

Prof.Dr. Emin ALICI
President of Dokuz Eylül University

I, on behalf of Dokuz Eylül University, have the great pleasure and honor to welcome you all to the Annual Conference 2004 of the International Association of Maritime Economists; one of the distinguished international maritime organizations. It is really nice to see the honorable scientists of the international maritime community together in Izmir at our university.

I would like to make use of this remarkable opportunity and give you some highlights about the scope of the disciplines studies at our university.

Dokuz Eylül University was founded on 20 July 1982. Presently DEU owns 10 faculties, 5 schools, 5 vocational schools, 5 graduate schools and 5 institutes.

Faculties: Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Business, Economics and Administrative Sciences, Education, Engineering, Fine Arts, Law, Medicine, Theology.

Schools: Maritime Business and Management, Nursing, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, State Conservatory, Foreign Languages

Vocational Schools: Judicial Practices, Health Services, İzmir Multidisciplinary, and Torbalı Vocational schools.

Graduate Schools: Atatürk Principles and History of Turkish Revolution, Health Sciences, Science and Engineering, Social Sciences, Education

Institutes: Fine Arts, Hemodialysis and Transplantation, Marine Sciences and Technology, Oncology, Theology.

Speaking of the distinguished audience, having seen Mr. Yilmaz at the conference is also nice. I would like to thank him for his kind presence representing the responsible office of the Turkish administration, General Director of Maritime Transportation, Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Under secretariat for Maritime Affairs. The invaluable presence of the relevant top authority could be taken as a promising and convincing sign that maritime issues are in reliable hands. Another top authority to whom I would like to relay my thanks is Mr. Mitropoulos, the General Secretary of the International Maritime Organization. I have no doubt that Dear General Secretary is already overloaded with the huge amount of responsibilities and concerns arising from the critical developments in the world most of which, I suppose, are closely related with the overall shipping industry. Despite all likely constraints, his presence in this distinguished gathering is indeed an invaluable occasion and I am sure his attendance will contribute to the fruitful outcomes of this conference.

For this remarkable international gathering and such admirable occasion, I would like to thank Prof.Dr. A.Guldem CERIT, the director of School of Maritime Business and Management, where I have enjoyed many other times welcoming distinguished scholars from international maritime industry. My thanks, of course, are also for the other members of the organizing committee who have tried hard to provide us with such meaningful occasion.

I sincerely would like to congratulate the Association for their choice of place for this outstanding conference. Along with the fame for its historical and touristy values, Izmir has also been well known for its part, a precious gate opening Anatolia out to the world. Especially in terms of the transportation of the export items from Turkey, it is said to play a crucial role. Looking at the world map and particularly connections through seas and straits

could give even a layman a rough idea about the critical importance of Izmir in world maritime transport.

Izmir is located at such a strategically important point that it connects all Eastern Mediterranean countries, the Middle East, the Caspian region and the Caucasus. An overall evaluation of this strategic significance would reveal that the maritime transports to/from Izmir are closely related with the economic developments prevalent in these regions. I believe the discussions at the later stages of this conference will include the means of utilizing such worthwhile points. Meanwhile, I would like to state here that the general outlook of the Turkish Maritime Industry as well as the related state authorities looks quite optimistic and promising. The recent containerization in general are quite pleasing. I am sure this conference will help further broadening, correcting and improving not only Turkish maritime industry but also the worldwide maritime trade.

Aware of the great importance of maritime transport in national and world economy, our university has been giving maritime education the utmost importance. Taking into well consideration that our School of Maritime Business and Management is the first and unique maritime education institution in Turkey in this area, the quality and effective education at this school has been the main point of our concern. Supporting and enhancing effective learning at this school would contribute not only to the Turkish Maritime industry and Turkish economy but also to the world maritime industry and economy.

Seeing the distinguished scientists the international maritime community together indeed makes me pleased. Hosting and facilitating worldwide fruitful discussions is another point of privilege and honor.

I am sure the view sharing process of the conference will contribute a lot to more efficient, and more economic maritime trade.

Thanking again the organizing committee members for all their efforts to bring the international maritime community together in Izmir and thanking all the distinguished guests for their invaluable contributions to the expected success of this outstanding conference, I wish you will enjoy both the activities at the conference and Izmir, the center of culture, trade and civilization acting as a gateway of Anatolia to Europe with its port.