

PRESS-RELEASE

Historic Visit of IMO Secretary-General to Maritime Training Institute, Powai

His Excellency Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization (IMO) visits Maritime Training Institute, Powai today

Mumbai, February 20, 2025: The Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI) and SCI Land and Assets Ltd (SCILAL) hosted His Excellency Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization (IMO) at the Maritime Training Institute (MTI), Powai. The event was attended by Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping, Dr. Malini V Shankar, VC of Indian Maritime University (IMU), senior officials from DGS, SCI, and the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, along with key maritime stakeholders from the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, shipping companies, associations and young cadets from various training institutes.

Capt. B. K. Tyagi, CMD, SCI & SCILAL, welcomed the Chief Guest and august gathering participating in the event both physically and virtually. He emphasized the significance of the event for the maritime industry, particularly seafarers and young cadets. He recalled last year's IMO theme of World Maritime Day, "Navigating the Future: Safety First," and this year's theme of, "Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity" emphasizing the need of maritime safety and environmental sustainability. Capt. Tyagi also noted that the Maritime Training Institute (MTI), Powai, is evolving into a center of excellence, focusing in world class education and sustainability. MTI's solar-powered plant symbolizes commitment to sustainability. He reiterated the Government of India's goal to enhance shipbuilding and Indian-flagged tonnage, supported by recent delegations to South Korea and Japan.

Dr. Malini V Shankar, Vice Chancellor, IMU, highlighted progress of IMU in maritime education and research since its establishment in 2008. With six campuses and 17 affiliated institutions, IMU offers a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and research programs, serving over 7,700 students. Dr. Shankar emphasized IMU's commitment to collaborating with industry and academia, aiming to be a key think tank for the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. The university also focuses on research in maritime technology, gender diversity, and inclusivity, solidifying its role in shaping India's maritime future.

In his address, the Director General of Shipping (DGS) highlighted India's position as the 3rd largest and fastest-growing economy, emphasizing the Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 and the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 to position India as a global maritime leader. He noted the government's support for the maritime sector through the Union Budget and outlined key initiatives like IOCE SMART, IMO projects, and the Green Shipping Policy. He also reflected on Dr. C.P. Srivastava's legacy as IMO Secretary-General, MTI Powai's alumni achievements, and the need for India to become a Center of Excellence. The DGS discussed the 'Sagarmala' initiative, ship recycling sustainability, technological advancements, and crew welfare programs like "Sagar Mein Yog" and "Sagar Mein Samman," alongside initiatives like the Maritime National Games 2025.

The highlight of the event was the address by H.E. Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, IMO Secretary-General, who spoke passionately about the IMO's role in promoting maritime safety, environmental protection, technological advancements (such as AI, AIS, Autonomous Ships), and the development of maritime infrastructure across the world. He praised India's efforts in building a resilient maritime industry and reiterated the importance of international cooperation in achieving the IMO's global goals. Reflecting on the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, he noted, "No shipping, no shopping" – a poignant reminder of the essential role seafarers play in global trade and should resound as '*No Seafarer, No Shipping, No Shopping*'. With a focus on the future, the IMO Secretary-General called for continued technical cooperation with developing economies and transparency in industry practices.

A lively Q&A session followed, where young cadets, future leaders of the maritime industry, engaged with the distinguished guests. The cadets expressed their enthusiasm and eagerness to contribute to the maritime sector and shared their aspirations for a sustainable and safe future for global shipping. While interacting with the young cadets, IMO Secretary-General also stressed the importance of learning from past mistakes to better prepare for future challenges, urging the maritime community to seize opportunities as they arise. Ultimately, Mr. Dominguez reinforced the critical role of people in the maritime sector, emphasizing the need to invest in seafarers, foster gender diversity, and maintain a collaborative approach to keep the global maritime industry thriving.

The ceremony concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Mr. Deependra Singh Bisen, Deputy Director-General of Shipping (DDG, DGS), who thanked the dignitaries, participants, and cadets for their contributions to making the event a grand success.

The Secretary-General, IMO toured the state-of-the-art facilities of MTI, Powai and planted a sapling as a symbolic gesture, signifying the IMO's commitment to sustainability and environmental preservation.

The event was a proud moment for all attendees, reinforcing the commitment of India's maritime institutions to international cooperation, sustainable practices, and the development of the maritime industry worldwide.

Photos of the Event follow:



Guard of Honor given to H.E. Mr. Arsenio Dominguez by cadets of MTI, Powai



Lightning of Lamp by the Chief Guest and other Dignitaries (DG Shipping, Vice Chancellor, IMU, CMD, SCI & SCILAL, D(B&T), SCI) during the Event



Welcome Address by Capt. B. K. Tyagi, Chairman and Managing Director, SCI & SCILAL



Presentation on key advancements and opportunities in Indian Maritime Landscape by Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping



Presentation of Memento to the Chief Guest H. E. Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, SG, IMO



Group Photo of Chief Guest IMO Secretary-General along with other dignitaries and young female cadets



Group Photo of Chief Guest IMO Secretary-General with young cadets



Plantation of Sapling by Chief Guest IMO Secretary-General at MTI, Powai