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Published & Released on Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday



PAGE - 4

Average container prices & one-way leasing rates up in India amid



PAGE - 6

India looks to cut domestic logistics costs by doubling



PAGE - 9

Construction of Vizhinjam Port should be stopped say



PAGE - 12

FIEO organised seminar on 'Promoting





Eastern Pacific Shipping: Decarbonization and crew welfare as top priorities

Ducau, Chief **Executive** Officer of Eastern Pacific Shipping (EPS), explains the measures EPS has taken in order to improve its environmental footprint, by focusing on decarbonization initiatives. However, as Mr. Ducau further notes, EPS also wants to enhance the welfare of seafarers. and for that reason, the company is promoting efforts targeting both the physical and mental health of the onboard.

Everyone agrees that the goal is zero emissions. However, finding a zeroemission solution is not straightforward, especially when one contemplates a variety of parameters such as operational safety, technical feasibility, and economic viability. Given the segmentation of shipping, there will ultimately be a variety carbon-neutralizing solutions depending on vessel types and trading routes.

As a leading tonnage provider, EPS has a responsibility to develop potential zero-emission solutions for tomorrow while implementing e m is sion-lowering technology today. Our holistic alternative marine



EPS-Seafarers

fuel program incorporates LNG, LPG, Ethane, and Biofuels to significantly reduce our carbon footprint today. Simultaneously, we are developing Methanol and Ammonia solutions for tomorrow. We also are retrofitting a small fleet of our managed tankers with carbon capture systems — making them the largest ocean-going vessels fitted with the technology.

The hope is to prove that carbon capture is a viable and scalable option for the future. As of today, we have installed or are planning to install emission reduction solutions on over 70% of our fleet, which has already resulted in a significant reduction in our environmental footprint. As a company, we are setting explicit management

targets on fleet AER, which are beating the IMO trend line and are being publicly reported in our annual Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)Policy.

In 2022, we made this best practice official by implementing a No Coal Cargo Policy, which is outlined in our ESG Policy. With a significant portion of our commercially managed fleet being in the dry bulk segment, we aim to play a small part in making one of the world's worst pollutants that much harder to access.

EPS is committed to sharing best practices, expertise, and resources to accelerate the industry's energy transition. We are one of seven founding members of Singapore's Global Centre of Maritime Decarbonisation, a

collaborative non-profit organization that aims to help the industry eliminate GHG emissions. We also partnered with Singapore's Nanyang Technological University for an Ammonia Bunker Study, lending our industry-leading expertise in loading, transporting, and discharging cargo to develop ammonia bunkering protocols. In addition, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with counterparties to develop methanol and ammonia as marine fuels by retrofitting select conventional vessels in our tanker fleet and building new ships with methanol and ammoniacompatible engines. While these initiatives address the environmental side of our business, we are also

investing heavily in the people side.

Life at Sea Programme for our Seafarers

With a fleet of 20 million DWT, comprised of 200 vessels across our dry bulk, containership, and tanker segments, we are undergoing unprecedented growth in a fast-changing environment. To manage this growth, we have shifted our culture ships from *managing* to *leading* people. To reinforce this culture shift, we have refreshed we think about seafarer involvement and wellbeing with the EPS Life at Sea Programme. This comprehensive set of benefits aims to enhance the quality of life onboard today while investing in the next generation of seafarers.

Making time at sea an enjoyable experience meant reimagining living spaces onboard to create an inclusive and collaborative environment. We worked with professional designers to create modern, bright, and open living areas onboard that strengthen camaraderie, develop a sense of belonging and forge an integrated culture across sea and shore - all crucial elements to feeling safe and appreciated.

Turn Page No: 3

Eastern Pacific Shipping: DecarbonizationFrom Page No: 1

Our revamped blueprint bodyweight training. Our for vessel accommodations includes community mess halls, vibrant and modern recreation lounges furnished with flat-screen TVs, video and board games, guitars, free Wi-Fi in common areas, and more – all of which help seafarers forge strong relationships while at sea.

To promote a fitness culture, we equipped every **EPS-managed** vessel with state-of-the-art gymnasiums. To further encourage and emphasize the importance of physical wellbeing, the **EPS** Community has access to virtual coaches who share tips and exercises through Physical Readiness Programme. The aim is to help achieve balanced strength. endurance, mental resilience and through functional and fitness culture was in full force when our sea and shore teams were among thousands of participants of the 2022 EPS Around the World Fundraiser. The group, which included people from across the maritime industry, collectively traveled 217,448km while raising S\$1.58 million for The Mission to Seafarers.

These benefits certainly have a positive impact, however, the inherent physical and mental demands of life at sea, coupled with the longdrawn global effects of Covid-19, have weighed heavily on the mental well-being of our sea and shore colleagues. As a result, we understood that more needed to be done to protect the mental welladdress this concern, we established a partnership with a professional mental health service provider to break the mental health taboo and provide our team access to insights, tips, mental exercises, and 24/7 support from qualified dedicated Clinical Psychologist.

Staying in touch with family and the EPS Community worldwide is also important for mental health. Therefore. increased connectivity and internet bandwidth at sea so that our seafarers can connect with loved ones using free monthly packages data complimentary Fi in common areas. Additionally, we introduced an internal social network to foster a robust, interactive, and engaging being of our community. To community. This digital

platform connects our 6000-strong and growing community through their mobile devices. they engage in organic conversations, discuss best practices, celebrate milestones, and participate in company-wide contests and challenges. They are also able to have twoway conversations with senior management, which plays an important role in establishing a sense of inclusiveness across the organisation.

The EPS Life at Sea Programme, Around the World Fundraiser, and our accommodations in Varna remind our colleagues that they are part of something bigger – a community that celebrates its successes and supports each other in times of need.

These initiatives have physical wellbeing.

undoubtedly created a close-knit EPS Community, enhanced companywide communication. and increased employee satisfaction, which equates to a safer, more productive work environment. While it's no secret that this has helped attract and retain talent across our young and diverse fleet, the main driver behind our actions is that it is simply the right thing to do.

Seafarers are backbone of the maritime industry, and it is up to shipowners and managers create company cultures that not only meaningful support and rewarding careers but also provide a sense of overall mental and



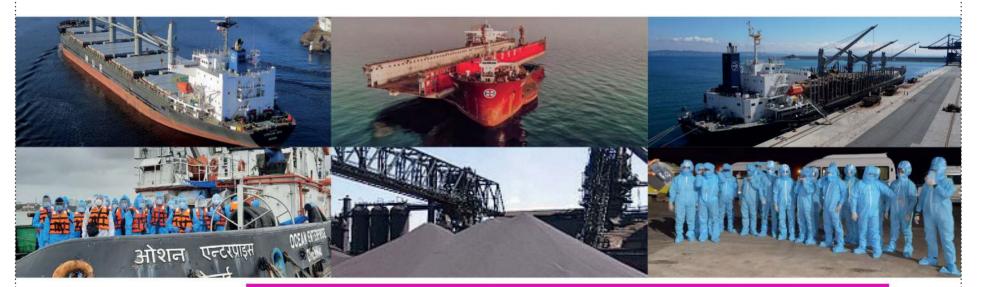
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