



“Seafarers at the core of shipping’s future”

Antigua and Barbuda offers a very reputable international ship registration destination. On the whitelist of most port State control regimes, Antigua and Barbuda is a respected quality flag preferred by shipowners worldwide.

In size, Antigua is within the top 20 largest flag state. There are over 20,000 seafarers serving the 700 ships in the Antigua registry. The pandemic has shown that seafarers are not only at the core of shipping’s future but also at the core of survival of humanity. It is no wonder, that ADOMS as the national maritime administration ensure that the welfare of the seafarers on its registry is kept at the top of their priority list. ADOMS ensures that seafarers are relieved in good time

during this pandemic by imposing strict requirements on the Managers for timely repatriation and they work with the seafarers, the trade unions, and companies to resolve wage dispute in a timely manner. ADOMS carries out port State control on visiting ships to ensure that the standards of Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) are maintained on them. In line with this commitment to seafarers’ well-being, the Antigua and Barbuda Port Welfare Committee (ABPWC) was established on 17 November 2015, as part of a world-wide initiative of the International Seafarers’ Welfare Assistance Network (ISWAN) funded by the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) Seafarers’ Trust. This is also in

compliance with the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 requirement for providing seafarers access to shore-based welfare facilities.

The Committee provides a forum, where representatives from organizations which deal with the welfare of seafarers, can meet to discuss and co-ordinate their actions to improve the welfare services and support made available to seafarers. The Committee meets regularly (at least 3 times per year) to discuss and resolve seafarers’ welfare issues with representatives from organizations such as the Port Authority, Labour Department, Trade Unions, Maritime Administration, ship owners, shipping agents and voluntary organizations.

The ABPWC can be contacted as below:



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Facebook page: Antigua and Barbuda Port Welfare Committee

World Maritime Day Theme 2021

“Seafarers: at the core of shipping’s future”

Message by Antigua Cruise Port (ACP)

Antigua Cruise Port (ACP), a part of the Global Ports Holding network, operates the main cruise port of Antigua & Barbuda.

Since the launch of operations in 2019, ACP has undertaken extensive works to transform the island nation into a major cruise destination despite the trials and risks presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we celebrate World Maritime Day under the theme “*Seafarers: At the Core of Shipping’s Future*”, we join the rest of the international maritime community to honor the role that seafarers play in this vital industry.

As the Cruise Port Operator in Antigua, we are direct beneficiaries of the work of thousands of crew members on board cruise vessels. Not only do they serve the cruise industry through their on-board services to cruise passengers and cruise vessel operations, but they also have a direct impact on the economy of Antigua and Barbuda. According to the

FCCA 2018 Economic Impact Study, crew members contributed over five million US dollars to the local economy between 2017 and 2018.

For many of us in this industry, COVID-19 has had a significant impact on our lives, livelihoods, and simple social pleasures that we have come to enjoy. Seafarers, too, have been similarly affected. Many have had to sacrifice and put their lives at risk so that we can continue to experience a certain level of normalcy – whether it is having a constant supply of imported goods on the supermarket shelves, or essential medical and other lifesaving commodities. These brave men and women also ensured that cargo and cruise ships continued to be serviced and remained ready to resume business.

Between July and September 2021, Antigua Cruise Port welcomed 2,858 passengers from 13 calls. This would not be possible without the work of many seafarers. Indeed, they are at the core of the shipping industry’s future and, as we prepare for increased business in the

coming months, we acknowledge the essential role that seafarers will play in the safe resumption and continued growth.

ACP has completed the 30-million-dollar 5th berth project, increasing the port’s maximum daily capacity from 10,000 to 16,000 passengers with a total of 5 berths. With this addition, the port can accommodate the largest cruise ships in the world. We now move our attention to the upland development and master plan for the Antigua Cruise Port, which includes the potential for development of products and services catering specifically to seafarers.

We note the difficulties ahead as we continue to adjust to the new realities of working through a pandemic. However, we remain focused on the opportunities presented and are excited about the future of cruising and the entire maritime industry.

Happy World Maritime Day!



ANTIGUA

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A&B joins in observing World Maritime Day theme: “Seafarers at the Core of Shipping’s Future”

In his message, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Secretary-General Kitack Lim has stated “This year’s World Maritime Day theme – *‘Seafarers: at the core of shipping’s future’* – is dedicated to the seafarers who have shown tremendous fortitude and determination in continuing to deliver global trade throughout this global crisis.”

The United Nations is conscious of this and has stated, “The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the professional-

ism and sacrifice of the two million seafarers who serve on the world’s merchant fleet. Shipping has continued to transport more than 80% of world trade, including vital medical supplies, food and other basic goods that are critical for the COVID-19 response and recovery.”

The Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services & Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) agrees with this statement. Antigua and Barbuda is dependent on sea trade and commerce to a very large extent to sustain life

on the islands. ADOMS also has approximately 700 ships on its register and over 20,000 active seafarers who serve on board these vessels.

With so much to do, the merchant navy offers a very attractive career path for the adventurous and those who do not want to tread the beaten path. The initial training and experience are, in most cases, provided free of cost by the ship owning companies. Not only does one spend time in practical and technical training but also in

learning essential life skills such as teamwork, resilience, and commitment. As an officer, the great responsibility of the safety of ship and cargoes, as well as the lives of the shipmates and protection of the environment, tend to rest on very young shoulders.

A job on board ships, trading internationally, provides an opportunity to visit distant and unusual lands at no cost. The wages earned are normally higher than similar professions ashore. Often the wages are tax-free and there are no associated costs for food, lodging and utility bills, all of which are paid for by the ship owners. Therefore, the potential to save money is very high.

Seafarers enjoy generous holidays as they remain away from

home for extended periods.

Shipping is a dynamic and thriving industry and, as such, there is a very high demand for skilled and experienced seafarers. The potential for further training and growth is very high. The specialist skills learnt at sea are highly transferable in the maritime industry. After a satisfactory career at sea, gaining unforgettable and invaluable experiences and memories, it is very possible to settle into a job ashore in maritime administration, ports, coastguard, ship repair, ship building, survey, etc.

A career at sea does involve being away from family and friends for long periods. This can be hard to get used to. A person must be ready to face the fury of nature in the form of

hurricanes and storms – as well as fires, explosions, piracy and sinking. Therefore, a career at sea is not for everyone and one must always weigh all the pros and cons before deciding on it.

ADOMS is staffed with very experienced maritime professionals who may be able to provide guidance to young persons wanting to take up a career at sea. ADOMS can be contacted at:

Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS), PO Box 1394, Corner of Popehead and Dickenson Bay streets, St. John's, Antigua; Tel: + 1 268 462 1272; Email: administration@abregistry.ag; Website www.abregistry.ag

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