

Whilst we are unable to attend this event, the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers would like to send our very best wishes and congratulations to the German branch on celebrating 20 years of the branch being in existence. We would like to recognise the support and participation of the hard working branch committee, both now and in the past.

Shipping industry and economic development are closely linked. The growth of the shipping industry is therefore of great significance not only to the major shipping countries but to all nations. Shipping services are important for international trade, because over 90% of all global trade measured in weight and volume, is routed by water. Hamburg is the second busiest port in Europe and the 15<sup>th</sup> Worldwide.

The shipping background of Hamburg is far older than the Institute, having a port since 1189 founded by Fredrick I, with a strong history of growth and during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century becoming Europe's central hub for transatlantic freight and passenger travel.

Like any supply and demand model, these service industries can only grow with the supply of a capable, talented and trained workforce.

The Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers is the leading internationally recognised professional body in the maritime arena and it represents shipbrokers, ship managers, agents and maritime professionals throughout the world. With 25 branches in key shipping areas, and 4,000 individuals, the Institute's membership represents a commitment to maintaining the highest professional standards across the shipping industry. As a major provider of education and training, the Institute sets and examines the syllabus for membership, providing the shipping industry with highly qualified professionals.

And across this maritime world, members of the Institute are part of an internationally recognised network of shipping professionals who not only work towards high professional ethical standards of trust, but who also have proven knowledge, competence and understanding of the broad spectrum of shipping business.

In such a global business, shipping often means moving from country to country, however, as a member of the Institute, boundaries melt and become invisible. No matter which branch a member belongs to, they are encouraged to participate in the activities of the whole branch network worldwide. Branch events,



# ICS

Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers

courses, seminars and training sessions are open to all members across the world. Spreading 'good practice' throughout the network, and therefore the industry, is a key Institute objective, and something we have been very good at for a very long period of time.

Here, in Germany, our branch supports students and members throughout the country, in all sectors of shipping.

Very best wishes, from the International network of the Institute for a successful event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Taliotis', written over a set of horizontal lines.

Michael Taliotis  
Chairman