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Dt. November 1, 2010

**Mariners Welfare Guild
Chennai
India**

Dear Sirs,

We in Marine Survey frequently attend Ship's accidents, investigations and related matters. Some times this involves injury and death even. During the course of such work over the last 36 years in Marine Survey, I have observed that the Mariners – Seafarers have often been disregarded and most often due to commercial reasons. This point has been even emphasized in STCW Programs where I had worked as a Technical and HR faculty since 1990.

There is also a feeling amongst Seafarers that they are forgotten lot – **There is some truth in this** -The world's one million or so seafarers are virtually never seen -**Out of sight and mind literally**...invisible to the public that benefits from their toil at sea. We all know that if Coal, Oil & Food Grains did not move by Sea --- Humanity will starve and freeze and this has been even taken up by many bodies, but in reality remains unacknowledged.

Study finds that whilst Seafaring is a rewarding occupation.. it can also take its toll on the seafarers family life and recoil on the seafarer, with many adverse side effects, unless the inequilibrium due to isolation is overcome.

Ever decreasing crew sizes from 52 to as less as 16 -22 have been making the problem worse. If we wish to see Safe Shipping -the seafarers have to be also Safe, emotionally protected and attention needs to be given to their families in their absence.

I read this from the Seafarers' International Research Centre (SIRC). Understand this was voiced by a British Master - **"A seafarer's life is all about freedom. He comes, he goes, he travels but he still needs a base. Without a base, he has nothing." Absolute FACT.**

This Guild is to help in all efforts to listen to the Voice of the Seafarer, bring Seafarers together and support and protect their needs.

I wish the Guild all success and support the Cause.

Kind Regards,

Capt. T. Rajkumar
Sr. Exec. Dir. (ADM- HR -QA/QC)
Southern Region