

## Maritime Professional

**Title: INMEX India 2011 breaks all records**

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Considered the biggest maritime event in South East Asia, INMEX 2011, lived up to its expectations notching up a record number of exhibitors totaling 532 participating companies from 42 countries and featuring country pavilions from Holland, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Korea, Singapore and China. However in this 7 edition of INMEX India the focus was mainly on the exposition and the conference playing a secondary role in the three-day program which stretched from 29 September to 1 October, 2011. Several exhibitors showcased their latest products, some choosing to use the event to launch their new creations. In general the exhibition severed to give a fair account of the emerging trends in the maritime industry.

The presentations at the conference featured many participants from among the exhibitors who took the opportunity to show case their organization's strength, expertise and capabilities besides giving an in-depth presentation about their area of specialization.

Presentations that featured in the program post the inaugural session illustrated issues focusing on the versatility of marine engines, finance, technologies for the niche markets, dredging, infrastructural developments, dynamic positioning, maritime education, ship building and repairs, coastal and inland waterways shipping. To encourage greater number of visitors and delegates the organizers made entry to the exhibition and conference totally free.

Delivering his address at the inaugural session, the chief guest, K. Mohandas, Union Shipping Secretary, government of India informed that the government envisaged setting up of seven major ports by 2017 at an estimated investment of \$ 7.8 billion. He highlighted the dredging agenda of the ministry, the efforts being made to tackle piracy and steps being taken to encourage Indian shipping trade.

S. Hajara, Chairman and Managing Director of the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) pointed to the current Golden Jubilee celebrations of SCI that were underway and the highlighted the role SCI played in Indian shipping. He stressed on the importance of shipping in the world trade and underscored the fact that contribution of Indian shipping in the India's international was on the way down.

The conference saw some interesting presentations by internationally known speakers. Akshay Jain, CEO of Vedam Design & Technical Consultancy gave an in-depth account of the latest development in ship building and ship repair technologies. Representing SENER Ingeniería y Sistemas S.A., an Engineering, Construction and Systems Integration company in India, he explained the high points of their popularly known FORAN V70 system meant for the design and production of ships and off-shore platforms.

**Presenting the ship building scenario in India Anand V Sharma of Mantrana Maritime Advisory, a well-known consultancy firm in the maritime domain explained in detail the different major ship yards in existence in the country and their contribution to the ship building activity.**

Another well-known speaker was Martin Porsbjerg, Group Product Manager of Hempel A/s who talked extensively about protecting floating assets in the sea by employing the latest paints techniques.

Peter Bertling – Loggers revealed some remarkable facts on “Shock & Vibration control in Defence and Dredging”. He illustrated an array of instruments and equipment that find use in ship building. He informed that all their products were being offered to the Indian market.

Ship building sector in India faces a number of hurdles but there were no easy and readymade solutions to resolve them stated by Capt M. Jitendran, CEO of Pipavav Defence & Offshore Engineering Co. Ltd. Some of the major problems faced included shortage of professionals, retention of experienced and skilled manpower and lack of government support. At Pipavav they have embarked on a continuous training scheme to groom their own required talent.

On the training side Capt Ajay Achuthan, Director of Maritime Association of Shipowners, Ship Mangers & Agents pointed out the drawbacks in the traditional method of teaching. He gave detailed explanation on how one can ensure what is being taught will get absorbed by the students. He highlighted the essence of his famous book “If the students has not learnt, the teacher has not taught.”

INMEX proved to be an excellent forum for networking and transact business.