



NEWSLETTER

STELLA MARIS SEAFARERS' CENTER – KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN, R.O.C.

Volume 1, Issue 1

Bi-monthly Release

September 2011

AOS Newsletter First Issue Release

By Michelle Yu

The first issue of the AOS Kaohsiung Newsletter is now available, and you can get it in PDF by following this link:

<http://aos-khh.weebly.com/newsletter.html>

The AOS Newsletter is a bimonthly newsletter that aims at providing seafarers and other concern parties with information about the current maritime happenings and events, the laws and rights protecting the benefits and wellbeing of seafarers, and activity updates and works being developed by Stella Maris Seafarers' Center in Kaohsiung Taiwan. We hope to share the progress we have made, to get some feedback from interested parties, and also, of course, to get the attention of people to seafarers' issues, as well as to our projects.

You can subscribe the AOS Newsletter by visiting our website at:

<http://aos-khh.weebly.com/>

IMPORTANT LINKS

ITF (International Transport Workers Federation)	www.itfglobal.org
AOS around the World	www.aos-world.org
AOS in Kaohsiung Taiwan, R.O.C.	www.aos-khh.weebly.com

New Measures to Tackle Pirates

By Skipper

Posted on: ShipTalk Limited (Aug. 25, 2011)

Reproduced by: Stella Maris Seafarers' Center, Kaohsiung Taiwan

With the rise in the use of armed security teams on vessels transiting the Gulf of Aden and the development of new technologies to prevent a vessel from being boarded by pirates; from razor wire in the water and around the ship to sound and laser guns and water cannons, an assessment by Lloyd's List shows that the use of some of these systems could cost a vessel around \$330,000 to install.

Now a Dubai-based firm has developed more subtle deterrents for less than \$35,000.

"These measures can be much cheaper and have been just as effective as using armed guards", said Goltens vice-president Paul Friedberg.

The repair and maintenance specialist has begun offering its services to owners wishing to have less lethal deterrent measures built into the ship and while he recognises that spikes, citadels and other measures are still only temporary measures in the overall

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campaign to stop the scourge of piracy, he believes owners should look into them before turning to bringing guns and bullets on board.

The company started to offer its services after the pirate attack on Vela International's Sirius Star. After the incident, Vela, the tanker division of Saudi Aramco, decided it was not going to let such an event happen again on any of its ships. They turned to Goltens to install razor wire and hoistable spikes to prevent intruders boarding its vessels. Mr Friedberg confirms Goltens has now installed systems on 24 Vela vessels, six Prisco tankers and six more vessels belonging to Teekay and Chevron.

"We realise there are complex issues relating to the deployment of armed guards on merchant vessels and the commitment of naval vessels, but in the meantime there are immediate steps owners can take to protect their vessels and crews," says Mr Friedberg. Installation of the wire and spikes on ship can take four days of workshop preparations, and onboard installation can be within a day. Costs are from \$25,000 to \$30,000 per vessel.

"Compare our protection with the cost of deploying armed guards," says Mr Friedberg. "The work can be carried out in hours, with a minimum of disruption to a ship's trading pattern. We realise there is a longer-term challenge in piracy prevention but, in the interim — and for a few thousand dollars — we can help owners to safeguard their assets and their seafarers, and we can probably help insurers sleep a little better too."

Latest Maritime Short News

ShipTalk Ltd. (Aug. 26) - A Nigerian chemical tanker has been seized by pirates off the coast of Benin in West Africa. Reports said contact was lost with the 12,200-dwt "Emocean" on 20 August, 50 miles from Cotonou, after it arrived from Port Harcourt in Nigeria.

ShipTalk Ltd. (Aug. 25) - A Costamare boxship has come under attack from pirates in the Gulf of Aden. A gang of five pirates fired rocket, propelled grenades at the 2,023-teu MSC Namibia II (built 1991) as it passed through the internationally recommended transit corridor.

Philippine Daily Inquirer (Aug. 25) - Case of Filipino seafarers abandoned in Spain brought to ILO. Stranded for four months in Valencia, the seafarers were immediately repatriated last month after labor officials visited them at the port. The 12 Filipino seamen also reported to the government that they were not paid their on-board salaries and overtime pay for eight months, including allotments to their families.

