

Adventure Race Japan 2023 beckons

The Mission to Seafarers is inviting shipping organisations to take on the challenge of Adventure Race Japan, which takes place in May 2023. This is the Mission's first maritime industry challenge of its kind in Asia, and sign-ups for participants and sponsors will close at the end of January. The challenge takes place between 18–21 May 2023 and will see 200 participants follow a trail along the Izu Peninsula, through the UNESCO Geopark area under the watchful eye of Mount Fuji. Teams will consist of three competitors, who will start and finish the race together. There are two race options; the Green Dragon Race for those who would like to walk much of the trail, and the Black Dragon Race for participants looking to run. As well as taking on the race, participants will experience team-building activities, connect with industry peers during networking dinners and drinks, and support the all-important cause of seafarer welfare. All proceeds raised from the Adventure Race Japan will go towards supporting seafarers and fund the ongoing delivery and expansion of The Mission to Seafarers' global welfare services. ●



Singapore welcomes INTERCARGO meet

INTERCARGO's semi-annual and Annual General meetings took place in Singapore in late November for the first time since 2018. Members joined together both virtually and in person to review the Association's achievements to date and to determine policy and priorities for the future. INTERCARGO Chairman Dimitrios Fafalios expressed his delight that meeting was able to take place in Singapore. "More than 50% of the world fleet is now operated from Asia," he said, "and it is essential we recognise the importance of the region to the dry bulk sector. It has been invaluable to be able to engage face-to-face with our local members and listen to their concerns first-hand." In a packed agenda, members discussed the situation in Ukraine, quality standards in the bulk sector, safety, GHG emissions' reduction and decarbonisation ambitions, as well as ongoing operational issues experienced by the sector. Also, the Association revisited important membership matters to promote its growth and the badge of quality afforded by INTERCARGO membership. ●

UK Government appoints new Maritime Minister



Baroness Vere of Norbiton has been appointed as the UK's new Maritime Minister within the government of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Appointed as a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport in April 2019, she will oversee shipping matters alongside her existing aviation responsibilities, having previously been a Government Whip (and 'Baroness in Waiting') from December 2016 to July 2019. Charlotte Vere has a wealth of varied business experience to draw upon. Before entering politics she spent four years as the Executive Director of the Girls' Schools Association, which included six months as General Secretary of the Independent Schools Council. Prior to that she was the CEO of Big White Wall, an online mental health service, and Finance Director at Recruit Media, a digital recruitment agency. Her early career was spent in investment banking, after having studied Biochemical Engineering at University College London (BSc Eng) followed by an MBA. "As the longest serving DfT minister her experience across a range of briefs will be crucial in joining up policy to ensure that shipping and the wider sector is central to key initiatives such as decarbonisation and improving our nation's infrastructure," commented UK Chamber of Shipping CEO Sarah Treseder. ●