

Hong Kong Branch offers ship finance update

THE Institute's Hong Kong Branch held a lecture in June to give an update on the current ship finance market at the Indian Recreation Club in Hong Kong's Sookunpoo Valley.

Attendees at the event – sponsored by ADAMAR International Ship Supply, Desan Shipyard and Qingdao Headway Technology – comprised different sections of the shipping industry, including ship management companies, ship brokerage firms and Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

The speaker was Nils Kristian Kovdal, head of Standard Chartered Bank's ship finance activities in Greater China and North Asia, who delivered a comprehensive lecture covering updated information, analysis and ideas about the ship finance market from the past to the near future.

Mr Kovdal's talk included discussion of the effect of the financial crisis on shipping, challenges for small companies regarding sourcing debt finance and how new regulation is likely to affect shipping finance.

The evening also included a question and answer session, during which Mr Kovdal gave advice to students with ambitions to go into ship finance sectors.

Two certificates were presented at the event: one to Wan Yim Yu of Anglo-Eastern as a re-elected Institute member, and the other to Yu Shen in appreciation of her assistance in organising a seminar about ballast water management systems.

The event, which also featured belly dancing from professional belly dancer Nozomi, concluded with networking. **SN**

Students benefit from PREP weekend

STUDENTS sitting Institute exams had the opportunity to sup their knowledge at the Institute's South Africa Branch's Exam PREP weekend in March.

Held at Meander Manor guest house in Shaka's Rock in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province, the weekend attracted 17 students and 10 tutors covering nine subjects.

During the event, Rob Gardner and Tony Norton gave talks on inland corridors and proposed new legislation to regulate parastatals and large monopolistic companies in the maritime

industry respectively. There were also team events and the opportunity to receive one-to-one support from tutors.

One student who attended the study weekend said that they were able to understand and absorb information much better, while another commented that the lectures at the event "were very insightful and were well worth it".

The Branch said that although renovations are in the pipeline, it is hoping to use Meander Manor again next year. **SN**

Last mile connectivity discussed

THE Institute's East India Branch held a seminar in January concerning last mile connectivity issues for Chennai's export/import trade logistics.

Held in co-operation with the Confederation of Indian Industry – Southern Region, the event, which took place at Taj Coromandel hotel in Chennai, was well attended by Institute members and other local trade and industry delegates.

Those in attendance included Julie Lithgow, Institute director and one of the speakers at the event, and V Ganeshyam, East India Branch chairman.

The seminar's main goal was to explain and discuss improvement to the logistics infrastructure in and around Chennai and its hinterland, as well as to understand export/import trade challenges in last mile connectivity and port facilities and to generate solutions for them. **SN**



Logistics infrastructure was explored at the seminar

Intern programme off to a good start

KENYA Ships Agents Association (KSAA) has partnered with the Institute's East Africa Branch to promote and encourage the Institute's internship programme.

Following guidelines from the Institute, KSAA sent a request to all members to take part and has reported that the response has been very positive with several members showing an interest.

For the guided internship programme, the Institute shortlists

candidates for agents and then provides avenues for feedback on the quality of students to assist with improvements going forward.

In addition, the Institute has offered benefits to KSAA members who employ Institute-offered interns, including publication of the company's profile in *Tradewinds* and in *Shipping Network* magazine, as well as a chance to win the 'Internship Employer Award' at the East Africa Branch's annual dinner. **SN**