

## ADOPT A SHIP program cultivates excellence from a young age

Offering the chance to the children in classroom of elementary schools to communicate with seagoing captains real time and learn a multitude of current information about sea life, trade, vessels, history is the essence of the "Adopt A Ship" program which is introduced in Greece by Project Connect lead by Irene Notias, Director of Project Connect.

Project Connect is a collective work of experts in their fields since before it was incorporated to a non-profit to make it official. It was a great movement during the financial crisis that offered internships to several young students and entry level jobs to those who asked for help.



Nikos Marmatsouris (GAC, Project Connect Member), Irene Notias, Minister of Shipping Ioannis Plakiotakis and Efi Kotika

**- Do you provide your students the right educational fields that boost their skills and capabilities as well as broadening capacity for innovation?**

First, it is important to distinguish that we are not an educational institution. We are a non-for-profit organization based in Greece that has seized an opportunity to effectively brand the shipping industry by exposing it to pre-adolescents during their school studies and extra-curricular activities via the Adopt a Ship program. It is a project based maritime educational program which develops capabilities and skills as indirectly as it does directly. It is for pupils ages 9 to 12 years old. It boosts their capabilities since they have as role models the most effective and efficient captains, who are at sea -- frontline in commerce and moreover during crisis periods.

Adopt a Ship is a symbol of HOPE for the future of Greece. Our children and our beloved Greek Shipping Industry have a good chance to benefit from this program in the long run, as it plants the seed of love of shipping and seafaring from the ages where it counts. Children absorb and learn much faster during these ages -- 9-12 yrs old. The impact is permanent. Having the opportunity to communicate with a real live Captain at Sea on a Greek owned vessel that is trading and supplying food to another country where the child picks up so much info, from what the supply is, the port, the culture, the life on the ship, the feelings of a Captain and crew, there grows empathy, and knowledge of other worlds. Adopt a Ship's pupils, from a young age, while they learn the language of English, the language of digital, they also learn about our history in shipping and the support it gave and gives to our economy. They travel along with the Captain and crew on their adopted ship and imagine about these ports, their countries, their people and how do they do things different from us. Adopt a Ship opens up horizons. From a seagoing cargo vessel or tanker where they get to learn first-hand from the Captain his "adventures" at work, they also learn to cope, manage, and feel from him (or her). They mark the vessel location on the ROUTE MAP we provide and learn about the great fleet of vessels Greek's manage in the Book we provide about Greek Shipping.

**- Do you organize seminars and lectures on hot shipping topics such as IMO2020 Sulphur cap, Tier III IMO NOx, BWMC, MRV/DCS and**

**generally strategies towards the decarbonization of shipping?**

- Although these topics are taught in the higher educational institutions, the captains do disclose related info in their letters to the class because it is real time and what they deal with every day. Of course, the material they send is light and just for knowledge.

**- Have you invested in the diversification of your educational services taking advantage of the digital technologies such as AI, IoT and distance-learning? How the Covid 19 pandemic has impacted the educational programs of your school?**

- During the lockdown, we immediately sent notices to the vessels and schools encouraging them to continue their correspondence exchanges, since the method of communication is thru electronic mail (e-mail). And they did it, writing such humane & touching letters of support.

**- What are the programs and levels of studies (bachelor, master etc) of your organization? Describe the students' life in the university/school campus.**

- The teachers create a multitude of current lesson plans with the information from the captain's letters about sea life, commerce & trade, vessels, history of Greek and world shipping, even music and literature related to maritime, and much more that is needed to live a good life.

**- Have you developed innovative programs and partnerships that your competitors are not able match?**

- Adopt a Ship is the most innovative learning program developed, in the world today; approved by the IMO and successfully running in Cyprus (where is started), Philippines, India and America.

**- Describe other university's/ college's activities such as programs of working experience, alumni club etc and what are the future plans of your organisation?**

- Our project is a collective work of experts in their fields to create work experiences that would then make a young person more employable during the financial crisis that caused unemployment.

The Greek shipping universities had filled their quotas for internships and reached out to us (among others) as did the students to help them get internships. We created an "easy to use" Internship Program which encouraged more to act same. Currently in this world health war, we are more determined to find ways to help instill hope & wellness, then employability. Our plans

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Public school teachers presenting Greek Shipping history via Adopt a Ship

will be announced when we will be able to implement them.

#### - Who is Project Connect?

- We are volunteers and members that use our time and energy to be part of the movement to help sustain the SUCCESS STORY that is GREEK SHIPPING; we did it for the sake of GREECE'S Economy and the well-being of its people.

We helped materialize this beautiful idea that was suggested to us by executives at CYMEPA, specifically its Chairman, Mr George Tsaviriris. We took it steps forward by gaining the Ministry of Education authorization two times in a row and having an educator specialist Mrs Adamantia Spanaka (Logos2Learn) evaluate the work being done. We know the domino effects of one link being broken in a chain. We aim for excellence and we believe that the ADOPT A SHIP PROGRAM helps cultivate special people like the seafarers are, from a young age. Celebrating success in learning about maritime in Greek Elementary Schools!

"Adopt a Ship" January 2019 – May 2020 & still growing!

