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Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter intended to keep our Owners, Managers, Seafarers & business associates updated about what is new at SKANReg and in St. Kitts & Nevis. If you would like to make any comments or have any contributions for future newsletters contact Jas Virdi at SKANReg

Firstly an introduction to the nation of St. Kitts & Nevis



In our first newsletter we gave you an introduction to the Nation of St. Kitts & Nevis. Now some more information. We are situated in the northern section of the Eastern Caribbean and were first named in 1493 during one of Christopher Columbus's expeditions to the region. In 1983 we became an independent two-island Nation, a Parliamentary Democracy. Our official language is English. The local currency is the East Caribbean dollar (XCD) which is linked to the US Dollar at USD 1 = XCD 2.7. We have direct air links to the US mainland and to Europe and daily connections to other Caribbean airline hubs. For 350 years our economy was supported by sugar cane, but recently being unable to sell this profitably on the World Market due to subsidies in other regional economic areas, the Government took the decision to close the sugar cane industry in 2005. We are replacing the income from this with Tourism, Financial Services – including ship and yacht registration – growth of high value crops and other service industries. It is the Governments intention to turn the economy into a service-orientated economy. Since our last Newsletter the biggest news in St. Kitts was hosting the "Orange" group of matches for the Cricket World Cup in March. The World Champions Australia, plus South Africa, Holland and Scotland played their group matches in the newly refurbished 10,500 capacity Warner Park National Stadium. Each of the games was blessed with good weather, humorous crowds and played without interruptions to its full conclusion climaxing in the match between South Africa and Australia on 24th March that was won by Australia. The capacity crowd watched an enthralling match of high scoring and much wicket taking for a suitable conclusion to this major sporting event.



Financial Services



In our first newsletter we introduced you to the separate St. Kitts Financial Services and Nevis Financial Services. Each offer international business people a full range of services. One of most recent innovations by St. Kitts Financial Services is the Foundations Act. This piece of legislation provides for the establishment of private foundations in St. Kitts. Another important service offered is a "Citizenship by Investment" programme whereby an investment of USD 350,000 and compliance with other requirements will allow a person to apply for citizenship of the federation for which his/her family can also be included. The Nevis International Insurance Ordinance now provides for allied annuity companies, allied reinsurance companies, insurance brokers, insurance adjusters to carry out insurance and re-insurance business. Over 60 businesses carrying out their forms of insurance as being registered in Nevis.



Full details of these and the other services offered can be found on the Financial Services websites:

- www.skbfinancialservices.com
- www.nevisfinance.com

International Ship Registry (SKANReg) & Maritime Affairs

Current Activity



Since our inception in early 2005 we have registered over 350 ships with a total deadweight of approximately one million tons. Our aim is to increase this to 450 ships of over 1.5 million deadweight by the end of 2007. Our fleet has ranged from non-propelled barges to a range of cargo ships, tankers, passenger ships, yachts and also an oil rig. Ages are range from new building yachts, bunker barges and some small craft to elderly ladies of good vintage. ISO Quality Assurance Accreditation was attained with the assistance of ABS in August 2006. Our network of regional Maritime Registrars continues to grow and numbers over 30. Our policy of having a local contact (Maritime Registrar) for Owners to deal with avoiding both time zone difficulties and allowing them to have local support and information available when Head Office if not open has been appreciated by Ship Owners and Managers.

Seatrade Middle East Maritime Exhibition

St. Kitts & Nevis International Ship Registry and St. Kitts Financial Services participated for the first time in one of the major shipping & finance trade shows in Dubai on 4-6 December 2006. Ms Sandra Thomas from Financial Services & Mr Nigel Smith, International Registrar of Shipping & Seamen, represented their respective Government Ministries supported by our local Maritime Registrar, International Shipping Bureau. SMEM was a great success and the biggest for attendees in the events history.

Presentation to Shipping Community in Piraeus, Greece

Our International Registrar of Shipping & Seamen, Mr. Nigel E Smith made a presentation to Ship Owners, Managers & others in the Shipping Community at the Piraeus Marine Club in February 2007. This presentation was made at the invitation of ISB Hellas S.A. our Maritime Registrar in Piraeus. Mr Smith and ISB Hellas Managing Director Mr. Panos Kirmidis were subsequently interviewed by Greek media which have been widely reported in the Greek Shipping press.

