



**Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers Cyprus Branch
Annual Dinner**

22 February 2008, St. Raphael Resort

**Address by the President of the Cyprus Shipping Council
Capt. Dirk Fry**

Mayor of Limassol, Director of the Department of Merchant Shipping, Chairman of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, Chairman of the Cyprus Branch of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the Cyprus Shipping Council, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this gathering organised by the Cyprus Branch of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers.

It is worth mentioning once again that during the last 30 years the public and private sector managed to build up a highly reputable shipping community in Cyprus, offering a wide variety of top quality shipping services. Cyprus had managed to attract here not only the sizeable number of vessels registered under the Cyprus Flag, but also a fully fledged and operational, first rate Shipping Industry, which is actively represented by the Cyprus Shipping Council.

In this respect, the Cyprus Registry is classified as the 10th largest merchant fleet globally and the 3rd largest fleet in the European Union. Further, Cyprus is considered to be the largest third-party Shipmanagement Centre in the European Union and one of the largest in the world.

The cooperation between the Cyprus Shipping Council and the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers began as far as back in 1992 when the Council undertook the initiative to identify a suitable professional shipping course which would form the basis of an office personnel training scheme offered to the employees of its Member-companies. The course offered by the Institute through its Correspondence College called "Tutorship" is designed to meet the needs of personnel in all spheres of shipping business, was adopted by the Council in 1993.

This cooperation between the Council and the Institute was further enhanced with the establishment of the Cyprus Branch of the Institute in 1996, which continues successfully until this day. I believe that the formation of the Cyprus Branch offered its members a sense of belonging and strengthened significantly the value of their membership.



After relevant requests made by the Shipping Industry, the Institute developed a course called “Understanding Shipping” specifically to cater for the needs of those with little or no previous exposure to shipping. This course was adopted by the Cyprus Branch of the Institute in 2000, with the full support of the Council, and was customised in order to meet the particular requirements of the Cyprus Shipping Industry. I would like to state at this point that to date the course had been completed by 363 company employees and a total of 22 merit awards have been presented.

We feel particularly proud that our Member-companies actively supported through the years the work of the Institute and in particular the Cyprus Branch by covering the expenses for the Courses’ participants. I also wish to thank the Council’s Training Officer, Mr. Ben Casey, who administers the Institute Courses with the same commitment and zeal since 1993 when he was first employed with the Council.

Closing, I would like to assure you that the Cyprus Shipping Council will continue to provide its full support and cooperation to the Institute in order to further expand the education and knowledge of the employees of its Member-companies, which in turn contribute to the further development of our Industry.

Thank you and enjoy your evening.