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## Shipping Australia selected to host international meeting

'It is indeed a privilege for Shipping Australia to have been selected to host the October 2011 meeting of the Federation of National Associations of Ship Brokers and Agents (FONASBA) at its fortieth annual meeting held in Cape Town, South Africa 6-9 October' Michael Phillips, the Chairman of SAL said today.

The Chairman and the CEO, Llew Russell represented SAL at the meeting and presented the case for the 42nd meeting to be held in Sydney in 2011. Next year the meeting will be held in Bulgaria.

'The annual meeting is a culmination of the deliberations of the various working and regional groups throughout the year.

'The discussions reflected the growing importance of this international association which now has members in forty-three different countries with the recent addition of China and the Philippines as members' Michael Phillips said.

'Australia contributed to the discussions of the plenary meeting of the European members, the Chartering and Documentary Committee, the Liner and Port Agency Committee and at the Council meeting.

'Interest was shown particularly in the Rudd Government's proposals to significantly tighten cabotage rules regarding the carriage of coastal cargo by foreign vessels, the oil-spill and clean-up costs of the *Pacific Adventurer* and the proposal in conjunction with Tradegate Australia by SAL to actively pursue community based port data systems in Australia' he said.

Llew Russell added that the detailed presentation on the economic indicators for the various sections of the international maritime industry showed a rather gloomy outlook (with the exception of the cruising industry) and it was not

anticipated that there would be any significant recovery over the next twelve months.

'FONASBA members support the early adoption of the Rotterdam Rules as the new international cargo liability regime. Surveys have also been undertaken on member activities and a new survey on port procedures in the various member countries was discussed.

'There was also an insider's view of the likely change in direction of the new European Parliament under the new EU President' he said.

Michael Phillips said the SAL delegation actively participated in the discussions, particularly the presentation on the vetting activities of Rightship. A controversial topic raised was the checking of disbursement accounts by DA-Desk which is, in FONASBA's opinion, was an unwarranted interference in the agent/principal relationship.

'FONASBA has produced a quality assurance scheme which member can use to confirm their bona-fides. However, like SAL members, FONASBA members operate in a very professional manner with the highest level of integrity' Michael Phillips said.

The SAL Chairman added that the challenge now is to work towards hosting this international event in 2011 that will be an annual meeting long remembered by delegates.

#### **Editor's note**

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