

**Mr. Kitack Lim**  
**Secretary-General**  
**International Maritime Organization**



**Regional webinar on  
"Challenges faced by  
seafarers and  
identification of best  
practices during the  
COVID-19 pandemic  
in Asia"**

**4 and 5 November 2020  
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (GMT)**

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*Kitack Lim was elected Secretary-General of the Organization by the 114th session of the IMO Council in June 2015 for a four-year period beginning 1 January 2016. The election was endorsed by the IMO's Assembly at its 29th session in November 2015.*

*At its 31st session (November-December 2019), the Assembly approved the renewal of Mr. Kitack Lim's appointment as Secretary-General of IMO, for a second and final term of four years (1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023).*

*Mr. Kitack Lim (Republic of Korea) is the eighth elected Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization.*

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Photo: Sri Lanka Ports Authority

**Mr. Brandt Wagner**

**Head of Transport and Maritime Sector Unit  
International Labour Organization (ILO)**



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Photo: Sri Lanka Ports Authority

*Brandt Wagner is the Head of the Transport and Maritime Unit, Sectoral Policies Department, International Labour Office. His unit is responsible for shipping, fishing, ports, inland navigation, civil aviation, road transport and rail transport.*

*He graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in 1981 dual license program, combining marine engineering and marine transportation studies and with licenses in both specialties.*

*Following several years at sea, he came ashore to work for United States Lines, followed by the Council of American-Flag Ship Operators, the National Association of Stevedores and PCCI Marine Engineering (including as project manager for the latter's response to the Exxon Valdez oil spill). He served as a Navy Reserve Officer, in convoy operations.*

*He joined the ILO in 1990, and has been involved in all ILO's maritime work, including the development and implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended; the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185); and the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), as well as numerous ILO conferences projects concerning shipping, fishing, ports and other sectors.*

*Mr. Wagner frequently represents the ILO at meetings of the IMO, FAO, Paris and Tokyo MOUs on Port State Control and other international and regional bodies. He has lectured at the World Maritime University and other academic institutions, and is the ILO focal point for UN-OCEANS.*

**Mr. Ismael Cobos**

**Head, Maritime Training and Human Element**

**Maritime Safety Division**

**IMO**



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*A national of Spain, he is currently living in London. He holds a Phd (cum laude distinction); a MEng in Marine Technology and Marine Engineering; a BEng in Ship Science/Naval Architecture and a Master in Shipping Business, all from the Catalonia Polytechnic University.*

*He began his professional career as Engineer Officer in 1999 in crude oil tankers and reefer ships before joining the shipping industry ashore as ship manager in a ship repair and refit shipyard in Barcelona.*

*In the Spanish Maritime Administration from 2004, he worked as Maritime Safety Inspector/Supervisor dealing with PSC inspections, flag State inspections, 24/7 emergencies, and safety management and ship security audits. Over this period, he represented Spain in several national and international fora.*

*In June 2012, he was appointed Counsellor for Transport of the Embassy of Spain in London and representative to IMO, leading the Spanish delegation in IMO, IOPC Funds and IMSO meetings, having chaired some of them. He also promoted efficiency, sustainability and internationalization of transportation systems and infrastructure from a bilateral (Spain-UK) perspective.*

*In April 2016, he joined the IMO Secretariat as Technical Officer responsible for the GBS verification audits scheme related to construction rules for bulk carriers and oil tankers. In said position he was also secretary of the SSE Sub-Committee.*

*He was appointed Head, Maritime Training and Human Element on 1 January 2018, a position that he currently holds, where he is responsible for running the section and, in particular, is secretary of the HTW Sub-Committee; is responsible for the IMO model courses programme; manages the evaluation of information communicated to IMO by STCW Parties in accordance with the STCW Convention.*

*He was also a lecturer at Catalonia Polytechnic University from 2004 to 2016 and has written a number of publications related to the maritime field.*

**Ms. Azhar Jaimurzina**

**Chief**

**Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section,  
Transport Division**

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**



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*Azhar Jaimurzina Ducrest is Chief of the Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section of the Transport Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The Section supports member States in their efforts to develop integrated intermodal transport connectivity by assisting in further development of the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and Dry Ports networks, as well as of the sustainable maritime connectivity. It also works on the measures to improve the operational efficiency of transport systems, including through common regional frameworks, harmonized technical and operational standards and rules, application of new technologies to cross-border transport and innovations in logistics.*

*Previously Ms. Jaimurzina has worked as Chief of the Infrastructure Services Unit of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), Economic Affairs Officer for the Trade Logistics and Technology Branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Economic Affairs Officer of the Transport Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). She has worked with more than seventy developed and developing countries and transition economies world-wide. In doing so, she provided substantive support to a wide range of the UN intergovernmental bodies and groups of experts, carried out comprehensive UN technical assistance and capacity building projects and drafted or contributed to a large number of UN analytical reports, legal instruments and technical standards on infrastructure development, inland transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation. Ms. Jaimurzina holds a Licence in Political Science and Master Degree in International Law from Université Libre de Bruxelles and a Master Degree in International Relations from University of Chicago.*

