



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

Sagar Sandesh

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Release of Seminal Book on Maritime Skills for Maritime Industry – Editor Dr.(Capt)Vivek Jain



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Dr. (Capt.) Vivek Jain

Dr. (Capt.) Vivek Jain as the editor has released the seminal book for seafarers and maritime industry, on 25th June, International Day of Seafarers, "Maritime Skills on Vessels & Shore – the STCW Convention's Relevance & Recommendations.

This Book is of *the seafarers, by the seafarers, for the seafarers,* and is promoted and marketed by *Sagar Sandesh.*

Book in hard copy is available on all electronic platforms and an e-copy of it would be released in

another 20 days. The book has 422 pages and 23 Chapters divided into four parts. Through this book, the Editor is giving the maritime industry a **new model** of skills-set for the seafarers.

The **Foreword and Letter of Support to the book** have been provided by **VADM Eduardo MA R Santos**, AFP (Ret.), AFNI, FIMarEST, FDR, HonFRI, DFRIMarM, President of one of the largest maritime academy in the world – MAAP in Philippines, **Capt. M. P. Bhasin** (Secretary-General to the Company of Masters Mariners of India). The letter of support has also been provided by **Mr. Vijendra Jain** (President of the Institute of Marine Engineers India) and **Capt. Sanjay Sharma** (one of the most senior Master mariners sailing on the high seas). **Mr. Ashok Advani** of **Sagar Sandesh** was instrumental in motivating the editor to complete his extensive research project for the maritime industry.

According to him, Seafarers are the core of all maritime trade and their expectations/perspectives alone should be the centre of all solutions for maritime skills for them. Only from this standpoint, he has explored the issues of **maritime skills with critical gaps** following a framework of research methodology. This exhaustive book can be used as a guide for further revisions or revamp of the current STCW Convention.

The issue of critical gaps in maritime skills is further exacerbated due to the impacts on seafarers due to change in – ecosystem, status & relationship with stakeholders, technology, focus on renewable energy, anxiety

levels, and so forth. Furthermore, stakeholders can no longer ignore the fact that seafarers are leaving seagoing career after working only for a few years and there is a need of portability of skills. Therefore, the editor has also explored a need for preparing seafarers for transition into maritime shore jobs to preserve their maritime skills for maritime industry. In addition one of the critical gap in skills pertains to female seafarers, who are crucial

to plug the shortages but they need a safe working environment. There are two chapters on it from two women maritime professionals. In particular, in South Asia, this gap in critical skill is very relevant and cannot be ignored. The book also deal with skills required to think about the welfare of seafarers as it will assist in the retention of seafarers.

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Please forward your CV on : crew.in@damicoishima.com, hrsea@damicoishima.com

Delhi Office: Office No. 113, First Floor, Hemkunt Tower, 98, Nehru Place, Delhi – 110 019
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Release of Seminal Book on Maritime.....From Page : 1

He has divided the researched critical gaps in maritime skills into four groups (**Jain's Model for Maritime Skills**) – Panoptic, Social Intelligence, Upskilling & Reskilling for onboard vessels, and Portable Skills for future shore jobs. Panoptic and Social Skills are core skills required for both onboard vessels as well for maritime shore jobs.

Panoptic maritime skills included concepts such as sustainability of skills, adaptability skills, innovation skills, Self-protection maritime skills for seafarers – knowledge of financial literacy, human rights, and relevant Insurances, incorporating higher level skill in whatever is taught to seafarers. Social intelligence skills include appreciating the empowerment of women, gender and cultural sensitivity, skills in seafarers about thinking of welfare or seafarers, and behavioral competency to survive. Upskilling and Reskilling for onboard vessels

would be required in areas such as enhancing mental skills to cope with stress and fatigue, digital maritime skills, adopting skills to cope with advancing controls system and automation, LNG-fueling, tactically using simulators, workshops, and laboratories to enhance productivity, enhancing skills associated with security on vessels, appreciating general average skills and Polar and Ice navigation skills for new trade routes due to climate change

Thereafter, he embarked on a voyage to discover, persuade, persevere and collaborate with the number of exceptionally experienced subject-matter experts over many months to pursue collaboratively many mini-research projects adopting specific methodology across all selected maritime skills to **plug** these critical gaps and they are – (1) from countries such as India, Philippines, Romania, South Korea, Malaysia, UAE & Singapore, (2) from both genders, (3) from deck, engine &

professionals settled ashore, (4) with current experience in industry and/or sea at the fundamental level, and (5) from seafaring supplying nations recognising/experiencing relevant socio-economic circumstances of seafarers.

Around 21 professionals have worked with the editor over many months on a set structure of research on each of the identified maritime skill with gap:

- i. **Stage 1** – what are the elements within the identified maritime skills with critical gaps? (To comprehend the critical gaps)
- ii. **Stage 2** – do the courses and training on board vessels pursuant to the existing STCW Convention (as amended) ensure seafarers have such maritime skills?
- iii. **Stage 3** – the remaining maritime skills or their components that are not covered through training and experience pursuant to the STCW Convention (as discussed in the above stage 2) are gaps in the elements of the maritime skills identified as having critical gaps in Step 1.

iv. **Stage 4** – Recommendations and conclusions to plug the critical gaps in those elements of maritime skills as identified in the above stage 3.

After months of research and hard work, it has led to 23 chapters including both engine, deck, and maritime shore industries. He has ensured the research is not influenced by any lobby group.

From this book, the seafarers will not just get the ideas how to plug the gaps in maritime skills but also how they can **transition with their existing skills to a few maritime jobs** such as marine superintendents, marine managers, designated person ashore, pilots, managers supervising new build/second-hand vessels, IT managers in the maritime domain, Marine surveyors, marine experts/investigators, marine pilots in ports, maritime arbitrators and managers in a shipyards and so forth. **The solutions in the book will also resolve the issue of shortage and retention of seafarers.**



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CHENNAI OFFICE

REGUS, KRM PLAZA 8th Floor South Tower, No. 2 Harrington Road, Chennai - 600 031, Tamilnadu.
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