



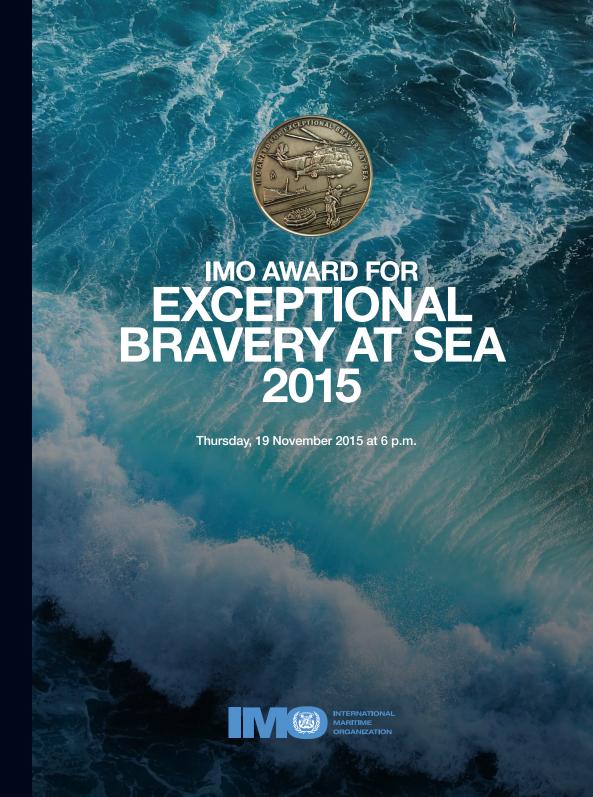
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The 2015 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

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INTRODUCTION

Address by IMO Secretary-General **Mr. Koji Sekimizu**

PRESENTATION CEREMONY

CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION

(listed in the alphabetical order of the country nominating)

- Able Seaman Vicente Somera, crew member of the M/V Lars Maersk, nominated by Australia for his role in rescuing, in treacherous sea conditions, gale force winds and total darkness and after three challenging hours, a hypothermic sailor who had sustained several life-threatening falls attempting to repair an oil leak on his sailing vessel and who had jumped overboard in an attempt to retrieve a messenger line which had been thrown to him;
- Skipper Jean-Claude Van Rymenant and the crew of the rescue launch SNS 129 Notre Dame de la Garoupe, volunteers at Saint Martin Station, National Maritime Rescue Association (SNSM), nominated by France, for their arduous and relentless attempts to rescue, during the passage of Cyclone Gonzalo, a couple and a baby aboard the vessel Voyage II, which eventually struck reefs. After evacuating the family and despite the total loss of the Notre Dame de la Garoupe, the volunteer crew continued to assist other ships which had grounded on the shore;
- Father Ilia Kartozia (posthumously), Abbot of the Monastery of Saint David
 the Builder, Patriarchate of Georgia, passenger on the ro-ro/passenger ship
 Norman Atlantic, nominated by Georgia, for sacrificing his own life whilst
 helping other passengers evacuate the ship, after its car deck had caught fire
 in extreme weather conditions and poor visibility;

- Lieutenant John Hess, Lieutenant Matthew Vanderslice, Aviation Maintenance
 Technician Derrick Suba and Aviation Survival Technician Evan Staph, crew
 members of the rescue helicopter CG-6033, US Coast Guard Air Station Cape
 Cod, nominated by the United States of America, for rescuing, in a severe
 winter storm with hurricane warnings, two persons on board the sailing vessel
 Sedona, which had suffered engine failure with risk of capsizing or sinking;
 and
- Lieutenant Scott Black, Lieutenant Jesse C. Keyser and Aviation Maintenance Technician Michael Spraggins, crew members of the rescue helicopter CG-6531, US Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco, nominated by the Government of the United States of America, in recognition of the important part they played in the same rescue operation carried out by the recipient of the Award.

RECIPIENT OF THE 2015 AWARD

MEDAL AND CERTIFICATE

 Aviation Survival Technician Christopher Leon, crew member of the rescue helicopter CG-6531, US Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco, nominated by the Government of the United States of America, for the display of courage, strength and stamina in rescuing, at very high risk to his own life, four people from the sinking ocean rower **Britannia**, in gale force winds and darkness.

RECEPTION

The ceremony will be followed by a reception in the Delegates' Lounge.