



Thome first out on competence management

Singapore 17. September 2010: Thome Ship Management has become the first third party ship manager in the world to receive full accreditation by DNV SeaSkill for their competence management system.



From left DNV's regional manager for South East Asia Helge Kjeøy, President of Thome Group and Capt Ivar Thomasli, Claes Eek Thorstensen managing director of Thome Ship Management Philippines, and Olav Eek Thorstensen also from Thome were presented with the DNV SeaSkill Certification at a ceremony at the DNV headquarters in Singapore.

SeaSkill is an integrated management assessment system created by DNV. The system supports shipowners and managers in competence benchmarking and certification services and gives an independent assessment on skills and management systems.

The system verifies a company's ability to identify, define, develop and improve the competence of seafarers and those supporting them ashore in accordance with mandatory requirements and customers' needs.

Thome Group Chairman and chief executive officer Olav Eek Thorstensen says: "The rewards of an effective competence management system are safer and more efficient operations and a greater commercial advantage. I believe that in going through this rigorous procedure over the past 18 months, we have proven that our systems are of the very highest international standards.

"Because the barriers to entry into ship management are low, a management competence system such as DNV SeaSkill can really set world class managers with global standards apart from managers who are unable to be accredited with such an award. It clearly demonstrates our company has met with stringent global standards and I am very pleased with that. "

DNV President Tor E. Svensen says: "I am delighted to see that Thome Ship Management has become the first international third party ship manager in the world to receive DNV SeaSkill certification. Many marine incidents and accidents are related to human error and should be the starting point for proactive competence management activities. Addressing competence means protecting assets, securing future cost reductions and gaining competitive advantage. In short, it improves safety. "

Thome Ship Management recently completed the accreditation procedure on managed ships and at the group's offices in the Philippines and Singapore. To receive the accreditation, which Thome is calling the Thome Competence Management System, the group undertook a series of management processes which included identifying their competence needs based on the business objectives of the company and developing customized competence standards.

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ABOUT THOME GROUP

Thome Group, headquartered in Singapore, is one of the world's leading third-party ship management companies. Established in Singapore in 1976, award winning Thome Group has been a pioneer in promoting and maintaining global ship management standards and benchmarks for the shipping industry for nearly 35 years.

In recent years the group has grown to provide a range of services which now include ship management, crew management, crew agency, newbuilding and technical consultancy, ship conversion project management, offshore vessel and structure management, ship lay-up maintenance and reactivation, ship inspections, voyage repairs and ship agency. It is now one of the world's leading independent managers with around 150 vessels, mainly tankers, under full technical management.

In Singapore the group's activities span four main operating divisions – Thome Ship Management, Thome Offshore Management, Thome Oil & Gas, Thome Marine Consultants and Thome Agency Services.

Thome's expanding overseas network includes offices in Europe (Croatia & Oslo), Indonesia (Jakarta), The Philippines (Manila), Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), South Korea (Seoul) and Nigeria (Lagos).

Thome Group is renowned for its blend of technical ability and business acumen which together enable it to manage all kinds of vessels profitably and efficiently. Its principals, associates and clients are from Japan, Korea, Europe, Scandinavia, America, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Australia as well as Singapore, many of whom are also leading members of international maritime community.

For more information about the Thome Group, please go to: www.thome.com.sg