

GAC reaches out to mariners with the Sailors Society in the Year of the Seafarer

As the global maritime community marks the Year of the Seafarer, the GAC Group is lending its experience and global reach to help the international maritime welfare charity, the Sailors Society. 2010 has been dedicated to mariners around the world by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), paying tribute to the vital role they play in global trade, encouraging young people to enter careers at sea and promoting greater understanding of the many issues seafarers face.

The Sailors Society is part of the worldwide support network that seeks to safeguard the welfare of sailors everywhere. Every year, the Sailors Society receives over 20,000 warm woolly hats (an essential item of clothing, as any seasoned mariner can confirm) knitted by volunteers. This year, they will be sent free of charge to seafarers at locations as far flung as Brazil and Russia, courtesy of GAC's global distribution network.

GAC boarding officers will also share directories of the charity's contact details with Ships Captains and crews, providing seafarers and their families with access to a valuable source of practical and emotional support at times of need.

Strategic Support

Many GAC managers started their working lives at sea, so we appreciate the essential role that sailors play in our industry and understand the challenges they face, says GAC Group President Lars Säfverström.

We have been supporting the Sailors Society for some years, participating in fundraising events and making Christmas donations. Now, as we welcome the Year of the Seafarer, this new partnership simply takes that support a strategic step further.

World Community

Jan Webber, the Sailors Society Director of Fundraising, says:

We are thrilled to be working with one of the world's leading shipping, logistics, and marine services providers. We know that GAC is well recognised for its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility, and we are very happy that it is reaching out to support the seafarers we all rely on. This goes a long way to enriching sailors' lives and replacing their isolation with a real sense of belonging to a world community of mariners.

Ends

IMAGES SHOW:

Sailors Society Southampton Port Chaplain Frans Sahetapy (L) ; Sean O'Brien, Agency Manager, GAC Shipping (UK) Ltd, Southampton (R) with the Happy Harrier Captain & some of the crew.

GAC Group President Lars Säfverström.

For more information, please contact Zoe Mitchell: zoe@lcm.co.uk or call 0845 345 6969
About GAC Group GAC is a global provider of shipping, logistics and marine services. These services are constantly being refined and integrated to serve our customers' increasing need for competitive solutions. Emphasising trust, reliability and a strong human touch, GAC has been

building its reputation in its chosen markets since 1956. Headquartered in Dubai, GAC employs over 9,000 people in more than 300 offices worldwide. For more information, visit www.gacworld.com Contact: Kristal Loh Communications Executive Shipping Services Global DID: +65 6327 9612 Fax +65 836 0113 Email: Kristal.loh@gacworld.com Sailors Society The Sailors' Society is an inter-denominational charity which replaces isolation with belonging amongst seafarers throughout the world. Through a network of Port Chaplains and Seafarers' Centres, operating in 30 countries in almost 100 Ports, the Society aims to enhance and enrich the lives of the 1.2million seafarers who often lead dangerous and lonely lives at sea, many miles from home. The Port Chaplains visit thousands of ships every year, directly addressing the needs of seafarers – irrespective of a person's belief or nationality. A reassuring presence for both current and retired seafarers and their families, the Society offers practical help, which can be as little as the resource to contact loved ones after months away, to spiritual assistance and counselling in times of need. Port Chaplains focus on improving the quality of seafarers' lives, as well as maintaining vital links within the Ports that they operate.