



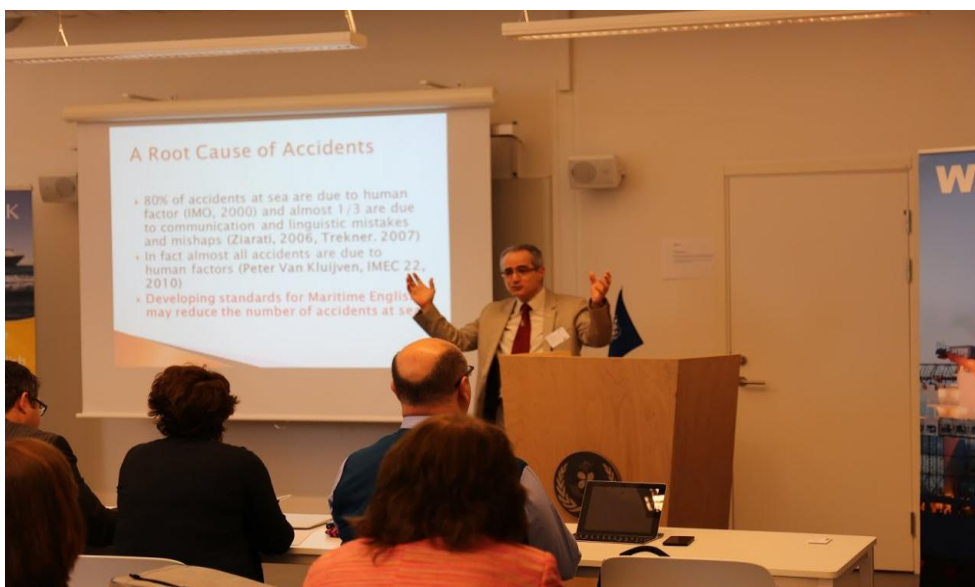
SeaTALK Maritime English Partner Meeting, Assessor Training and Symposium



(organised by the World Maritime University: Fiskehamngata 1, 211 18 Malmö, Sweden)

Symposium Chairman:

Professor Dr Reza Ziarati - BSc (Bath), PhD (Eng), CertEd, CMarEng, CElecEng, CMechEng, FIMechE, FIET, FIMarEST, CEng - MarEdu Coordinator, C4FF chairman and Marifuture Platform Founder





A SeaTALK Partner Meeting took place on 15th June followed by SeaTALK assessor training on the 16th. The symposium was held: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm on Wednesday 17th June 2015.

Symposium Summary:

International maritime requirements state that there should be effective communication at all times on board ships. Communication failures constitute a major cause of accidents and incidents at sea, claiming significant loss of life and leading to substantial material loss. This symposium will provide a platform to discuss and present recent approaches to Maritime English and how the community as a whole can contribute to improving seafarers' English language and communication skills.

The symposium was supported and funded by the European Union (EU) through the SeaTALK project.

The SeaTALK project (www.seatalk.pro) is the latest initiative of the Marifuture Platform (www.marifuture.org) and presents the Maritime English global community with an online platform for Maritime English resources! The platform provides Maritime English syllabi and materials within a framework of STCW competences, CEFR levels and the EQF/ECVET system and is tailored to the main seafaring ranks and functions.

Topics discussed were at the symposium:

- mapping linguistic competences and professional standards to meet International requirements;
- best practices for teaching Maritime English;
- Maritime English syllabi and learning materials tailored to seafaring rank and function;
- European and international recognition and accreditation in-line with CEFR levels and EQF/ECVET;
- European and international collaboration in setting gold standards, syllabi and materials for teaching Maritime English and how to be involved in the project.

The ultimate objective of this symposium was to encourage international collaboration, support effective communication, improve safety at sea worldwide, increase seafarer global mobility, and engage with academia and policy makers in the maritime industry to secure support for and adoption of international standards for Maritime English.

The Symposium welcomed over 20 participants from across Europe, including Finland, Sweden, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Belgium, Poland, Turkey, United Kingdom and some 30 participants from across the world as far as China and Panama.



Symposium Programme

10:00 - 10:15	Welcome Address by WMU Acting President Professor Dr Olof Linden
10:15 – 10:45	Keynote Presentation - Professor Reza Ziarati, Chairman, C4FF and Founder, MariFuture "Improving the communication and English language skills of seafarers"
10:45 – 11:15	Mrs Alison Noble, Senior Lecturer, Antwerp Maritime Academy "A Maritime English syllabus for SeaTALK: mapping linguistic competences and professional standards to meet international requirements"
11:15 – 11:45	Tea & Coffee Break
11:45 - 12:15	Dr Sonya Toncheva, Head of Department, Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy and Ms Daniela Zlateva, Senior Lecturer, Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy "Current best practices for the teaching of Maritime English in higher education: a survey of European MET institutions"
12:15 – 13:15	Ms Sari Nyoos, Senior Training Manager, Brahea Centre at the University of Turku "Maritime English training modules for SeaTALK: learning materials tailored to seafaring rank and function"
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch
14:15 - 14:45	Mrs Alison Noble, Senior Lecturer, Antwerp Maritime Academy "The ECVET model facilitating seafarer mobility: European and international accreditation options"
14:45 – 15:45	Discussion and Panel Session: Led by Professor Reza Ziarati with support from Mr Serhan Sernikli, International Relations and Projects Coordination Specialist, Piri Reis University Topics to include in this session: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- effective onboard communication: what is meant by <i>effective</i>? How to interpret IMO requirements regarding the <i>effective</i> use of Maritime English on board.- Maritime English training for seafarers: the best methods for teaching, learning and assessing.- international recognition for Maritime English competences: setting viable international training and assessment standards.
15:45 - 16:00	Prof. Janusz Uriasz, Head of Institute of Maritime Technology, Maritime University of Szczecin "Sustaining Maritime English in SeaTALK: future opportunities and joint ventures"
16:00	Closing Event



News

The partner meeting chaired by Dr Martin Ziarati proceeded well and the symposium was a lively event with some 50 participants from over 30 countries. The conference report is being prepared, the findings of which will be published in the July Development paper.





The SeaTALK assessor training, chaired by Professor Ziarati proved that the system designed for the assessment of MarTEL tests is valid, reliable and fair.





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