

will also benefit from becoming roommates with UK Chamber of Shipping which is a continuation on the theme of building relationships with other maritime organizations.

Controlling Council 2017 was held in Cyprus and saw further development of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Project and a recommendation to move forward. This complex but strategic initiative has been recognised to have potential to drive the Institute forward as this would truly be beneficial for members and would add even more professionalism to our already positive reputation. The Membership Committee has been tasked to recommend what kind of CPD program would be beneficial for ICS to undertake.

The Canada Branch continues to offer networking and educational opportunities for our Membership. This past year saw a slight decrease in events offered, maybe due to time commitments or availability of speakers. At the very least, I believe that the Luncheon Speaker series should remain a main stay of what the Canada Branch offers for which at the very least offers a direct benefit to both members and the local maritime community. Pub nights continue to be popular and well attended. Montreal has held several successful pub nights in coordination with WISTA and recently co-hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Quiz Night with the Youth in Shipping. Vancouver events have found a solid home to compliment the Canada Branch AGM in the spring and the Dry Bulk & Commodities Conference in the fall.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dry Bulk & Commodities Conference again set the bar high for ourselves and for those that attended. With a thin maritime event calendar set in Vancouver, this event has quickly become a mainstay for those that attend. With an excellent roster of speakers and a long list of sponsors supporting this event, the feedback was that this event again hit the mark. And if success is proven with a profit, we can boost to have earned more than \$16,000. I am looking forward to the 5<sup>th</sup> annual event being a real milestone for the Canada Branch!

It is unfortunate to again report another year of sporadic cyber-attacks on our website. As the website is a vital link of communication with our membership, it is imperative to upgrade this infrastructure and I am sure that a renewed website will eliminate many of these issues. Thank you to Andriy Tereshchenko and Stephen Brown for bringing together what looks like a solid plan for us to move forward with.

Before my final sign off, I wanted to thank Julian Hung for being a constant supporter to our Montreal branch. If I can speak for the Board, we are very grateful for your time, dedication and enthusiasm that you are able to achieve in this role. The Canada Branch wouldn't be the same without your continuous east coast membership support. It is a sad farewell to say goodbye to Gemma Chinnery. During the few years as a student Board member and then as a Director, she added a new and fresh perspective on how to engage with students. I want to wish her and her family the best of luck back as I know our paths will cross again. And a thank you to Jon Ciobanu for your continued support. As ever the Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia plays a valuable role in the Canada Branch's success; a special thank you to Alisha for supporting our organization with all kinds of requests. Thank you to Carol for seamlessly delivering invigilation for our Vancouver based exams. And finally, I also wanted to thank Kay for his support as Vice Chair for the last two years. This role is an excellent training ground for taking on the demands of Chair and I know that you will be successful in your tenure. I am truly privileged to have worked with you all, as I recognize this is not just one of us creating success but all of us working together to make this work.