



SALVORS – Hans van Rooij, President, International Salvage Union (ISU)

Hans joined SMIT in 1978 as a Salvage Superintendent and became Operations Manager in 1986. In 1991. He left SMIT to join Greenpeace Netherlands as Executive Director for three years. In 1997, after two years as Managing Director of Wijsmuller Salvage, he returned to SMIT as Managing Director of SMIT International Singapore. Hans is now Managing Director of SMIT Salvage. He has been closely involved in many major salvage operations. Hans has been a member of the ISU Executive Committee since 2000 and became Vice-President in 2002. He was elected President of the International Salvage Union 18 months ago. He has advised various governments on wreck removal matters and is the author of numerous papers on tanker safety, transport of hazardous cargoes, marine firefighting, wreck removal and marine environmental issues.

The ISU represents salvors responsible for over 90% of worldwide salvage activity. They have recovered nearly 12m tonnes of oils, chemicals and other pollutants from over 2,000 ship casualties over the past 12 years. But salvage is not a growth industry - industry and regulators are doing their best to reduce it.

Thus, continuous improvement has real meaning only in terms of response efficiency – where there is always room for improvement. But salvors do not work alone. The active cooperation of owners, shore authorities and other parties means that continuous improvement in salvage is all about more efficiency through a more effective and fully integrated response.

COMMITMENTS:

- Internal - increase industry awareness of the importance of Lloyd's Form - the ideal contract for the provision of emergency assistance. Lloyd's Form Levy (contributions based on LOF salvage awards received) introduced 1/06 - fund used to promote wider understanding of nature/function of LOF.
- External - prepare/submit paper to IMO calling for replacement of existing Places of Refuge guidelines with something more comprehensive dealing also with command/control issues and setting out clear framework for fully integrated emergency response. This to move forward in a cooperative project with the Maritime Safety Umbrella Organisation (MSUO).
- Discuss with industry/governments proposals for Environmental Awards as a means of reinforcing the pollution defence services offered by salvors, who are the last line of defence when things go wrong.
- Develop relationships with coastal communities threatened with pollution. ISU believes these communities should be compensated and rewarded for providing refuge for casualties.
- Special issues related to salvage of double hulled tankers. New difficulties and risks, including void spaces in explosive condition. Action in coordination with Intertanko's technical committee.
- Continued support for industry coalition action against EU Ship Source Pollution Directive