

## Mr. Hajara launches Indian chapter of WISTA

### ■ BSN Network / Mumbai

The Indian chapter of the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA) was launched with fanfare at the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) auditorium at the hands of **Mr. S. Hajara**, CMD, SCI.

Mr. Hajara congratulated WISTA India's core team for their dedicated efforts to launch the India chapter of WISTA which was founded in 1974. Today it has a presence in 34 countries with over 1600 members. Complimenting the networking skill and reach of WISTA he said the recent Paris Annual conference was attended by close to 300 members from the 34 countries, this shows WISTA's reach all over the world.

**Turning to inclusive growth of economy he said, 50% of the population consists of ladies, so for the economy to grow they must be integrated.** He cited examples of inclusiveness in ancient India when woman occupied high positions as great scholars and philosophers. Talking of present times he said women are doing equally well in politics where we have examples of women as President, Prime Minister, chief ministers and in shipping too there were many women. Citing examples from SCI he said many women occupied very senior positions. Besides, SCI was first to have lady cadets, master, chief engineer, he said. Talking of SCI support for women he said SCI's Maritime Training Institute offered special rates for women. He told the women that there was tremendous potential for lady professionals to shine in this male bastion and reach the pinnacle while tremendously contributing to the growth of shipping industry.

Shipping has a major contribution to not only Indian economy but the world economy. However, little awareness exists about this outside shipping industry, Mr. Hajara said. In last 4-5 decades shipping has brought down price of shipping services in terms of freight, which for low value commodity such as crude or coal, has dropped from 40-50% to 2-4%. Citing an interesting example he said freight component of the total price of about \$200 for a pair of shoe was just 4-5 cents. This is the contribution of shipping, he said. Besides if the goods were transported by the other modes the world would become far more polluted and uninhabitable in a matter of weeks. Shipping therefore has great prospects, he said.

**If facilitative regime is rolled out for Indian flag there would be tremendous investments that would flow into Indian shipping even by the foreign companies.** There is not only potential for growth of men in shipping but also for ladies, he said. He advised WISTA to remain focused on education, knowledge and experience sharing and provide a wonderful platform for their members.

**Ms Sanjam Sahi Gupta**, President of WISTA India, in her address, said WISTA will enable women in the industry to share their experiences by using this platform. Speaking of WISTA's objectives she said "One of the key objectives of WISTA India would

be mentoring and spreading awareness about the various growth opportunities".

**Ms Nafeesa Moloobhoy**, Managing Partner, A. S. Moloobhoy & Sons, shared her experiences and the changing perception about women in shipping.

Sharing her early experiences working on ships, the special guest speaker, **Ms Jyoti Kumari**, 2nd Engineer, Great Eastern Shipping, highlighted how women's capabilities are doubted initially, especially in relation to physical strength. However, with passage of time, she said men get comfortable and the comfort zone get wider and soon they find that women work just like any of them. **Times have changed drastically since last 10-12 years, she said, today with new technologies physical strength is no longer as important as it is a brain oriented job.** She pointed out to the advantage of having women in management positions is they bring different approach to management. Each person has something good in him or her, she said motivation and team management can get the best out of them. When she took over as second engineer she said her colleagues felt that the environment was more homely and friendly. She exhorted the women present "Let us rule the marine world and prove them we are best".

Among the other speakers, **Mr Anil Devli**, CEO of INSA, extended all assistance of INSA to WISTA.

**Ms Rukhsana Vohra**, Executive Committee Member of WISTA India, proposed the vote of thanks.

The event was possible due to the special efforts of the event committee of WISTA.

**Ms. Shantha Martin**, Chief Executive Officer, ISC & Middle East at Allcargo Global Logistics Limited was also present on the occasion.

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