

Mr. Wiernicki and dear guests,

Thank you for sharing this unique event with us.

As you heard from Mr. Wiernicki, this occasion has been arranged to present a special certificate to the 200<sup>th</sup> ship certified by the Green Award Foundation.

For the Green Award Foundation this is an important milestone and is expected to accelerate the recognition of the Green Award scheme, both where it concerns partnering incentive providers and participating ships.

*(Green Award)*

To give a little background, Green Award certification encourages a holistic approach and the implementation of best practice in shipping. It deals with a wide range of elements that address Safety, Quality and Environment.

Interwoven into these 3 main elements are the ship's crew, the management ashore and the hardware of the ship.

The certification is obtained by compliance with high but manageable survey requirements which are verified at both the shipowner or ship manager's office and onboard each individual vessel.

In return, many benefits are available to the shipowner such as tangible recognition for the high safety, quality and environmental standards attained ; charter preference for quality tonnage and other operational benefits.

The central role of the growing network of incentive providers must also be recognised as an essential part of the system and Green Award acknowledge their support with gratitude.

*(Continuous improvement)*

Operational and environmental standards are evolving and are not static.

Green Award and the participating shipowners, shore management and crew recognise these developments and are dynamic in their response.

Certification requirements are upgraded on a regular basis to keep abreast of developments in industry best practice, up and coming legislation and technological developments. This is implemented in as balanced and practical a manner as possible.

What is demonstrated is that enhanced performance is achieved through good ship management and not by complying with minimum standards alone.

In this way, continuous improvement is part of Green Award certification.

*(logo)*

Continuous improvement is also symbolised in the Green Award logo on which Poseidon and his trident are prominent.

Poseidon is gazing sternly at his environment, the sea. Through his requirements, represented by his trident, he safeguards the environment which is symbolised by the colour blue

The waves represent the dynamic character of Green Award and the working area, the sea.

## The 200<sup>th</sup> Green Award Certificate

Over the last few weeks we monitored which ship would become the 200<sup>th</sup> Green Award certified vessel. Without the ships or owners being aware of it themselves, we noticed a competition developing between the vessels, so to speak, as to which would become no. 200. Would it be a ship of Kristen Navigation, Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, American Eagle Tankers, Arcadia Shipmanagement, Novoship, Unicom or Thenamaris Ships Management.

Finally it became clear that the M/T SEOATH of Thenamaris Ships Management became the 200<sup>th</sup> Green Award certified vessel.

The SEOATH, her crew, shore management and owners have exemplified what the Green Award aims to promote – that is....., excellence in ship management and responsible, safe and environmentally-friendly ship operations.

Among a few other Greek shipping companies, Thenamaris was one of the first to join the Green Award scheme in the nineties. Since then, the Thenamaris office was audited regularly by the Green Award Foundation and gradually a significant amount of their vessels applied for Green Award certification, resulting in many (14) of their ships being certified today.

With pleasure I can say that we noticed within the Thenamaris organisation, both on shore and on board of the vessels, a strong drive towards continuous improvement.

A real achievement,..... congratulations.

This brings me to the subject continuous improvement. A subject that becomes more and more recognised as the back-bone of industry best practise.

Continuous improvement on all aspects, safety, quality and environment, is what both ABS and Green Award aims for, for many years.

Today this industry as a whole is navigating in this direction. Here I like to emphasise a bit more on a recently launched initiative within the tanker industry. The Poseidon Challenge.

This initiative was inspired in 2005 when INTERTANKO hosted its annual meeting in Athens. At that time, during a visit to Sunion Temple of Poseidon, the industry representatives launched this philosophical idea to revitalizing the pre-existing values of old seamanship and the ageless principles of the high seas, embedded in the faith of traditional mariners. It is about a common understanding, a personal enthusiasm and a belief, that can connect all parties working together to adhere to the practices and principles of the high seas.

The Poseidon Challenge is an *invitation* to all participants in the Chain of Responsibility to join INTERTANKO members and others in a sustained commitment to CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT. It is founded upon the principle that the *shared goals* of “zero accidents”, cleaner seas and the elimination of the sub-standard can best be achieved by voluntary, cooperative and self motivated efforts.

Green Award shares these aims and provides owners with an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to the highest standards and to continuous improvement.

*Speech, delivered by J.A.A.J. Fransen, Managing Director Green Award Foundation on the occasion of the hand over of the 200<sup>th</sup> Green Award Certificate, in Athens on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2006.*

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