**Natalie Shaw BSc (Hons)**  
**MA Chartered MCIPD, FRSA**  
**Director of Employment**  
**International Labour Organization (ILO)**



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*Natalie is the Director of Employment for the International Chamber of Shipping, which she joined in March 2003.*

*Since this time she has been actively involved in the development and Implementation of the ILO instruments into the Maritime Labour Convention and discussions on the ILO minimum wage.*

*She is the Secretary of the Shipowners Group at ILO and represents ICS at IMO at the Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping Sub-Committee (HTW) and the Legal Committee meetings.*

*Prior to joining ISF she worked for Ford Motor Company in a plethora of Human Resources Management roles.*

*Natalie is a former Director for the UK Women's Engineering Society an UK registered charity promoting engineering opportunities for women and former Director of ISWAN and ISAN.*

*She is currently a trustee of Seafarers UK.*

*Since the start of the pandemic Natalie has been instrumental in coordinating a number of initiatives to get cross industry stakeholders to work together quickly and effectively.*

*Natalie holds a Masters Degree in European Human Resource Management and is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. She was recently elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.*

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**Mr. Branko Berlan**

**Accredited representative to IMO**

**International Transport Workers' Federation  
(ITF)**



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*Branko has a degree in Maritime Studies, Maritime Engineer department.*

*He was a seafarer for 15 years, finishing his seafaring career as Chief Engineer. Branko was Assistant General Secretary of the Seafarers' Union of Croatia from 1991 until 2013 and he represented seafarers of Croatia at the IMO and ILO. Then, he joined the ITF in May 2013.*

*As the ITF accredited representative to the IMO, following the vision of the ITF, he recognises that as the ITF has been demonstrating at the IMO, the ITF has an immense voice for the seafarers and all workers in the maritime industry. He looks forward to enhancing influence of the ITF in shaping the maritime policies. The priorities of the ITF will be better recognition of roles and importance of all maritime workers and their safety. He will also continue pursuing more constructive cooperation with governments and the industry partners.*

*Further to his role of ITF Representative to the IMO, Branko also has the responsibilities:*

- 1 To lead or provide support in any UN, Industry, ITF forum that requires maritime expertise or in matters pertaining to general welfare and wellbeing of maritime workers, and*
  - 2 To undertake all maritime related and technical issues on behalf of the ITF.*
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**Capt. Kuba Szymanski**

**Secretary General**

**InterManager**



*Captain Kuba Szymanski is the Secretary General for InterManager, the international trade association for the ship and crew management sector.*

*He started his sea career in 1985. He graduated from the Maritime University of Szczecin with a Master Degree and started his deck officer career with Dorchester Maritime Limited Isle of Man where he sailed gas/chemical/product tankers, reaching his first command as a Master in 1999.*

*In order to support his managerial skills, he attended Lloyds Academy and obtained a Certificate in Ship Superintendence, before gaining an MBA at the International Business School, Isle of Man and John Moores University (JMU) Liverpool.*

*In his roles ashore, Kuba worked as Marine Superintendent, HSEQ Manager, Fleet Manager and General Manager. For the past eight years he has been Secretary General of InterManager.*

*Capt. Szymanski is a familiar face on the international maritime lecture circuit. For the past 16 years he has also lectured on ship management at the International Business School, Isle of Man.*

*Through his role with InterManager, Capt Szymanski has participated in many industry-wide projects, including the production of international shipping industry Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and the Save Our Seafarers campaign and, most recently, the Martha Project which focussed on seafarer fatigue at sea, and is currently chairing HEIG Enclosed Space Committee.*

*In July 2018 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Solent Southampton University in recognition of his contribution to the maritime industry.*

*In his leisure time, Kuba is a keen yachtsman and races sails his Beneteau First 40.7 competitively around Europe, mostly double or single handed.*

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**Shri Amitabh Kumar, IRS**  
**Director General of Shipping and**  
**Additional Secretary to Government of India**  
**Ministry of Shipping, India**



*Amitabh Kumar is a career civil servant belonging to the 1987 batch of Indian Revenue Service. He has done his Graduation and Post Graduation from Hindu College in Delhi University, and Masters in Business Administration from Southern Cross University, Australia. He has also done short courses in 'Advanced Management' from Maxwell School of Public Policy in USA and 'Leadership and Change Management' from Wharton Business School in USA.*

*Shri Kumar took over as Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India on 7th January 2019. Before that he worked as Additional D.G. Shipping & Joint Secretary, Gol, from 15th September, 2015.*

*He has a vast and varied experience of working in Government of India. He has worked in the Ministry of Home Affairs from 1997 to 2004, and in Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Shipping.*

