An Era of Internationalization for SNAME

Increased Global Membership

In 1998 it became apparent to the leadership of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers that the membership outside of North America was increasing, and fast approaching 25 percent of the total. This was due in part to a successful membership recruitment campaign conducted in the two prior years as well as a dramatic expansion of electronic communication paralleled by the increased accessibility to, and information available on, the SNAME web site.

Since 2001 members have been able to access technical papers from the Society's three journals, Marine Technology and the Journals of Ship Production and Research, on line as well as to connect to thousands of other databases. The papers from these issues are downloadable as pdf's and have live reference linking. Back issues of the journals are available in hard copy, and may be ordered through SNAME Headquarters.

Additionally, nearly 6,500 technical paper titles from 1962 onward, some with abstracts, are key word searchable through a database on the web site. Similarly available are pdf's and/or hard copies of Section papers and presentations given throughout our 18 Sections. Lastly, 125 of SNAME's reference books, a variety of other books and Technical and Research (T&R) Reports and Bulletins may be found on the web site under the Publications Catalog, where hard copies and/or CD's may be ordered on line. Further information is available on the SNAME web site, which may be found at www.sname.org.

We believe these developments have been the major attractions for naval architects and marine engineers in nearly 100 countries outside North America both to join the Society and/or to maintain their membership.

Internationalization

At the Executive Committee Meeting in December 1999, a suggestion was made that the Society should take advantage of its international strength and develop stronger relationships in other countries. It was unanimously agreed by all in attendance that SNAME was 'a North American technical society with an international presence', and that we should strive to further our presence through collaboration with other international marine technical societies. Subsequently, an Internationalization Committee was formed both to explore the potential for relationships with these societies, and to establish meaningful and sustainable activities outside of North America such as the development of international sections in countries where concentrations of SNAME members were significant and interest was strong.

Cooperative Agreements

SNAME's leadership felt that benefits could be derived by the world's marine technical societies interacting to further their common goals of promoting the art and science of naval architecture and marine engineering through mutual cooperative agreements. Beginning in July 1999, SNAME's Executive Director and successive Society presidents, working in conjunction with their counterparts in other societies, have successfully developed cooperative agreements with a number of international marine technical societies including RINA and IMarEST in London, Schiffbautechnische Gesellschaft (STG) in Germany, and The Society of Naval Architects of Korea. Currently discussions are progressing with China SNAME, The Society of Naval Architects of Japan and SNAME (Singapore).
Generally, the terms of these agreements include some or all of the following items:

1. Members of one society may attend conferences, symposia, training courses and similar events organized by the other society on the same financial basis as members of that society,
2. All publications other than journals will be made available to members of one society at the same price as for members of the other society,
3. Copies of each Society's journals will be sent regularly to the other society's library,
4. Each society will publish details of the other society's activities in its journals, newsletters, and other media, sharing articles where appropriate,
5. Each society will encourage its members to submit technical papers for presentation at conferences, symposia, and technical meetings and for publication in the technical journals of the other society,
6. Each society will explore ways to encourage its technical and research groups to involve their counterparts in the other society's activities, and
7. Both societies will explore ways in which they can mutually cooperate with other societies, having similar goals and objectives, in the development of international conferences and symposia.

The New Greek Section

Through the intense efforts of a few dedicated members in New York working closely with a small group of members in Athens, Greece, where there was a concentration of almost 200 members, SNAME's newest Section, and the first outside of North America, was formed in 2002. Its first meeting was held on April 4, attended by over 75, followed by an equally well attended second meeting a month later. Papers were delivered and enthusiastically received by audiences of ship owners, ship operators, academics and others. SNAME member applications have increased as a result, and final approval for this new Section by the SNAME's Council and the Greek authorities is expected before the end of 2002.

Are other sections planned? It depends on the interest by a critical mass of members, and the tireless efforts by a few to carry the concept through to fruition. Time will tell, but all indications are that there are other groups waiting only to evaluate the success of the Greek venture.

2003 World Maritime Technology Conference

Simultaneously, while planning SNAME's 2002 Annual Meeting to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, the Headquarters' staff has been working closely with the Steering Committee to develop the 2003 Annual Meeting, which is expected to be truly 'revolutionary.' The 2003 World Maritime Technology Conference and IMExpo, will be a significant world-class event and located in San Francisco, California on October 17-20, 2003. As hosts of this first World Maritime Technology Conference, SNAME has invited many of the world's international marine technical societies to join us as Principal Sponsors. To date, 10 marine societies including RINA, IMarEST, Denmark SNAME, STG, SOBENA, ASNE, SNAK, CSNAME, and SNAME (Singapore) have enthusiastically agreed to participate in developing the technical program, promote the event in their own countries, and encourage attendance and exhibitors at the four-day conference and exposition. Additionally, another 40 organizations and groups have been invited to be supporting sponsors. Our goals are to increase attendance in San Francisco to nearly 1,000 registrants, create an exposition for up to 200 booths, and develop the foundations for a major marine technical event, which will be hosted by one of the other international marine technical societies in its home country at least every third year.


The technical program will be designed around four tracks and sub-topics as follows:

TRACK 1. Commercial and Naval Ship Operation
- Incorporating New Security Requirements in the Marine Transportation System (MTS)
- Safety and Quality
- Environmental Protection
- Maintenance and Repair

TRACK 2. Commercial and Naval Design and Technology
- Designing for Security
- Recent Innovative New Shipbuilding Projects
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- Small Craft Developments
- Innovative Ship Systems
- Integration of Ship Design and the MTS
- Research and Development Needs and Activities in the International Marine Community

**TRACK 3. Commercial and Naval Ship Production**
- Shipbuilding Security Requirements
- Major Advances – Invited Papers from Specific World Shipyards
- Interaction with SNAME's Ship Production Committee

- Implementing New Security Requirements in Marine Operations
- Educating Maritime Professionals (International Participants)
- Interaction with International Maritime Organizations (IMO, IACS, ISO, etc.)

Two members from each of the Principal Sponsoring societies will make up the membership of the conference's Technical Planning Committee. These two members will coordinate the development of the technical papers from their own society's members based on Calls for Papers, which will be issued before the end of the summer along with author's instructions and procedures for submittal.

It is SNAME's hope that the 2003 World Maritime Technology Conference will be a success, and that the tradition started in San Francisco of a world conference can be continued on a regular basis with a different society taking the lead to host the event in its own home country.

The concepts of internationalization and global cooperation, which were initiated by SNAME only four years ago, have already flourished, and, hopefully, these ideas will continue to grow and be recognized by the world's marine industry, expand in scope and spread around the globe for the benefit of all.

Comments and suggestions about SNAME's internationalization initiatives are welcome, and may be directed to SNAME's Executive Director, Philip B. Kimball, at pkimball@sname.org.