CNN (Aug. 22) - Two Somali pirates involved in a botched effort to obtain ransom that ended with the murders of four U.S. citizens were sentenced to life in prison Monday (Aug. 22, 2011).

BBC News (Jul. 24) - Police have issued a warning to seamen in Shetland after arresting three people for drink-related offences while in charge of a vessel.

“Gifts In A Shoebox” Project Has Started

*A Gifts Giving Project to Warm the
Hearts of Seamen and Fishermen*

By Michelle Yu
Stella Maris Seafarers' Center, Kaohsiung
Taiwan

From the past up to the present days, seafarers and fishermen have been playing one of the most important roles in our world. They sacrifice their time and normal livelihood and travel around the world to bring people foods, goods and other components that people need in daily lives. It is said that if without the seafarers, half of the world would freeze, and half will starve, which is quite true.

In virtue of this, this year the Stella Maris Seafarers' Center in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, R.O.C. has launched a project called the “Gifts In A Shoebox” last August 15, 2011 which main goal is to give gifts to seafarers and fishermen coming to Kaohsiung Port from around the world. Although the funding of Stella Maris has always been limited, and that donation from bigger financial corporates is really poor, the project has already started successfully by soliciting gifts donation without financial pressure from churches, other non-governmental organizations, land base migrant workers, and private sectors who are interested to be a part of the project.

For now, the project is working out fine and Stella Maris has already solicited over 50 of gifts and still striving to achieve the target of 1,200 gifts. Stella Maris is also calling out for those who are willing to donate gifts to seafarers and fisher folks.



You can also be a part of the project

You can be part of this project simply by donating: new razor(s), toothbrush(es) and toothpaste(s), towel(s), soap(s), and other daily use things. They do not need to be expensive or many, but they should be NEW and UNUSED. Put them in a clean shoebox or any box that will fit and turn over to Stella Maris Seafarers' Center before the deadline.

Donation starts on August 15, 2011 and ends on November 30, 2011.

MARITIME TIPS

International Labour Standards Policy

- Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006

Standard A1.4 – Recruitment and placement

1. Each Member that operates a public seafarer recruitment and placement service shall ensure that the service is operated in an orderly manner that protects and promotes seafarers' employment rights as provided in this Convention.

Port Chaplain's Corner



Fr. Roger Cortuna Manalo, CS
Port Chaplain/Editor

BE NOT AFRAID!

Our Lord Jesus Christ called *Peter, Andrew, James* and *John*, fishermen from Galilee, to be his first Apostles (Luke 5:1-11). It was not easy for these simple fishermen but when Jesus told them: “Do not be afraid. From now on you will be catching men.” (Luke 5:10), they heeded the invitation of Jesus and they became the foundation stones of the church.

YOU, seafarers and fishermen, therefore, has a unique and special vocation and calling to spread the good news to the ends of the world. As you sail the seven seas in search of the “TREASURE” to provide for your families, you bring with you a very valuable treasure as well...your faith. Don't let the reputation of your occupation/trade that has preceded you for centuries overshadow your faith. No, you are not just a bunch of womanizers and drunkards. You are missionaries and your mission field is vast and wide. It starts from your ship and shipmates to your ports of call all over the world. For sure, it will not be easy for you...the long separation from your love ones is giving you so much loneliness, the strange

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language, culture and people on your ports of call always make you feel alienated, the dangers and perils of the sea, and the constant threat of piracy traumatize you. For many of you, only faith sustains you. Do not be afraid, there are APOSTLESHIP Of The SEA (AOS) centers and chaplaincies in many port all over the world. AOS is a place of safety, help, assistance, religious refuge and of something familiar.

AOS is here to help you make Christ as the anchor of your faith and souls so that you can realize your vocation as Apostles, like Peter, James, Andrew and John, and bring the GOOD NEWS to the whole world (Mark 16:15).

WANTED

We want your story! If you are a seaman, fisherman or seafarer, and are interested to tell the world your on-board story or experiences, please write to us via email below.

DONATION CORNER

Make your donation and help us go on with our mission:

Bank: Bank Of Kaohsiung, Kaohsiung Taiwan

Account Name: The Catholic Diocese of Kaohsiung- Stella Maris International Service Center

Account No.: 235210446165

SWIFT Code: BKAOTWTK

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