



# IMO AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL BRAVERY AT SEA 2010

Wednesday, 24 November 2010 at 5.45 p.m.



## ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

### **The 2010 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea**

Short film highlighting dangers of the sea  
(courtesy of [The Mission to Seafarers](#))

Address by IMO Secretary-General  
**Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos**

#### **Presentation ceremony:**

- Presentation of Certificates of Commendation
- Presentation of Medal and Certificate to the winner of the  
**2010 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea**  
(Video courtesy of [Australian Maritime Safety Authority](#))

**The ceremony will be followed by a reception**



Every year, the IMO Council confers an IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea. Laureates are individuals - including seafarers - who, at the risk of their own life, perform acts of exceptional bravery in attempting to save persons in distress or to prevent pollution of the marine environment.

Further to the Award itself, Certificates and letters of Commendation are also presented to nominees who are judged to deserve some special recognition for similarly meritorious actions.

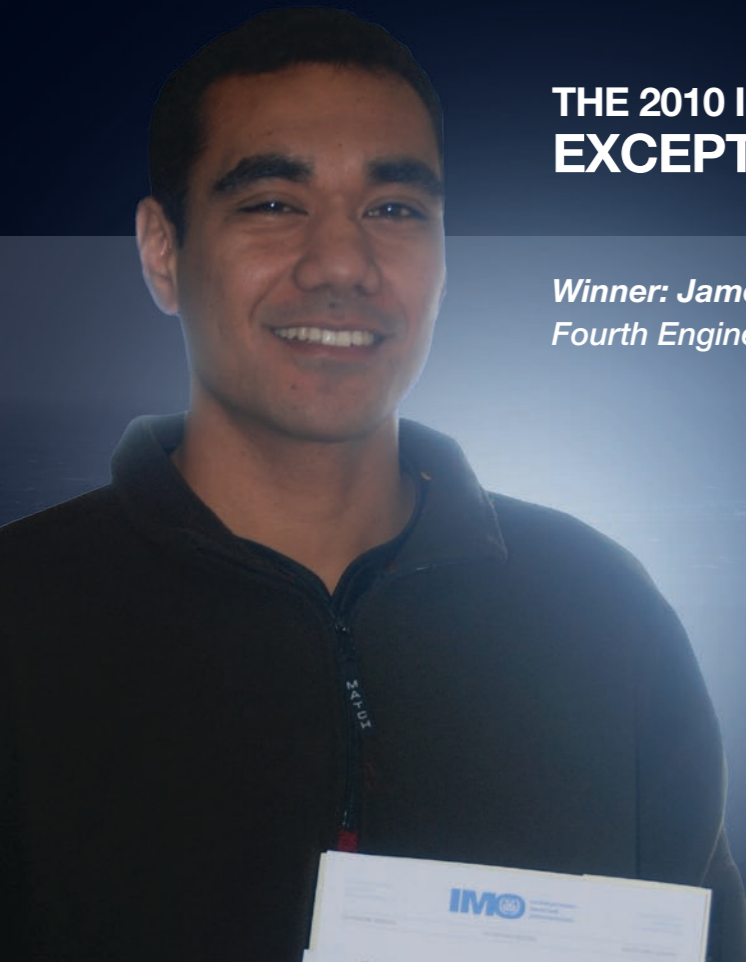
The fourth annual ceremony for the bestowal of the **IMO Awards for Exceptional Bravery at Sea**, is, this year, one of the important events held during the “Year of the Seafarer”.

In making 2010 the **Year of the Seafarer**, our intention has been to draw attention to the unique circumstances within which seafarers spend their working lives, while rendering their

indispensable services. We have also sought to use it as an excellent opportunity to reassure those, who labour at the “sharp end” of the industry – the seafarers themselves – that those of us who work in other areas of the maritime community, and yet whose actions have a direct bearing on seafarers’ everyday lives, understand the extreme pressures they face and approach our tasks with genuine interest and concern for them and their families.

So it is extremely appropriate that, this year’s Award winner is himself a seafarer and that, with the Award scheme, we honour and pay tribute to courageous men and women, seafarers or those assisting seafarers and sea users, all of whom have displayed heroism, valour, courage and dedication under life-threatening conditions prevailing at the time of their acts.

**IMO Secretary-General  
Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos**



## THE 2010 IMO AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL BRAVERY AT SEA

*Winner: James Fanifau,  
Fourth Engineer of the **Scarlett Lucy***



The Government of Spain has generously supported the Award by subsidizing the production of the highest Award, in the form of a silver medal.

The 2010 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea is awarded to Fourth Engineer James Fanifau, a Fijian national, nominated by Australia for his part in the dramatic rescue of two survivors from a sunken yacht amid severe weather conditions in the Tasman Sea, displaying extraordinary bravery and humanitarian concern and going far beyond the call of duty.

