



Press Release

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Chinese ships receive Amver awards

NEW YORK – The United States Coast Guard held an Amver awards ceremony on December 2, 2009 at the Marintec Shipping Exhibition in Shanghai, China to recognize 15 Chinese ships participating in the Amver search and rescue system.

Amver, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea.

The Hebei Ocean Shipping Company's Safety Department Manager, Captain Li Bing, was on hand to receive the award on behalf of their vessel Sea Glory. The Sea Glory earned its first Amver award for making itself available to assist in maritime emergencies at least 128 days in 2008.

HOSCO wasn't alone in earning this coveted safety award. China LNG Shipping Company, China Shipping Development Company, COSCO, Dalian Ocean Shipping Company, East Sunrise Ship Management, Bernhard Schulte Ship Management (China) Company, and the Shanghai Marukichi Ship Management Company earned awards for a total of 51 years of participation in the only global voluntary search and rescue system.

The United States Coast Guard Liaison to China, Captain George Vance, was on hand to tout the U.S. Coast Guard's and China's recent collaborations. In addition to Captain Vance, Donghai Rescue Bureau Director General Captain Sun FuMin and Shanghai Maritime Administration Vice Director Shang Wei were on hand to congratulate the award winners.

With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center.

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Vessels then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location. On any given day there are over 3,700 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. Visit <http://www.amver.com> to learn more about this unique worldwide search and rescue system.

Additional information on the Amver awards program can be found here:
<http://www.amver.com/facts/AwardsFactSheet.pdf>

High resolution photos of the awards ceremony can be found here:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/4184891808/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/4184888086/>

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