

Global shipping 'family' shows support for Mercy Ships charity

Third annual Cargo Day sets sights on raising \$1m for free surgery in Africa

Senior shipping figures have stepped forward to encourage the industry to rally behind this year's Cargo Day fundraising for medical charity Mercy Ships.

The event is planned for 3 October with the hope that the total raised by the global shipping and trading community will break through the \$1m mark.

With four weeks to go, Mercy Ships has released a video in which key industry players are interviewed about their Cargo Day aspirations.

The video features Riverlake CEO Marc Lecoanet; Nyala Shipping managing director Gilles Roland; Trafigura chartering managers Ludvig Mandius and George Katout; Tim Webb, head of tankers at shipbroker BRS; Clarksons' Geneva office head Joe Green; Eiger Shipping global chartering manager David Walker; Ocean Shipbrokers' Edouard de Joussineau; Scott Moncrieff, head of chartering and freight derivatives at Sahara Group; Clearlake chartering manager Nicholas Macleod; and Socar head of shipping Mathieu Philippe.

Webb said: "If there is a wish from the Cargo Day Committee, it would be to reach the \$1m mark."

"This could be possible thanks to the growing awareness of Mercy Ships among the industry, especially due to the highly successful and well-attended [Cargo Day] Gala held in Geneva back in May this year," he said.

Last year, the Cargo Day — now in its third year — raised more than \$672,000, with 24 charterers, 20 shipowners, 24 shipbrokers, seven port agents and nine service companies/associations onboard.

"Cargo Day kicks off [on] 3 October and we expect mercy cargoes to be given to brokers over the whole month. As chairman of the Geneva Cargo Day committee, I would like to thank TradeWinds for their continued, wonderful support."

Some 21 companies have already agreed to participate this year, including leading shipowners, traders and brokers.

Charterers can pledge cargoes to participating shipbrokers, port agents and inspection companies who will then donate 50% of their commission to Mercy Ships. Charterers and owners can also make a pledge directly to Mercy Ships via three levels of donation.

All money raised is used to support Mercy Ships' medical programme in Africa where the



ALL SMILES: Shipbrokers and owners meet patients and staff when the Africa Mercy was serving earlier this year in Douala, Cameroon
Photo: Geoff Garfield

world's largest civilian hospital ship, the 16,600-gt Africa Mercy (built 1980), has arrived in Conakry, Guinea and onboard wards opened on Monday.

"The vessel will stay in Guinea for about 10 months and will perform in excess of 2,000 surgeries," Webb said. The ship was previous-

ly on field service in Cameroon.

Corinne Kemp, communications manager for Cargo Day, said the video for this year's event was to hear from shipping's key players on why they have got involved with Mercy Ships. It also describes how the charity is responding to the needs of people in Africa.

Moncrieff said: "The shipping and trading community is a big family worldwide and it is truly amazing how we have come together for Cargo Day."

To pledge support for Cargo Day, visit MercyShipsCargoDay.org. To see the video visit TradeWinds-news.com website



FLYING HIGH: Carnival Cruise Line's airborne campaign
Image: Carnival

Carnival takes to the skies

A cruiseship floating in a port is common sight these days — but one floating high above should turn a few heads.

That is what Miami-based Carnival Cruise Line had in mind when it commissioned a 128-foot-long non-rigged airship, often referred to as a blimp, and cleverly disguised it to look like one of its cruiseships.

The Miami-based firm is using the blimp as part of an advertising campaign to raise awareness of new cruiseship deployments in several key markets along the US' Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

The airship made its aerial debut last week at Carnival's Sixth Annual Day of Play at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. This was the first stop in a 30-day airborne voyage across seven states.

Other scheduled ports of call include Dallas, Houston and Galveston in Texas; New Orleans, Louisiana; Mobile, Alabama; Tampa, Fort Lauderdale, Port Canaveral and Jacksonville in Florida and Charleston, South Carolina, before ending in Atlanta, Georgia.

Carnival is hoping to generate interest on Facebook, Twitter and

Instagram by offering prizes ranging from swag bags to free cruises for those that use the tag #ChooseFun on their photos and videos. The hashtag will also trigger a donation to the hospital, Carnival's long-time charitable partner.

This is not the first time Carnival has taken to the skies. From 1989 to 1997, Carnival Air Lines operated a fleet of jet aircraft emblazoned with the cruise line's corporate livery to ferry cruise passengers to Miami.

On Watch hopes the latest campaign is a huge success, and not just a load of hot air.

Wista Venezuela added to NGO's global network

The Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (Wista) is expanding in South America with a new branch in Venezuela.

Wista Venezuela joins the international NGO's other locations in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay in representing female executives in shipping.

National Wista associations were established in Peru and Uruguay in 2018, and another is expected in South America later this year.

"Wista International is proud to add Venezuela to our global network," president Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou said.

"Wista International offers Wista Venezuela members a wide network of global contacts to generate new business opportunities, participate in initiatives with organisations such as the IMO, Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, Baltic and International Maritime Council, and the Or-

ganization of American States' Inter-American Committee on Ports, and increase recognition of our capabilities, which strengthens the maritime industry in Venezuela."

Wista Venezuela is led by Debora Valera, president of VSV Marine & Port Group and president of the Venezuelan Maritime Cluster.

The Wista vice president post is held by Maria Grazia Blanco, vice president of the Venezuelan Branch of the Ibero-American Institute of Maritime Law.

"We must assume the responsibility of ensuring programmes and activities planned by maritime organisations include not only representatives of the maritime authorities, but also women from the private sector in the maritime industry, with the goal of eliminating all forms of discrimination against women," Valera said.

"We believe that IMO is setting the example with the approval of Wista International as a consultative member."



DESPINA PANAYIOTOU THEODOSIOU

Photo: Wista