

Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers Cyprus Branch

Annual Dinner

31 January 2009, St. Raphael Resort

**Address by the Chairman of the Cyprus Branch of the Institute of
Chartered Shipbrokers Mr. Christos Tsangaris**

Your Excellency, honoured guests and Members,

It is really my pleasure, on behalf of the Cyprus Branch, to welcome you all to our event of the year, our Annual Dinner. It is an excellent opportunity for us all to get together with our partners for a relaxed and enjoyable evening. It is also an excellent opportunity to invite and thank those people who assist and support us throughout the year.

In this respect, extend a very warm welcome to our guest of honour, His Excellency the Minister of Communication and Works, Mr. Nicos Nicolaides, and to thank him for accepting our invitation to be here with us tonight, evidencing government support for the local shipping industry and, more specifically, our Institute.

We are also very pleased to welcome and thank the Director of the Department of Merchant Shipping, Mr Serghios Serghiou. We are greatly indebted to him for his consideration regarding the inclusion of our Membership Qualification as an additional advantage in the Service Scheme for employment in his department.

I would like to thank the Director of the Cyprus Shipping Chamber, Mr Thomas Kazakos, and his colleagues Mr Alex Josephides and Mr Ben Casey, for the Chamber's continued support and very close co-operation in promoting membership and administering the Understanding Shipping course over the years. Our wish is to continue and further enhance this co-operation in the future.

I wish to welcome and thank the General Secretary of CYMEPA, Dr. Michael Ierides, for hosting at CYMEPA House, our tutorials, the Professional Qualification Examinations and very recently, the library.

Also, Mrs. Maria Savva from Price Waterhouse Coopers, who audit our accounts.

Of course, special thanks go to you, dear Members and Fellows, for honouring your Institute with your presence. If you support your Institute, the Institute will support and reward you. Without your active involvement in the affairs of the Institute, it will not be possible to fulfil our mission.

The Mission of the Institute, as you well know, is to provide education, train young people to successfully enter the shipping profession and also maintain high standards of professionalism in the industry by the Continued Professional Development of its Members.

I think it is well accepted that the shipping industry on this island has grown and prospered for some decades. This was due, in part to the conducive environment influenced by factors such as, a favourable Ship Registry, a modest cost of living, and high quality legal and accounting systems. Few may recognise, however, the major contribution that you, the Chartered Shipbrokers, as professionals, have made. This is just to remind ourselves that beyond our mission, we also have a role to play in the development of the shipping industry as a whole.

Of course, the main purpose of this event is not for you to listen to lengthy speeches but to enjoy the atmosphere, good food and dancing.

Before I close I would like to say a few words for those who voluntarily offer their valuable time to move the Institute forward.

I would like to thank the tutors of the Understanding Shipping course: Stella Mavromati, Christina Christoforou, Stephen Fyfe, Xanthos Kyriakou, Yiannis Shitas, Nicolas Assimenos, Alexander Pachomov and Elena Schiza for patiently correcting the assignments.

The course is not so easy to pass, or indeed to receive a Merit, as some may think. Students must work hard throughout the year and also pass the final written and oral examinations. In recognition of this effort, we have invited those students that received a Merit to be here with us tonight to be presented with their diplomas.

I would like to thank the Members of the under-35 sub-committee, Yiannis Shittas Maria Kazamia, Stefanie Mogharbel, Christina Christoforou and Panayiotis Hannas who, under the guidance of Michael, our Vice-Chairman, have contributed with such enthusiasm and commitment. They are also largely responsible for the success of tonight's event, and for the very successful fundraising event last month. In just one week they managed to collect, from Members and companies, the amount of 2500 euro which was donated to the "Friends for Life" foundation.

As regards the fund raising event, I would particularly like to commend the kind and generous gesture of one of our Members, Kyriakos Kourias, who donated the proceeds of his fund-raising Amathousia run. We are proud of you Kyriakos.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the Committee, Mixalis Taliotis, Stephen Fyfe, Xanthos Kyriakou, Demitris Constaninides and Andreas Andreou for their dedication and diligence in handling the day to day running of the Institute.

Thank you all for your support. I hope you enjoy the rest of the night, and good luck with the raffle draw!

I now call upon His Excellency the Minister of Communication and Works to say a few words