The **Scarlett Lucy** had responded to a broadcast from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC), alerting ships in the vicinity of a distress call from the yacht, with two people on board, which was taking on water and sinking, some 350 nautical miles east of Brisbane. Reaching the scene, the weather conditions were very poor with rough

seas, waves up to eight metres high and low visibility. The distance offshore meant that a rescue helicopter could not be utilised.

One man was able to be recovered to the **Scarlett Lucy** by climbing up a boarding net, but the second, elderly man, a United States national, drifted in the water for some 45 minutes with the **Scarlett Lucy's** crew utilising life rings to attempt to bring him on board. Finally, Mr. Fanifau, placing himself in great danger and exhibiting little regard for his own personal safety, went over the side of his ship to pull the exhausted elderly man from the rough sea and carry him to the safety of the ship.

## CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION

To be presented to:

- The crew of the fishing boat **Zhe Ping Yu 2325**, nominated by China, for their speedy response, with limited search and rescue experience, in recovering four crew members from a liferaft of the sunken **M/V Dong Hai 1818**, in heavy seas and bad visibility, in September 2009. They then continued the search operation until the remaining three crew members had also been rescued.

- **Petty Officer (PO2) Samuel B. Boniol, PO3 Anifer S. Bucao, SN1 Oliver S. Cogo and SPO3 Loreto F. Justo**, Task Force Sea Marshals (TFSM), nominated by the Philippines, for their actions while on duty onboard the M/V Super Ferry 9, when it capsized and sank in September 2009. Following the order to

abandon ship, they assisted with the evacuation and disembarkation of the passengers, shepherded them to their rescue and were the last to leave the severely listing ferry.

- **Coxswain Myck Jubber, Crewman Kobus Meyer and Crewman Kim Germishuys** of the rescue boat **Spirit of Rotary-Blouberg**, Station 18, Melkbosstrand, National Sea Rescue Institute of South Africa, nominated by South Africa, for assisting in the rescue of the crew of the bulk carrier **Seli 1**, which was being swept to shore by stormy seas in Table Bay, after breaking its anchor link while awaiting engine repairs, in September 2009. Operating in extreme sea and weather conditions close to the operational limits of their craft, the nominees succeeded in

evacuating the stricken vessel's crew of 25 to the safety of another rescue craft.

- **AST3 Michael C. Romano**, a helicopter rescue swimmer and emergency medical technician, from Air Station Atlantic City, United States Coast Guard, nominated by the United States, for his actions in April 2009 in preventing a crew member of the fishing vessel **Andy II** from drowning in freezing seas after a hoist broke during a medical evacuation, in hazardous night conditions, plunging the patient overboard. Mr. Romano swam to the immobile patient and kept him afloat in stormy seas until the helicopter crew were able to make an emergency repair and hoist the two out of the water.

## LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

The following have been sent letters of commendation for their acts:

- **Officers** of the patrol vessel **31321**, Changjiang Maritime Safety Administration, nominated by China, for persevering for some 20 hours to rescue five crew members from the overturned cargo ship **YuLuoHe 1111**, in severe weather conditions, in June 2009.

- **Team of rescue swimmers, Israel Defence Force (IDF)**, nominated by Israel, for the rescue of six persons from the sea, by swimming to the survivors and hoisting each one individually, in conditions of poor visibility, floating debris and extremely heavy weather, after the general cargo vessel **Salla 2** had foundered, in December 2009.

- **The Master and crew of the M/V Dorian**, nominated by Liberia, for the rescue, in heavy weather, of 77 people from the sinking small coastal passenger/cargo ship **M/V Lie D'Anjouan**, some 120 miles south east of Dar es Salaam, in a piracy-infested area, in April 2009.

- **Negeri Sembilan Fire and Rescue Department, Malaysia (FRDM)**, nominated by Malaysia, for effective fire fighting and search and rescue response measures by 80 fire fighters, who succeeded in putting out a fire on the oil tanker **MT Formosa Product Brick**, which had been seriously damaged by an explosion and fire, following a collision with a bulk carrier in August 2009.

- **AB (Maritime Police) Gustavo Castrillon and AB (Maritime Police) Juan Almada**, Sub-prefecture, Port of Santiago Vázquez, Coastguard of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, nominated by Uruguay, for the rescue of three children age 6, 7 and 11, and two adults, suffering hypothermia and panic, after their yacht capsized, requiring the two officers to leave their rescue craft to reach the survivors and rescue them one by one over a rocky seabed, in poor weather conditions, in September 2009.



2010  
YEAR OF THE SEAFARER



4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7SR  
United Kingdom

Tel +44 (0)20 7735 7611  
Fax +44 (0)20 7587 3210  
Email [info@imo.org](mailto:info@imo.org)

[www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)

Printed by Scanplus Ltd  
ISO 14001 environmental accredited printer  
Printed using vegetable based inks



This is printed on FSC material under chain of custody conditions by an FSC accredited printer

