



Tenth ICMA World Conference, Hamburg 2011

8 September 2011:

The International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA) gathered in Hamburg, Germany for the Association's Tenth World Conference. Over 200 chaplains, welfare workers and representatives of the maritime sector came together, to share knowledge, to learn, to grow, to pray and to unite their energies in the service of seafarers.

The conference was made possible through the generous support of sponsors, including The TK Foundation, the ITF Seafarers' Trust, Lufthansa, the Hamburg maritime industry and local churches.

The World Conference, held in response to key developments in the industry affecting the lives of seafarers –

- *the pending ratification of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006,*
- *the state of the industry in a recessionary climate,*
- *piracy*
- *and criminalisation*

– was themed “Promoting Seafarers’ Dignity”.

The Keynote address was delivered by Cleopatra Doumbia-Hendry of ILO who, sharing the podium with ICMA's Chair Douglas B. Stevenson, Brian Orrel from the International Transport Workers Federation and Dierk Lindemann from the shipping fraternity captivated the conference with visionary enthusiasm on the prospects for seafarers' welfare after MLC2006. ICMA's role in the Convention's development and ratification was valued.

The overarching concern of the World Conference was for the human dignity of all seafarers and fishers. To this end the Tenth ICMA World Conference

- *welcomed the MLC 2006 and hoped for its speedy ratification and implementation*
- *affirmed ICMA's efforts to care for abandoned crew and their families*
- *prayed for seafarers and families affected by piracy,*
- *confirmed ICMA's commitment to provide for their humanitarian needs and*
- *pledged support for partners who share this goal*

ICMA took the first steps to establish the Association as the professional organisation for maritime chaplaincy. The daily program focused on

- *understanding the chaplains' workplace,*
- *gaining new insights on how chaplains could respond to the needs of seafarers and*
- *learning to understand our partners in ministry.*

The Association has 28 members, all Christian, all charities, all committed to serving seafarers. These 28 members represent the widest possible spectrum of faith traditions within Christianity. At the opening event Douglas Stevenson rightly referred to the ecumenical miracle that is ICMA as being unique in all of Christendom.

Finding renewed unity, celebrating in joint worship, forging friendships, cementing partnerships and networking globally were central to the Conference.

The legacy of the Tenth ICMA World Conference will be a stronger Association and an appreciation for ICMA members' growing responses to piracy.

Conference presentations are to be posted on the Conference page of ICMA's website www.icma.as



Hennie la Grange (Reverend)

General Secretary