



July 2014 News

Introduction

This month the IMLA-IMEC (The International Maritime Lecturers Association-International Maritime English Conference) will take place in Holland and MariFuture will be report on its work regarding the latest developments concerning the SeaTALK Project at the conference.



The photograph above is the delegates who attended and participated in the IMLA-IMEC 26, which took place in beautiful Island of Terschelling, Holland, 6-11 July 2014.

Another important development this month is the news that IMLA has recently announced plans to revise the IMO 3.17 Maritime English Model Course, and they have also provided their feedback on a COLREGS Model Course proposed by the Turkish Maritime Community. As Marifuture partners are currently involved with the EU funded SeaTALK and ACTS projects (on Maritime English and COLREGS respectively), as well as being long time members of both IMLA and IMEC, we will support these initiatives where and when we can. We are encouraged by the IMLA's actions in these key areas and hope these initiatives will support the MariFuture's work already on the way through the EU funded SeaTALK and ACTS project consortiums instigated to make seas safer for all concerned. For more information on these two projects please refer to Projects section of the platform.

IMLA-IMEC 2014



News

Several MariFuture partners will be attending the IMLA-IMEC 2014 Conference in July at Terschelling, Holland; 6-11 July 2014.

During the event the SeaTALK project partners will be presenting a paper called "**Which teaching materials? Mapping linguistic competences, learning outcomes and professional standards to build an integral Maritime English syllabus**", as well as a workshop called: "*Using Authentic Maritime Materials to Improve English Language Skills*" which will explore converting everyday on board materials like COLREGs, NAVTEX messages, maintenance manuals, operating instructions, emergency procedures etc., into language skill exercises so that seafarers of the future can be better prepared for the effective use of English at sea. There is paper titled, "**The SeaTALK Project Survey of Maritime English – Current Practices and Challenges for the Future**", by authors based at Nicola Vaptsarov Naval Academy, Bulgaria, who are also a partner of SeaTALK Project.

A New COLREGS Model Course

In the latest IMLA Newsletter it was disclosed that the Maritime Safety Committee had reviewed and provided their comments on the development of a specific model course for the 19672 Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs) as proposed by the Turkish Maritime Community to "ensure global standards on the understanding, interpretation and application of the provisions of COLREG".

The IMLA feedback points included the fact the Model Courses are frameworks for Maritime Education providers to develop their training, not a list of concrete knowledge and skills. IMLA also stated that the Model Courses are a set of recommendations for Maritime Education Providers, there is no compulsion to follow or use them. These two points together led IMLA to point out that developing a Model Course might not be the best solution to this problem.

IMLA also pointed out that provision for training in COLREGS are already included in Model Courses 7.03 and 7.01, and so any development of additional COLREGS Model Course Information should be based on the existing information and guidance included in these documents.

IMLA also state the opinion that the IMO has provided clear text on COLREGS and that organisations and Individuals have developed their own Interpretations. IMLA concluded that any COLREG specific accidents were not due to a lack of uniform interpretation of the COLREGS but due to failures in the training - such as lack of simulator time. IMLA suggested that further discussion amongst Maritime Education Institutions needed to take place regarding clarifying COLREGS interpretations, rather than developing a Model Course.

These conclusions from IMLA are encouraging for MariFuture's involvement in the ACTS project which has brought together Maritime Education Institutions and SME's to research the differing interpretations of COLREGS across the EU, the differing ways COLREGS are taught, and to develop new training materials and guidelines to make learning and teaching COLREGS easier - thus bettering understanding of the rules and a better ability to apply them in emergency situations to sea.



More information on the ACTs project can be found in the MariFuture progress reports and the project website: <http://ecolregs.com/>

A Revised 3.17 Maritime English Model Course

IMLA announced in its latest newsletter that it will be reviewing the IMO Maritime English Model Course (3.127) to ensure it is in line with the 2010 Manila STCW amendments. The completed revision will be submitted to the IMO by the 24th October 2014 to the IMO Validation Panel for review.

The existing content of the 3.17 Model Course will be largely retained, with additional section added containing guidance on how the Knowledge, Understand and Proficiency statements contained in the Manila amendments can be used to enhance Maritime English Training Programmes.

MariFuture partners are currently involved with the SeaTALK project which is developing a comprehensive framework for the effective teaching, learning and assessment of Maritime English. The SeaTALK framework is being directly linked to the European Common Framework levels, the new ECVET Framework, as well as the IMO 3.17 Maritime English Model Course. With close links to numerous free online learning materials for Maritime English and the MarTEL Tests (www.martel.pro) the SeaTALK framework will be a holistic way for Maritime Education Institutions to embed Maritime English into their curriculum and ensure the highest standards.

Several of the SeaTALK / MariFuture partners are members of the IMLA-IMEC steering committee, as well as being members of the IMLA Working Group assigned to revise the 3.17 Model Course. As such these partners will work to ensure not only the quality of the new Model Course and SeaTALK framework, but also ensure that the SeaTALK framework truly reflects and includes all aspects on the Model Course revisions.

More information about the SeaTALK project can be found in the MariFuture progress reports and the project website: <http://seatalk.pro/>

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