

INDIAN REGISTER OF SHIPPING TO TAKE OVER IACS CHAIRMANSHIP



IRCLASS

Indian Register of Shipping

After 9 years of being a member of the International Association of Classification Societies IACS, the leading classification society Indian Register of shipping IRClass makes it way to lead IACS, taking over the chairmanship starting July 1st, 2019. Suresh Sinha, Managing Director of IRClass told Robban Assafina magazine during their participation at Nor Shipping 2019. With worldwide recognition and offices in many countries, the classification society also seeks further expansion, having Germany in mind. Sinha, who reflected their successful participation at the event, spoke to Robban Assafina about the importance of this step for IRClass, and what plans are on their list next.



Mr. Suresh Sinha

Can you please give the readers a brief introduction about IRClass?

Indian Register of Shipping IRClass, the leading classification society, was established in 1975. It was basically established to serve ship owners in India and nearby countries, initially focusing on Asia as a regional area. After 15 years of strengthening our quality systems, IRClass started to focus on international markets and became an associate member of the International Association of Classification Societies IACS in December 1991. In 2010, IRClass became a full member of the IACS, with more than 800 surveyors, 400 of which are under the marine division. It runs 52 offices worldwide, working with 42 maritime leading administrations, including Panama, Marshall Islands, Bahamas, Liberia, Malta, and UAE, apart from India. IRClass has a growing number of ships with a worldwide recognition.

What importance does participating in such an event bring to IRClass?

We initially started our business focus in South East Asia, and we then expanded to Asia and the Middle East; now our focus is Europe. This is

our first participation in Nor Shipping, since we felt that we needed to be more visible in this part of the world; so our participation comes in line with our focus of expansion in Europe. We already have 4 offices around Europe: Piraeus, Rotterdam, Istanbul, and London office as the regional headquarters. We aim to open more offices, Germany is the next possible step. Another reason for participating at Nor Shipping is that IRClass will be taking over the Chairmanship of IACS later this year. This surely gives us an opportunity to enhance our visibility.

How are the preparations for IACS Chairmanship coming up so far? And what value does this step add to IRClass?

I am happy to tell you that in 9 years' time, we were able to strengthen ourselves lead the chairmanship of IACS. It is a very significant step for us, because after being in the industry for 4 decades, we would surely like to play a constructive role in dealing with the everyday challenges, the environmental concerns on the way, and the implementation of the new regulations. We consider that this further visibility that the chairmanship will give us will be aimed at ship owners and regulators and more importantly at stakeholders.

