

“Maritime Cyprus 2015” Conference

**Opening address of Mr. Alecos Michaelides, Conference Chairman and
Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and
Works**

Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Cyprus,
Your Excellency the Secretary General of IMO,
Ministers,
Members of the Parliament,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am indeed honoured to chair this very important international shipping event and as Chairman of the Conference I would like to express to all of you a very warm welcome to the Maritime Cyprus 2015 Conference.

This is the 14th Maritime Cyprus Conference since its inception in 1989. Over the years, the Maritime Cyprus Conference has grown into one of the world’s most significant shipping conferences. Its success is attributed to a large extend to the high calibre of the speakers and the large number of shipping executives attending the Conference from around the globe.

The theme of this year’s Conference is **Shipping: “Game Change”**, a theme, chosen carefully to reflect upon the current crucial issues of concern to the global maritime community, such as economic, regulatory, environmental and social issues.

Today’s theme is **Shipping “Politics and Economics”**. The first session will focus on the latest policy developments in shipping, both from the regulatory and the industry side, whereas the second session will concentrate on the world economy and the shipping cycle.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretary General of the IMO Mr. Koji Sekimizu for his presence and his support to the Maritime Cyprus Conferences. We are indeed very honoured to have Mr. Sekimizu once again in a Maritime Cyprus Conference. I would also like to wish Mr. Sekimizu a happy life after IMO since he is relinquished from his duties as Secretary General at the end of the year.

During the second day, the **New Shipping “Environment”** will be under the spot light. The first session will deal with environmental legislations and investigate how decisions are taken and if the involvement of shipping people would be beneficial in order to achieve the expected results. The second session will discuss the issue of **“e-shipping”** in relation to navigation, seafares’ employability and the Classification Societies’ e-shipping footprint.

The “Young Executives Session” which now forms an essential part of the Conference, will also take place on the second day, in the afternoon. This part of the Conference is addressed to young shipping executives under 40 years of age and its theme is **“Challenge” the Leadership Process**.

On the third and final day of the Conference we will turn our attention to the **“New World Order”** in shipping. The first session will focus on the geopolitical developments and their interaction with shipping, whereas the second session will provide an in-depth market forecast for the Bulk Carriers, the Tankers and the Containers freight markets.

I would like to extend a warm welcome and a deep appreciation to all those who have responded positively to our invitation to participate as speakers and panellists in this conference, and share with us their knowledge and expertise, as well as their thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

My special thanks goes to all of you participating in the Conference, especially those that travelled from abroad. I am confident that the Conference quality and

content, blended with the Cypriot hospitality will be highly missed till Maritime Cyprus 2017, where we expect to see you again.

The aim of every Maritime Cyprus Conference is to operate as a forum where important and current issues relating to international shipping are presented and subsequently discussed by the international shipping community, thereby helping to formulate sound and well balanced decisions and policies on crucial shipping issues. We are confident that with your active participation, this aim will be achieved once again.

I express my compliments to the Conference organisers, namely, the Department of Merchant Shipping, the Cyprus Shipping Chamber and the Cyprus Union of Shipowners for all the work they have done to ensure the success of the event. Finally, I would like to thank all the sponsors of this Conference and put full faith on the professional staff of this conference centre to have an enjoyable and smooth running of the proceedings during these hard working days.

Excellencies, distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, We in Cyprus are very proud of our maritime tradition and culture and we put great emphasis to the needs of those who fly the Cyprus flag on the stern of their ships, a 'high quality and respected flag' and we provide all necessary to our resident maritime cluster that grows in size steadily since the 70's.

This Nation's ambition on maritime growth is shared also by the Government and this is the reason why once again H. E. the President of the Republic of Cyprus will address the Conference. Therefore, without any further delay, I would like now to invite H.E. the President of the Republic of Cyprus Mr. Nicos Anastasiades to deliver his address.