



12 Carthusian Street  
London EC1M 6EZ  
Telephone: + 44 20 7417 2856 (direct)  
Facsimile: + 44 20 7417 8877  
Email: [imec@marisec.org](mailto:imec@marisec.org)  
Website: [www.imec.org.uk](http://www.imec.org.uk)  
VAT registration No. 858 8778 39

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### **For immediate release**

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## **IMEC Appoints Manila Training Manager**

The International Maritime Employers Committee (IMEC) confirmed today that it had appointed a Training Manager in Manila to administer its growing international recruitment and training efforts.

Captain Cedric D'Souza, aged 45 and with recent command experience with Anglo-Eastern and training experience in the Philippines, has been appointed from 1 January to administer IMEC training initiatives in the Philippines and elsewhere. Captain D'Souza will be based in Manila and will be responsible for administering the dedicated IMEC cadet training classes that will commence initially at the University of Cebu in June, together with an extensive programme of training in other areas, including rating to officer training courses that have been approved by the IMEC Executive Board.

Speaking today in London, IMEC Secretary General, David Dearsley, said:

“2007 has been an exceptional year for IMEC by any standards. Membership has again expanded considerably and the IBF central and local negotiations have been concluded. IMEC has also committed itself to new and extensive recruitment and training activities on behalf of its members and has put in place the staffing and funding requirements to accommodate these commitments.”

IMEC also confirmed that the necessary funding to cover these initiatives had been agreed through the International Maritime Training Trust (IMTT). In addition, IMEC had obtained funds from IMTT to provide English language training in several East and Central European countries and in 2008 IMEC delegations would visit countries which might provide potential new labour sources to investigate whether IMEC recruitment and training initiatives might be welcomed and viable.

Looking to the future, David Dearsley said:

“While negotiations with ITF and its affiliates over pay and employment conditions will probably remain as the cornerstone of the work of IMEC for the foreseeable future, recruitment and training activities, particularly the quality of the training that is provided, are likely to assume a far greater prominence than they have done in the past. The appointment of Captain D’Souza is a key ingredient in these new initiatives.

IMEC members are among the standard-setters in the industry with their commitment and dedication to long-term investment in training. But the acute officer shortage that has been affecting the industry for the past few years, and seems to be getting worse, requires action by organisations such as IMEC to supplement and support the efforts of individual companies.”

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