

# **“Adopt a Ship” Program Guide**



## Adopt a Ship History

### From Cyprus to Greece with love...

The **Adopt a Ship Program** was first initiated by the Cyprus Shipping Chamber in 2006 to bring together the Cypriot Elementary Schools and Seafarers on board CSC Members ships in order to provide a real-world learning experience for elementary school children. The Cyprus Marine Environment Protection Association (CYMEPA) has been responsible for the administration of the program. The program is under the approval of the Cyprus Ministry of Transport Communications and Works and the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture.

The Chairman of CYMEPA, Mr George Tsavlis, and its Secretary General, Mr Michael Ierides, informed Project Connect's, Director, Irene Notias, about the Adopt a Ship program and it was immediately embraced!

**Project Connect** immediately initiated the implementation of Adopt a Ship, for the first time in Greece, in the Autumn of 2018 by achieving the authorization the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the approval of the Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy. With the valuable cooperation from CYMEPA and the volunteers at PC, the project-based maritime educational program began in January 2019 in 6 Piraeus public elementary schools and the private grade school Athens College, all together totaling 180 pupils in Greece learning about maritime. The 7 ships were provided by Greek Shipping companies: Ariston Navigation, Phoenix, Medferry, Starbulk, Eurobulk and Astra.

**Project Connect** is a non-profit organization founded in May 2015 with the support of Greek shipowners and distinguished professionals in Shipping and Human Resources. The vision of Project Connect is "sustaining one of Greece's top resources, the Shipping Industry through supporting the "can do" mind set and the aim for excellence that has built it, and to instill this mind set into the next generation workforce who will ultimately strengthen Greek Shipping's competitiveness in the International arena." [www.project-connect.gr](http://www.project-connect.gr)

The Program involves assigning to elementary schools' classrooms (4th, 5th, 6th grades) a particular vessel each for direct email communication between the children and the Master/officers of the vessel with the aim to inform the children about life onboard, cargoes carried by ships, trading patterns and geography. This exchange of correspondence helps also to raise the image of shipping, its important contribution to the global trade and the economy.

the wonderful Adopt a Ship presentations at the end year school celebration inspired the new AaS logo!

**June 29, 2019**

## Operation of the Adopt a Ship Program

The Program is initiated at the beginning of every school year in September and administered by PROJECT CONNECT as follows:

1. The Ministry of Education notifies the Elementary Schools all over the country to participate while Project Connect sends an invitation circular including the Application Form to both public and private schools.
2. A circular is sent to the Shipping Companies inviting them to provide ships for the Program.
3. Once the number of ships is known each ship is matched with a school class.
4. The company provides the name and contact details of the officer onboard who will follow up the communication with the class. Usually this is the Master or the Chief Officer or the Second Officer.
5. Project Connect provides to each class an AaS Pamphlet pertaining to Greek Shipping History and all types of vessels and a world map (route map) to help the class monitor the routes of the adopted ship.
6. Each participating school is awarded with a small ship model (photo) with 6 “containers” to affix a sticker for every year of the school’s participation in the Program.
7. Each participating teacher and pupil are awarded with a Participation Certificate at the end of the academic year at a ceremonial event.
8. The Master and Crew of each participating vessel are awarded with a Participation Certificate at the end of the academic year.
9. During the year companies participating in the Program organize visits to their offices of the school classes that “adopted” their ships. During the visits the children are introduced to the company, by a senior member of the company staff.

During the school period, PROJECT CONNECT remains the contact point for the schools and the companies, in case any assistance may be needed.

## Conclusions

The **Adopt a Ship** Program has proven to be very successful and has been met with great excitement by all participants: schools, teachers, students and by the shipping companies and their masters & crews.

It is hoped that this early interaction of the children with the shipping company and the ships will encourage the young generation to consider primarily a seafaring career or a career in shipping ashore.

### **Educational Objectives of the Program**

1. Increase children understanding of the world through real ship contact.
2. Develop children's research, communication and teamwork skills
3. Work collaboratively and collect data relevant to shipping and life at sea

### **Career Objectives of the Program**

1. Inform students about ship types, cargoes and relevant operations with regard to the World Trade.
2. Familiarize children with the seafaring profession and the many on-shore professions of the maritime world.
3. Help students understand the "Greek Shipping Miracle" and our country's contribution to the world's economy and development.