*He is one of the five recipients of G-files Governance Award 2014, across all civil services, for his Exceptional Contribution for changing the orientation of Tax Administration from enforcement to Tax Payer Service and for introducing several innovating schemes in the field of tax administration. He is also recipient of 3 awards from Finance Minister on the occasion of 150 years of Income Tax and 7 commendations from CBDT.*

*Since his posting in the Directorate General of Shipping, he has been instrumental in drafting of new Merchant Shipping Bill & Multimodal Transportation of Goods Bill. He has introduced digital reforms in Maritime Administration by rolling out e-gov. platforms like e-migrant software, training module, Recruitment and Placement Service Module, Examination Module, Swatch Sagar, Biometric Seafarer Identity Document, Digital Certificates for Watch Keeping, DC endorsement, E-Learning, Virtual Classrooms, Online Exit Exams and Digital certificates for training, Online Ship Registration modules etc.*



**Vice Admiral Robert Arugay Empedrad**

**0-9514 AFP (Ret)**

**Administrator**

**Maritime Industry Authority**

**The Philippines**



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*Vice Admiral Empedrad is the Administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority, Department of Transportation, Republic of the Philippines.*

*Prior to his appointment as Administrator, he served as Flag Officer in Command of the Philippine Navy.*

*He completed his formal education at the Philippine Military Academy in Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City. He was commissioned and joined the Philippine Navy immediately after graduation in 1986. He completed his Master in Business Administration at Philippine Christian University, Dasmarias, Cavite; and has taken specialized courses at the US Naval War College in New Port, Rhode Island, USA, the National Defense College of the Philippines, and the Defense Academy in Shrivenham, United Kingdom.*

*He received recognition for his distinguished service in the Philippine Navy including the Philippine Legion of Honor (Degree of Commander), Distinguished Service Stars; Outstanding Achievement Medal; Gawad Sa Kaunlaran; Distinguish Navy Cross; several Bronze Cross Medal; Military Achievement Medal; several Military Merit Medals with Spearhead Device; several Military Merit Medals; several Military Commendation Medals; several Campaign Medals, Civic Action Medals; and various badges, plaques and certifications.*

*He was happily married to Bless and has an only child, Jelome.*

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**Mr. Qiang Shi**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Hong Kong Marine Department**



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*Mr. Shi is an Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Marine Department. He leads the Shipping Division, and oversees ship registration, flag administration, port state control, and seafarer matters.*

*Before joining the Marine Department in 2007, Mr. Shi had been working with several multinational shipping companies for 15 years, both on board ships and ashore. This provided him with first hand experiences in the shipping industry, especially in crew manning, liner operation, and quality management.*

*Starting as a Port State Control Officer, Mr. Shi has subsequently held several positions in the Marine Department, covering the areas of flag state survey, seafarer examination, marine legislation, marine accident investigation, etc. He keeps close contacts with shipping companies, classification societies, seafarer unions, and other stakeholders to ensure smooth and effective implementation of both IMO instruments and Hong Kong statutory requirements.*

*Mr. Shi obtained his MBA from University of Hull and a Postgraduate Diploma in International Maritime Law from World Maritime University. During his spare time, he enjoys SCUBA diving and kayaking.*

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**Dr. Capt. Antoni Arif Priadi, MSc**

**Director**

**Sea Traffic and Transportation - DGST  
Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Indonesia**



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*Dr. Capt Antoni Arif Priadi current position is Director of Sea Traffic and Transportation in the Directorate General of Sea Transportation, Ministry of Transportation. Previously he served as Head of Tanjung Priok Port Class I District of Navigation and Transportation Attaché at the Embassy of Republic of Indonesia in Kuala Lumpur since 2018.*

*Capt Antoni has an extensive career in maritime educational and training program, and also qualified as master mariner. He obtained Postgraduate Doctoral Education at University of Indonesia and University Le Havre, France in 2014 and graduated from World Maritime University with a specialization in Maritime Education and Training in 2006. His interests and passion are related with human element and seafarers qualification level. He is also experienced in teaching IMO model course 6.09 and 3.12 and has a vast array of involvement in a number of scientific journals.*



Photo: Sri Lanka Ports Authority

**Mr. Goh Chung Hun**  
**Director (Shipping)**  
**Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore**



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*Chung Hun started his career as a sea-faring chief engineer, and after his seafaring days, worked for a number of years as a technical superintendent managing oil tankers and passenger ships. Following that, Chung Hun spent a fruitful 8 years at Lloyds Register Singapore, in roles from a surveyor to Marine Operations Manager. He then moved into the offshore marine industry and was the Deputy General Manager at Marco Polo Marine, running a fleet of OSVs. With his experience as a seafarer, ship-manager and class surveyor, Chung Hun joined the Singapore flag administration in 2017.*

*In April 2019, he was appointed as the Director of Shipping in the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.*



Photo: Sri Lanka Ports Authority