

Message of support from the IMO

I welcome the tanker industry's recognition of the need to embrace continuous improvement and to have robust and visionary goals. Striving to achieve the goals of zero fatalities, zero pollution and zero detentions is exactly what continuous improvement is all about and, to that end, a commitment to quality and a recognition that improvement is both possible and desirable, is crucial.

But delivering oil around the world without a drop being spilled depends on more than just the tanker operator. It depends on all those whose activity touches on a ship during its voyage – from broker and charterer to pilot and oil terminal, from builder and classification society to insurer and salvor. For a shipping accident can be triggered by any one of the links in the chain of responsibility – and a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

The shipping industry and the regulators actually have the same aims and 'zero' goals. But voluntary, proactive efforts by the industry to raise its own standards must be a better route of achieving the aim and reaching the goals than through enforced regulation.

I therefore support the Poseidon Challenge, which not only encourages each link to examine itself and strengthen its structure, but also serves to improve the connections between all the links in the chain, with improved communication and co-operation.

I and my colleagues in the IMO Secretariat will continue to support our Member States and the industry in developing and implementing, as appropriate, the regulations, guidelines and recommendations that will assist the maritime community in achieving the goals of zero fatalities, zero pollution and zero detentions through continuous improvement.



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