

International Association of Maritime Economists

2004 Annual Conference

Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey

30 June 2004

Opening Speech by Prof. Dr. A. Güldem Cerit

Chair of IAME Izmir 2004 Conference

Director of Dokuz Eylül University School of Maritime Business and Management

Your Excellency the Undersecretary for Maritime Affairs

Honourable Secretary General of International Maritime Organization

Esteemed Presidents

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great privilege and honor for me to welcome you all to this year's International Association of Maritime Economists Conference organized by Dokuz Eylül University School of Maritime Business and Management.

It was 1998 when I joined the Association and I think the fact that a 6 year old member has been given the opportunity to organize an annual conference proves the dynamism and risk taking capability of an institute. Actually it is never easy to be able to get the permission of being an IAME Conference Organizer. I myself had to compete with my dear colleague Prof. Peter Marlow of Cardiff University for this year's conference. In Panama two years ago we both were candidates for 2004 and Prof. Marlow with all his kindness and understanding agreed upon our selection and the Council of IAME approved and we are here today. I would like to mention how honored and how happy I am to be able to serve our Association in this way, an Association which I believe gathers the "opinion leaders" of the world maritime issues.

We have been working hard for two years to realize this Conference and our utmost concern was to be able to attract the attention of the whole Mediterranean regions. In fact the theme of this year's conference was chosen as "Global Maritime Challenges and the Contribution of Mediterranean Maritime Developments" and this kept us feel responsible to attract the attention of all our neighbouring colleagues. We have reached almost 10000 colleagues to announce the conference and through several contacts we were able to receive 220 abstracts. However as we all know very well it is not easy to become an IAME Conference participant also. First the papers sub-committees screen the abstracts and your abstracts may fail from the very beginning. Later the full paper is sent to three anonymous reviewers and again you may fail. Even if it is accepted the

reviewers ask so many modifications that it seems as if you are developing the paper for the first time. This was the case for IAME Izmir 2004 also. Through the 220 abstracts only 120 of them that were produced by 262 authors were accepted to be presented. The papers are published in the conference proceedings, a total of 1444 pages and I wish all the best to our participants who will carry this heavy weight back home. Let me mention that the number of the papers and the composition of the authors helped us feel that we were able to reach the goal of gathering our global and Mediterranean colleagues in this Conference. Eventually in this hall we are together with our 178 colleagues from the 6 continents and 30 countries. These are Canada, Australia, USA, China, UK, Greece, Belgium, Japan, South Africa, Egypt, South Cyprus, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Italy, Yugoslavia, Korea, Taiwan, Poland, France, Romania, Peru, Netherlands, India, Turkey, Argentine, Chile, Germany and Ecuador.

The variety of the participants was also reflected in a colorful outcome of the topics presented. As can be noted from the program the main topic that was found most attractive by was **“Developments in Port/Shipping Technology and Expected Economic Impact”**. Then came **“Shipping and Port Financing”**. It is our great privilege that our community’s most distinguished scientists in shipping economics, Prof. Richard Goss and in shipping finance Prof. Costas Grammenos have kindly accepted our invitations to be the keynote speakers on these two most attractive topics and they will address us during the plenary session right after the opening session.

Being in parallel to the global developments **“Logistics/Multimodal Transport/Supply Chain Management”** issues was the topic being attractive on the third row and the authors’ complaints and limitations were mainly gathering around lack of global, reliable, accurate, timely and available data on shipping and logistics issues. Our distinguished colleague UNCTAD’s Jan Hoffmann kindly accepted our request to talk on this subject and he will explain why we have to pay so much for shipping statistics.

It is interesting that **“Safety, Security, Marine Pollution and Policies”** attracted the attention of maritime economists in a broadest sense when the previous IAME meetings are considered. This has been effective in our organizations and we invited honorable Secretary-General of International Maritime Organization Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos for a key-note speech covering the technical issues facing our industry. We are very proud that he has humbly accepted our invitation and will address us on this important subject right prior to July 1st – tomorrow- when the ISPS Code is going to be put into force.

Being “opinion leaders” and most of us being university professors our main responsibility is for the young maritime generations. In this sense education is our priority and we are very glad that this topic has found its place on the upper rows of our Conference’s agenda. “Adult learning” issues are today’s widely discussed topics among education scientists and new education and

learning methodologies are widely applied in several disciplines. As a professor in the medicine discipline, the president of our University Prof. Dr. Emin Alici has been the leader of applying “Problem Based Learning” first in our Faculty of Medicine and later in many other faculties like School of Nursing, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Theology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Faculty of Engineering. This has enlightened our way also and we have changed the system of our School into “Problem Based Learning” two years ago. We have invited the Head of our Department of Nautical Science Prof. Hakki Kisi to briefly inform our colleagues on the developments in education and he will address us on this topic in the plenary session.

The importance of the young maritime community has always been considered by our Association. Moving one step further in our Conference we have put forward two new encouragements for our young colleagues. The participations of the students to IAME Conferences have been favored by special registration terms and secondly a **Young Scientist Award** is put forward for the papers of our young participants and this will be announced during the Closing Ceremony. I am very delighted to mention that so far 59 student participants have applied for the conference and through an e-mail group they have also decided to organize a meeting on Friday. I am sure all of us would be very excited to celebrate such a close contact among our young maritime scientists- we are all young I know, but still we have more expectations from our future.

Of course there are other topics analyzed during our conference, no less important than the previous ones. Altogether we will be gathering in 27 separate tracks and our participants will be restructuring the maritime future again through their scientific approaches on all the issues.

In addition to the scientific program, the Organizing Committee has tried hard to plan the technical and social programs. Prime Ministry Undersecretariat of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Foreign affairs, Governor of Izmir, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Konak Municipality, Turkish Chamber of Shipping, Turkish Shipowners’ Association, Turkish Shipbuilding Association, Türk Loydu have all gathered their capabilities to serve the success of this conference in the best possible way. Let me mention our gratitude to their invaluable supports.

The organization process of this conference would never be possible without the support of our shipping and logistics companies. The most important shipping companies of Turkey have supplied all their resources for the success of our conference.

Distinguished press representatives, you have always been there to announce all the news we wanted to pass to the public. Thank you all.

Our utmost gratitude goes to the Presidency of Dokuz Eylül University, namely Prof. Dr. Emin ALICI who has made everything possible for the realization of this conference.

IAME, all the council members and most importantly President Prof. Frankel have always been there for all our requirements. Thank you dear colleagues.

The last but not the least. The academic and administrative staff of our School of Maritime Business and Management and the Organizing Committee, my sisters and brothers in arms. Let me thank them for all their sleepless nights and devoted days. No word can express my feelings of respect for their invaluable efforts.

Dear colleagues, distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman I want welcome you once more to Izmir, the oldest port city of Anatolia, the biggest foreign trade opening of Turkey to the whole world.

I am hoping that this conference will be a memorable event for all of us in both scientific, technical and social aspects.

You have honored us by being here and during your presence in Izmir we shall try to deserve the interest you have paid in our lovely city, our university and my school.

Thank you