Mortgage legislation

St. Kitts & Nevis International Ship Registry continues to attract the interest of banks and finance houses who desire a safe and efficient legislation in which to register a mortgage on a ship which has been proposed as security for a loan. We are therefore, receiving many enquiries and registrations from owners for this process. A Legal Opinion on the applicability of St. Kitts & Nevis mortgage legislation has been prepared by leading lawyers in Nevis, Daniel Brantley & Associates and is available on our website for reference by interested parties.

SKANReg completes deal with Hellenic Register of Shipping

St. Kitts & Nevis have now signed an agreement with the Classification Society Hellenic Register of Shipping to delegate surveys of ships and issuing of statutory certification for IMO Conventions.

McClean Hobson, Director of Maritime Affairs Visit to London Office

The Government's Director of Maritime Affairs, Mr McClean Hobson who is presently studying at Southampton University, England recently visited the offices of St. Kitts & Nevis International Ship Registry to meet staff and see the work of the Ship Registry first hand. Mr Hobson was introduced to staff and shown the daily workings and activities of the Ship Registry. The visit also gave Mr. Smith the opportunity to personally update Mr Hobson on the most recent activities and plans for the near future.

Technical Office Basseterre, St. Kitts

St. Kitts & Nevis International Ship Registry's Technical Office operated by Technical & Survey Manager Mr. Alan Crass opened in Basseterre, St. Kitts in September 2006. Since that time, Alan has been actively involved with the Department of Maritime Affairs giving advice and assistance in the area of Shipping Legislation. This has been for both locally operated ships and those trading outside of the Caribbean region. The Four Seasons Hotel and Resort of Nevis have registered their three inter-island passenger ferries which are used to transport their hotel guests between the two islands with the International Ship Registry. Surveying of these was carried out by the Department of Maritime Affairs, Marine Inspector Mr. James Greene with Tonnage and Stability calculations carried out by Mr Crass. The opening of this office in St. Kitts has seen an increase in enquiries from Owners in the Caribbean and Central American geographical area for Ship Registration.

Zambezi Shipping Short-listed for Shipping "Oscars"

The St. Kitts & Nevis flagged Training Ship "RTS Sindbad", operated by Zambezi Shipping of Dubai, is one of the nominees for the Training Award at the Lloyds List London 2007 awards, the shipping industries "Oscars". As this newsletter goes to print the Awards Ceremony is still to be held, but we wish Zambezi Shipping every success. RTS Sindbad has 12 cadets undergoing training at a time and we at SKANReg applaud this initiative of Zambezi Shipping to address the current seafarer shortage in the industry.

Other News

Tourism

St. Kitts & Nevis has enjoyed a very busy Tourist high season since November 2006. Hotel occupancy has been very good especially during the Cricket World Cup period. St. Kitts tourism had a re-launch including a new logo and slogan "St. Kitts - Explore - Feel - Love - Remember". The cruise ship season was also very busy with an average of two cruise ships a day calling into the Federation during the cruise season. It has also been announced that St. Kitts has been included in the schedule of the Queen Victoria, Cunard's newest cruise liner, when it sets out on its Caribbean tour following her maiden world voyage next year. Cunard's Queen Mary II and Queen Elizabeth II are both regular callers at the Deep Water Cruise Terminal of Port Zante in St. Kitts.

Prime Minister Douglas awarded Trumpet Global Award

Our Prime Minister Hon. Dr Denzil L. Douglas was awarded the Global Award by the Trumpet Awards Foundation for his work in health awareness and care. The Trumpet Award is one of the United States most respected awards show. Saluting the achievements of primarily, African-Americans and those who have shown consistent support towards the enhancements of African-American Achievement. The award pays homage to honorees in many diverse fields. Previous award winners have been Mohammed Ali, Clint Eastwood, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Quincy Jones, Serena and Venus Williams & Archbishop Desmond Tutu among others.

