Challenges: Commodore Jim Scorer is Secretary General of the International Federation of Shipmasters’ Associations (IFSMA), established in 1954, to uphold International Standards of Professional Competence for Seafarers. IFSMA is a federation with a policy to ensure safe operational practice, prevention from human injury, protection of the marine environment and safety of life and property at sea. Jim has an extensive experience in the Royal Navy and as a three-masted ship owner he has operated in reputedly rich waters. He is currently serving as an advisor of IFSMA, where his main objective is to strengthen the voice of shipmasters and organize maritime networking worldwide.

Where do your functions belong to a Secretary General of IFSMA?

To represent in one professional body the challenges of the world to safeguard professional standards and values of all maritime men to enable seafarers to cope with the changing environment. This will allow me to bring together the views and professional interests of masters on the international stage. I am currently in discussion with the maritime shipping industry, to develop an attractive and affordable Seafarers’ Perception Workforce for our members.

What do you advise to the new IFSMA Strategic Plan “A World of Change” 2017-2022?

The operation of ships of the future is something IFSMA is getting actively involved in and influencing the shipping and regulatory authorities in their operation. I have always been passionate about bringing change to regulations so that the shipmaster is not allowed to be a routine part of watchkeeping rosters so that they are more available to undertake their mandated responsibilities.

What is your main function as Secretary General?

The Federation is formed of around 1,200 IFSMA’s from the Pacific to the Mediterranean. How will you go about bringing change to regulatory authorities?

I will be meeting by far the most well-informed of the authorities and I have always been passionate about bringing change to regulations so that the shipmaster is not allowed to be a routine part of watchkeeping rosters so that they are more available to undertake their mandated responsibilities.

What are your main functions as Secretary General?

My most challenging moment was when I was asked to go to Macedonia during the Balkans conflict to represent the Secretary General of NATO as his Military Adviser to the Chief of the General Staff of the Macedonian Army and provide advice immediately prior to the implementation of Task Force Harvest which brought about the cessation of conflict on the borders between Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania.

What is your main function as Secretary General?

Skills and competences are critical and our seafarers can help to identify the demands they see day by day. IFSMA can work together with IMO to ensure that the views of masters are heard.

What have been your main functions as Secretary General?

I hope I have managed to get this across in this new Strategic Plan. It is a short and punchy document which I hope is easily readable by the professional and uninitiated alike.

What should we think of the current and future challenges for international shipping?

Please talk to us about the importance of watchkeeping development:

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