

Conceptualizing an International Marine Technical Enhancement Exchange (IMTEE) Program

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The ever-growing role of shipboard technicians

- Modern general purpose vessels have more capabilities, which means increasing complexity
- Demand for more data = responsible for more systems
- Shore-side versus ship-side knowledge
- Lack of sufficient cross training and standardization
- Research vessels are individually unique = good

Motivation for Enhancement

- Fleet Improvement
- Science (Technical) Mission Requirements
- Examine international global fleet
- Survey marine tech community
- Leverage international forums like INMARTECH and IRSO

Example that went to IRSO this past July

“Angola has built a very capable research vessel at Damen’s yard in Romania and are close to transferring the vessel to Luanda and start cruise activities. The vessel is equipped with a very large hydro acoustic suite from Kongsberg and the problem now is that they do not have scientists and/or marine technicians who are qualified to operate the equipment and therefore are looking for support from the international RV community. The vessel project has funds to cover the cost of such support, so it is not a question of “pro bono” work, but paid in full. They need at least two system-operators for the voyage from Galati to Luanda and for the following first year of operation- in batches of time if not continuously. If you are interested and able to help, please contact ...”

Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG)

- Represents Europe's leading oceanographic research organizations
- Provides a forum to consider barter exchange and co-operation opportunities for the Global and Ocean Class research fleet.
- OFEG aims to maximize the overall scientific output using its state-of-the-art facilities in support of the worldwide oceanographic community.

Types of barter exchanges

- Ship visits at the dock or in the yard
- Opportunistic transits
- At-sea science missions

- Diversify experiences

Initial considerations

- Compile list of interested vessel operators and technical support groups
- Letters of support/commitment
- VISA issues, language barriers, system restrictions
- Coordinate a 2019 pilot exchange for proof of concept
- Program through NSF-OCE tech services or OFA

Potential Outcomes

- The Inmartech conference is an ideal platform to share experiences with the broader community
- Present or report debriefs to advisory committees
- Discussions on emerging technologies and safer operations
- Integrate new approaches for technical training
- Support next generation of seagoing techs beyond borders

Group Discussion ...

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