such as DPRK oil smuggling, sanctions evasion, and the associated risks to the maritime industry. By engaging in these discussions, Mr. Silva was able to gain valuable

insights into enforcement actions and risk mitigation best practices that are essential for safeguarding the integrity of maritime operations.

The significance of IMMARBE's attendance at this symposium cannot be overstated. As IMMARBE continues to enhance its registration processes, the knowledge and perspectives shared during this event will directly inform our strategies to combat illicit activities that threaten the maritime sector. By understanding the challenges and innovations discussed by industry experts, IMMARBE will be equipped to implement more robust registration protocols that ensure compliance with international regulations and effectively identify potential risks.

Furthermore, the symposium emphasized the importance of public-private cooperation in curbing illegal coal and iron ore exports, as well as refined petroleum imports that violate United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions. By participating in this dialogue, IMMARBE reaffirms its commitment to fostering collaboration within the maritime community and ensuring that our registration processes contribute to global efforts to disrupt sanctions evasion activities.

As we move forward, the knowledge gained from this symposium will play a crucial role in strengthening our registration framework, enhancing our ability to serve stakeholders, and protecting the maritime industry from illicit threats. IMMARBE remains dedicated to excellence in all aspects of maritime regulation and looks forward to implementing the lessons learned from this important event.

IMMARBE's Publications

Stay updated by visiting our website!

IMMARBE encourages you to visit our official website to access the latest publications, including updated Merchant Marine Notices, advisories and circulars. These updates are essential for ensuring that vessels registered under Belize's flag—and those seeking registration—adhere to international standards of compliance and safety.

As part of its commitment to maritime and financial excellence, Belize as a country, has intensified its focus on compliance. This strategic initiative underscores the country's dedication to maintaining its reputation as trusted and responsible.

The updates which can be found on our website reflect IMMARBE's proactive approach to:

1. Ensuring that all vessels under the Belize flag meet stringent safety, operational, and environmental standards.
2. Strengthening oversight to address global maritime challenges, including substandard ships and vessels involved in sanctioned activities.

IMMARBE's publications are key tools for shipowners, operators, clients, Recognized Organizations and Deputy Registrars to stay informed about changes in regulations, safety guidelines, and enforcement measures.

Addressing Substandard Ships and Sanctions

In line with global efforts to eliminate substandard shipping, IMMARBE is implementing enhanced processes to identify and address non-compliant vessels.

This will prevent the operation of unsafe or environmentally harmful ships under the Belize flag.

Our aim is to certify that vessels linked to sanctioned entities are denied registration or delisted promptly.

Belize's renewed focus on compliance is a significant step toward enhancing our maritime registry. By ensuring that all registered vessels meet international standards, IMMARBE is reinforcing its commitment to safety, sustainability, and integrity in the global maritime sector.

Visit www.immarbe.com today to stay updated and ensure your vessel aligns with the latest requirements. Together, we can navigate toward a safer and more compliant maritime future.

GET TO KNOW OUR TEAM



Mr. David Guerra
Quality Assurance & Compliance Manager

As a new member of the management team, I am committed to prioritizing quality in our services at IMMARBE. Moving forward into 2025 and beyond, we will utilize ISO 9001 certification to ensure compliance with international safety standards, enhance our reputation, streamline processes, continuously improve performance, and meet stakeholder expectations. Our focus on quality will embed excellence into all operations, promoting safety, efficiency, and sustainability for the maritime community.



Ms. Lenora Bautista
Senior Registration Officer

My 23 years at IMMARBE have been a transformative journey of personal and professional growth. Starting as a part-time employee, I progressed through various departments, ultimately finding my passion in the Registration Department, which is central to vessel registration and requires a deep understanding of maritime regulations. My curiosity for the industry has only grown over the years. I prioritize staying informed about the factors affecting maritime and strive to inspire others to take pride in their roles. My time at IMMARBE has been more than just a career; it has been a calling, and I am proud to contribute to its legacy.



Mr. Anique Sabal
Senior Technical Officer

My journey into the maritime sector began with a fascination for marine pilotage, which opened my eyes to the broader opportunities within the industry. In 2018, I joined IMMARBE as a Technical Officer after earning my bachelor's degree in Nautical Science and Maritime Operations. My time at IMMARBE has been transformative, especially under the mentorship of Eng. Eduardo Simon, where I gained valuable insights into ship registries and compliance requirements. IMMARBE also supported my pursuit of a master's degree at the World Maritime University, further deepening my passion for the industry.

Looking ahead, I am excited about IMMARBE's future and the maritime sector, particularly with advancements in digitalization and stronger engagement with the International Maritime Organization (IMO). With initiatives like the Belize Maritime Technical Committee, I believe Belize is poised to become a significant player in the global maritime arena. IMMARBE is not just a workplace; it fosters growth, innovation, and meaningful contributions to Belize's maritime industry, and I am proud to be part of this journey.

Celebrating Excellence: Mrs. Charlette Stuart Named Employee of the Year

We are excited to announce that Mrs. Charlette Stuart, our dedicated Seafarer Officer, has been named Employee of the Year! With 24 years at IMMARBE, Charlette has shown incredible growth and commitment to the maritime industry.

Starting as a Filing Clerk, she quickly advanced to Communications Officer and gained valuable experience in the Registration Department. Charlette found her true calling in the Seafarer Department, where her dedication to continuous improvement and mentoring has made her a cornerstone of our team. In addition to her professional achievements, Charlette is known for her mentoring spirit. She generously shares her knowledge and expertise with her colleagues, fostering a collaborative and supportive work environment. Her positive attitude and approachable demeanour make her a valued member of the IMMARBE family.

Her journey from Filing Clerk to respected Seafarer Officer is an inspiring testament to her hard work and passion. As we celebrate her achievements, we look forward to her continued contributions to IMMARBE. Congratulations, Mrs. Stuart, on this well-deserved recognition! Thank you for embodying the values of IMMARBE.



FUN CORNER

By Oscar Fuentes, Office Assistant, Administration Department



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aloof

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