## APPENDIX I

### Indicative activities to implement the program

#### Educational Material

- Children develop material to present to the adopted ship
- Elaboration on the correspondence between students and the Master
- Students prepare informational material about their school or city, which is sent to the ship

#### Research and Surveys

- Maritime tradition
- Life at sea
- Ship types and cargo types carried by the ships
- Research on the world's biggest ports or major port cities
- Research on how the ports affect the lives of the citizens and local community

#### Creative Work

- Ship construction
- Poster about «Ships and the Environment»
- Writing poems about life at sea

#### Events and Activities

- Presentation by a seafarer or fisherman
- Presentation by a representative of the Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy
- Presentation by a representative or executive of the shipping company
- Vessel visit at port
- Visit at the maritime museum

## APPENDIX II

### Correspondence Sample

#### Class Letter

Dear Captain Jerry Bureros Paloma and Crew of M/V BRAZEN

We are students of the 5th Grade of the 5th Primary School in Piraeus (45 students totally). In our school, which is an all day Primary School in Piraeus, in Attiki, in Greece, lessons last from 8:15 until 16:00. There are 6 grades with 2 classes for each one, 23 teachers and 260 pupils totally. The teachers in charge of the programme are Mrs Despoina Nikolakoudi and Mrs Fani Lytsiousi and our headmistress of the school is Mrs Stella Eustathopoulou.

Also, our school participates in many programmes and it organizes many educational activities throughout the school year. One of these educational programmes is called “adopt a ship”. So, we, the children (pupils) of the 5th Grade, “adopted” your ship and we are thrilled about the programme!

Throughout your voyages we will “travel” beside you and we hope to expand our knowledge in various subjects related to sea life, the kinds of ships, the environment and, of course, your way of living and the customs of the different countries you visit!

So, we are so glad to start our communication with you! Thank you so much for all the information you will send us!

Concerning us, we are preparing our questions for you, in order to learn new things about our “M/V BRAZEN” and its voyages.

First of all, we are wondering what your position at the moment is and what your next destination is going to be...

Also:

- How many are the members of your crew and what nationality are they?
- Here in Greece we’ve been facing pretty bad weather conditions lately. What’s the weather like there?
- How many years have you been working as a sailor and how many as a captain?
- How old is the ship?
- What’s the space of the ship?
- What food do you eat?
- Do you wear a special outfit as a crew member?
- Are there any doctors on board?
- Have you visited any places with riots? Have you ever attacked?
- How long do your voyages last and how often do you see your families?

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon!!

Safe voyages!!

Your sincerely  
The Students and Teachers

## Master's Letter

*Dear Students and Teachers,*

*A pleasant good day to all of you in Piraeus, Greece.*

*First of all, I am so very grateful to have received your message informing me that my good vessel has been chosen and thus she was entered into an educational program called "Adopt a Ship" by the Ministry of Education.*

*I will disseminate this message to my good crew members in order for them to know that we have the good young students of the 5th Grade in Piraeus who are adopting our good vessel and would like to communicate with us, and will sail with us through continuous email exchanges.*

*Let me answer your queries:-*

*\* How many are the members of your crew and what nationality are they?*

*Answer:*

*\* We are 16 crew members on board with nationality namely,  
12 Filipinos (from Philippines) including myself,  
04 Ukrainians (from Ukraine), and this makes us all a total of 16 crew.*

*\* Here in Greece we've been facing pretty bad weather conditions lately.  
What's the weather like there?*

