



Capt. Mahapatra, Director, Maritime Safety Division, IMO London shares pearls of wisdom at ARI

The holiday weekend this August in which India celebrated its 69th year of Independence was a time for reflection of past glories and also a time to recognize the achievements of many who have grown up and excelled in a post-Independent India. In the maritime field, one of the most notable achievements has been the presence of an Indian mariner at the highest realms of the IMO, London.



Capt. Mahapatra addressing the gathering at PHD Chamber

Capt. Mahapatra, Director, Maritime Safety Division has served the IMO for 20 years and currently heads the key division at the IMO which deals with matters such as aids to navigation, construction and equipment of vessels, manning from a safety standpoint, rules for the prevention of collisions, handling of dangerous cargoes, maritime safety procedures and requirements, hydrographic information, log-books and navigational records, marine casualty investigations, salvage and rescue and any other matters directly affecting maritime safety.



Naomi Rewari addressing the gathering at PHD Chamber

On 12th August at PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, Capt. Mahapatra addressed an eager audience of senior students, faculty and ARI team members about many current concerns within the maritime industry. During the more than one hour interaction, he touched upon subjects such as LNG fuel and unmanned ships in the future; security concerns; COLREGS; STCW and workload on board. Offering words of advice to both seafarers and faculty he stressed the importance of mentoring and the mantra of hard work. He credited his success to a lifetime of passion for the industry and his work, and dedication to working honestly and sincerely in all endeavours. His rise to the elevated levels of the IMO is a testament to these values which he holds so dearly.



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Continuing with the commitment to promote mentoring in the industry, Capt. Mahapatra returned to ARI on 17th August on a mission to address the budding cadets at the campus and to instill in them some of the principles and ideals which have propelled him in his career. In a very compelling interactive session, the cadets quizzed Capt. Mahapatra on many topics including: adapting to life at sea; manning levels on board; piracy; the future of shipping and India's role. Capt. Mahapatra also encouraged the cadets to develop the right attitude towards the career as this is the one aspect which hinders their success.



Capt. Mahapatra interacting with ARI Cadets

Responding to a request for his most valuable advice he said: *"Learn to walk before you run. Stay focused on your task and things will fall in place. It's a long process. Rewards will come but not at a pace you think. Keep working hard with dedication and aim for excellence. Dream big and live your dream. As you grow, the pyramid becomes sharper.*

Learn from seniors. Mentoring is an essential part of learning. Juniors should always be curious about learning and take every opportunity to ask questions and to observe and imbibe as much from others around them on board as possible."



Capt. Mahapatra with some of ARI family members

The visit will form an indelible mark on the memories of the young cadets who had the fortunate opportunity to attend this interactive session. If they hold true to the words and advice of Capt. Mahapatra, then indeed they have a bright future ahead of them !

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