

Speech by Captain Krish Krishnamurthi at the launch of The Navigator magazine at the Celebrating Navigation conference organised by Plymouth University 13.09.12

I am proud to be standing before you today to make an important announcement. It is not often in these days of economic constraints that a new product is announced. Yet we at The Nautical Institute have been working on a new magazine to present to the world.

It's not just another magazine. If I say that it is published with a purpose, it will sound very worthy. Well we do have a task in mind – to highlight the work of the modern professional navigator. I stress the word modern. You will see from your copies – hot off the press incidentally and not to be seen by the rest of the world until they receive their October Seaways – that the approach is modern, the look modern. You will hear more about that in a moment.

We have been working with the help and support of The Royal Institute of Navigation, and our thanks are due to Dr Andy Norris, RIN's representative in the project. RIN will bring to the readership's attention the latest navigation trends and help them reconcile the need to use traditional skills and yet take advantage of the opportunities new software presents.

This brings me onto the content of The Navigator. The magazine will focus on key issues including safety, the regulatory environment, mentoring and emerging technologies.

It is aimed in particular at officers of the watch in the early stages of their careers. We have a special message for them. We want to increase their awareness of the importance and prestige of the role they play. By explaining to them how important they are, both within the shipping industry and beyond it, we hope they will feel a renewed pride in their jobs and be able to go to their families and friends and say: "This is what I do. I keep people, the environment, vessels and cargoes safe and I, and my fellow navigating officers, help to deliver almost all the world's trade."

Each issue will focus on one particular aspect of navigation beginning, in this first issue, with a look at what it means to be a navigator today. The Navigator is a free publication and will initially be distributed three times a year alongside Seaways and the RIN journal Navigation News. We are grateful to missions and maritime training establishments, who have embraced the project enthusiastically, and will also distribute it. Each issue will be available in both print and electronic formats, including a very low resolution newsletter-type format which should be suitable for download on most vessels even those with a very narrow bandwidth. We would be very happy to supply any copies to your organisations if you want to help with promoting this important message.

With the maritime industry becoming ever more dependent on new technology it is vital we recognise the important role that navigators play and that they, in turn, feel supported and valued. I believe that The Navigator will contribute significantly towards achieving these goals and will also provide professional navigators around the world with a real sense of community.

The Navigator is aimed at all levels of the profession. As ships become faster, ocean space more restricted and technology more central, it is in everyone's interests that navigators should feel informed and engaged whatever stage in their career they may have reached. The fact is that

motivated and knowledgeable individuals make better decisions, not only in terms of safety, but also from a commercial standpoint.

We have had support and encouragement from many sources in realising this project. I would particularly like to thank the Director of Projects, David Patraiko, who I know has been conspiring with our publications team for some time to produce this magazine. One enthusiastic supporter has been Kuba Szymanski, of InterManger and I would now like to invite him to speak to you.

[Kuba speaks]

Thank you Kuba. Your support is appreciated and we enjoy working with you. I would now ask Emma Ward, editor of The Navigator to just explain a little more about the approach we have taken.

[Emma speaks]

Thank you Emma and thanks to all the team at NIHQ who have been involved in the production of the magazine.

Our congratulations and thanks are due to Paul Wright and his team here at Plymouth University. First let me congratulate the University on its 150th anniversary. It has an admirable record and the conference is a worthy commemoration of such an important event. Finally let me thank you Paul for inviting us to launch The Navigator at your conference. Ladies and gentlemen I commend The Navigator to you and hope you will join me in wishing it and its team well in the future.