*Answer:*

*\* Oh, I am very sorry to hear that the weather in Greece was pretty bad lately. Was it snowing and windy? My beloved wife Grace and I was in your good country in July 2017, and we went to Acropolis, Monastiraki Park, Panathenaic Stadium (where the ancient Olympic Games were held in Olympia, Greece, from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD.).  
At present, we are here in Long An, Vietnam discharging cargo, MOP - Muriate of Potash (Fertilizer) in bulk that we have brought from Eilat, Israel. This port of Long An, is our second discharging port here in Nam. The first port was Quy Nhon, about one (1) day and a half voyage distance from both ports.  
It is very hot in here at this time. About the people here that we met, they are friendly, disciplined and hardworking, but are not English speaking people, too difficult to deal with simply because they can not speak English language. There are few people who can speak, but most of them are not, they are talking with their dialect or local language only.*

*\* How many years have you been working as a sailor and how many as a captain?*

*Answer:*

*I started my sea life in year 1979 as a Cadet and until now. There are spaces of time on each year that myself was not at sea, when I am home in the Philippines taking my vacation for about three (3) months or so.  
My first command as a ship captain in year 2000 on a bulk carrier, Panamax type vessel, seven (7) cargo holds. Then so on and so forth.*

\* *How old is the ship?*

*Answer:*

*M/V BRAZEN will be five (5) year old this coming 08 September 2019.*

*She was delivered on in 08 September 2014, she was built in Imabari Shipyard in Japan.*

\* *What's the space of the ship (dimensions)?*

*Answer:*

*Her dimensions are below as follows.*

*Length Over All : 169.37 meters.*

*Breadth : 27.20 meters.*

\* *What food do you eat?*

*Answer:*

*I eat Filipino, Asian, European and Western foods.*

*I love to eat Greek foods, too.*

\* *Do you wear a special outfit as a crew member?*

*Answer:*

*Yes, I will always wear my uniform with insignia as a captain especially when arriving port(s), because I will meet the Port authorities, like the Custom, Immigration, Health officers, Port State Control officers Agents' for port documentations.*

*At sea, I used to wear long sleeve and polo shirts and pants. I used to wear shoes at all the times during working times.*

\* *Are there any doctors on board?*

*Answer:*

*We do not have a doctor(s) on board. We only have an appointed medical officer, which is our second officer or navigating officer.*

*However, the rest of my officers and I was also trained for medical care and medical first aid in maritime training institution(s).*

\* *Have you visited any places with riots? Have you ever attacked?*

*Answer:*

*Not at all, never been in places with riots or chaos, nor been attacked.*

\* *How long do your voyages last and how often do you see your families?*

*Answer:*

*On board M/V BRAZEN, we had been at sea for about 25 days and sometimes less, it depends with our port(s) of employment or destination.*

*Last but not least, I wish you all a happy time ahead.*

*Thank you ALL very much and God bless us all.*

*Pleased to hear*

*Best regards,*

*Capt. Jerry Bureros Paloma*

*Master of M/V Brazen*



## VESSEL ENROLLMENT FORM

In this voluntary scheme a ship is adopted by a class of an elementary school with the aim of the two parties getting to know each other and maintain weekly contact via e-mail thus giving the children a better and broader understanding of the importance of the shipping industry.

### FOR THE MASTER

1. Appoint someone to be in charge of this communication
2. Fill in the attached form giving a profile of the ship. If you have any photos it would be extremely helpful for the children.
3. Things to be communicated may include the latitude and longitude, ports visited, goods carried, weather information etc.
4. Two to four times a month the children will be contacted by the captain by e-mail.
5. Any information sent by the children can be shared with the crew.
6. If the ship calls at a port in Greece a visit of the class can be organized onboard

**Disclaimer notice :** *By participating, I contribute to the educational objectives of the AaS program and I give my consent to use informational material provided, for communication and promotion purposes of the program only.*

NAME OF MASTER:

SIGN OFF DATE (*Optional*):

SHIP'S NAME:

IMO No.:

FLAG:

TYPE OF SHIP:

LENGTH OVERALL:

DISPLACEMENT:

GROSS TONNAGE:

MAIN CARGOES:

MAIN ROUTES :

E-MAIL:

NAME OF PERSON IN CHARGE (*on shore*):

E-mail:

Tel:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THE FILLED OUT ENROLLMENT FORM & YOUR COMPANY LOGO**

**VIA E-MAIL TO :** [adoptaship@project-connect.gr](mailto:adoptaship@project-connect.gr)