26 vessels from 14 distinguished Shipping Companies & 33 classes from 16 schools both public & private in Athens, Piraeus, Spetses, Hydra



Educators' consultant Mrs A.Spanaka

Date: Wed, 4 Mar 2020  
Dear Captain,  
Greetings from the 6th grade of Taxiarchis Primary school.  
Kali Sarakosti!

On Thursday 27th of February one of your captains visited our school and presented us interesting subjects about navigation. We saw some videos which explain Archimedes Anosisis also the density of steel and how the shape of steel changes in order to sail.

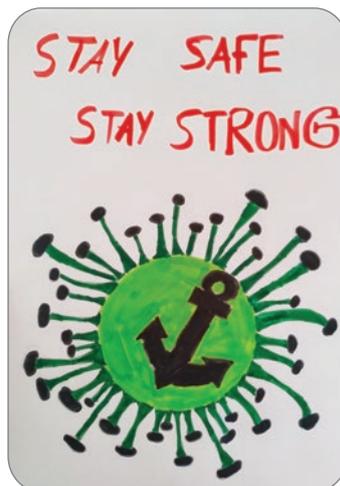
We also saw how a ship is built and how we have many questions for you:  
How long did it take for your vessel to be made and when?  
How many numbers of your crew are there and what nationality are they?

We are thinking of you. It is a difficult period for all people.  
Everyone is worried about their health.

For this reason, we had to cancel our visit to your headquarters. Be careful!  
We are wondering what your position is at the moment and what your next destination is going to be.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon!!  
Safe voyages!

Yours sincerely,  
the 6th grade of Taxiarchis



FM: MIT  
TO: Taxiarchis Primary school  
DATE: 06 MARCH 2020

My dear pupils of 6th Grade,  
Good Day,

It's been a long time since we last communicate. We really worry about you since we have been informed that cases of the new Covid-19 appeared in Greece!

We are sure that the things that you saw at the last visit of those experienced people must be very exciting. Archimedes anosisis is one of the most important things in order for the vessel's to be able to sail, it's also very useful for your generic knowledge.

Now regarding your questions about our vessel:  
It was built in South Korea and it took 2 whole years for the shipyard to finish it, they started at 2007 and completed it in 2009.

The mean draft of the ship at this time is 7 meters but we have no cargo inside our tanks, when we load the cargo the draft will be around 15 meters.

We are 27 people currently onboard, most of us are Greek & Filipino.

The crew that works in the machinery room now are the chief Engineer, the 2nd engineer, two 3rd engineer, one 4th engineer, the engine cadet, the electrician, the filter and 3 wipers. The above crew manning varies from vessel to vessel depending their needs, but all vessels have a required minimum safe manning, that allows them to travel safely.

We are currently in Singapore, where we will load, and we will travel to China for discharging.  
You do not have to worry because we will take all the necessary precautions and we will be safe.

We hope that you will be able to re-schedule your visit to company's headquarters it will be a good chance to see a lot of interesting things regarding the vessel's and office's operation.

We are looking forward to hearing from you again soon, kali sarakosti!

Thank you,  
Best Regards,  
MASTER OF MIT

## HMC/ICS Greek Branch remains at the cutting edge of maritime education and training

*Shipping is an ever-changing market and that means all people who work ashore and onboard need to have a wealth of skills-hard and soft-to respond to the demanding shipping profession.*

*Providing professional maritime training and education since 1999 in Greece, HMC offers the ICS Professional Maritime Programme, the internationally recognized qualification which leads to ICS membership. In the interview that follows Natalia Margioli, FICS, Managing Director, HMC/ ICS Greek Branch explains how the spread of the pandemic leads to major changes in the sector of maritime education which has been severely impacted the model of teaching and also she describes the range of professional development programmes and professional qualification courses of HMC/ICS.*



Natalia Margioli, FICS, Managing Director, HMC/ ICS Greek Branch

*- Do you provide your students the right educational fields that boost their skills and capabilities as well as broadening capacity for innovation?*

HMC provides professional maritime training and education since 1999. All these years, our main goal was to provide students and participants with the most up to date knowledge on various maritime topics that, primarily, assist them to upgrade their skills and competences. Also, as the official provider of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, in Greece, HMC offers the ICS Professional Maritime Programme, the internationally recognized qualification which leads to ICS

membership. This unique maritime professional qualification enhances professionalism and competency in the shipping profession.

Taking into consideration that shipping is an ever-changing market, it means that you need to have a wealth of skills-hard and soft-to respond to the demanding shipping profession.

You shall be constantly up to date, you need to be able making swift and sound decisions, to work under pressure, to think about the details and to be able to analyze problems and then, fix them. You shall be competitive.

And these are the reasons why all our offered programmes are carefully designed to have mainly a practical component and approach. This enables participants to develop practical knowledge through real life experiences, workshops, and interactive sessions, which are necessary to upgrade their skills or actively apply the newly acquired skills on their everyday work.

Upgrading skills in shipping means that professionals can achieve:

- Competitiveness: keep you up to date within your field and makes you a more competitive
- Increased self-confidence: Learning a new skill can help you take