



FONASBA reviews 2024

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Pictured: the ruins of the Parthenon, a temple dedicated to the Ancient Greek goddess, Athena. The image also depicts the city of Athens, Greece. Photo credit: Dimitris Kiriakakis via Unsplash.

2024 was another busy year for FONASBA, with our Federation embarking on a major membership drive in the Asia Pacific region, the election of a new President and Executive Committee, a very successful Annual Meeting in Athens and continued actions in support of ship agents and ship brokers in regional and international fora.

For many years, our presence in the vital Asia Pacific region was limited to Japan, China and Australia, with Malaysia joining in July 2023. To enhance our coverage further, our Regional Vice President for Asia Takazo Iigaki, President Javier Dulce, and President Designate Fulvio Carlini visited Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines, meeting with local representative associations and introducing the range of services FONASBA provides to its members.

They reported the presentations were all very well-received and gave positive indications of an increase in our Federations coverage in the region. In addition to those meetings, the delegation also participated in a joint event in Singapore with the Singapore Shipping Association and the local branch of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers which was attended by members of both organisations in addition to representatives of local ship agency and broking companies. Also in Singapore, FONASBA was represented at the 18th Singapore Maritime Week, held in April.

As a result of these actions, FONASBA has recently welcomed two new Associate members, Balancia Ship Agency of Batam, Indonesia, and Sinoda Shipping Agency Pte. Ltd., of Singapore. In addition to these new members, discussions are ongoing with several national associations in the region to bring them into membership.

Following the visit of Shipping Australia CEO Melwyn Noronha to the FONASBA Secretariat in June 2023, President Designate Fulvio Carlini FICS returned the compliment during a visit to Sydney this year, meeting with SAL Policy and Communications Manager Jim Wilson.

The term of the FONASBA Executive Committee is three years and the 2024 Council Meeting in Athens saw the election of a new Committee, led by Fulvio Carlini FICS, with Mr. Dureid Mahasneh, Chairman of the Jordan Shipping Association, elected as President Designate. There were also changes to the Regional Vice President for Europe, and the chairs of the Ship Agent, Ship Broking and European (ECASBA) committees. A new committee, combining Education, Association Best Practice and Inspiring our Future was also formed. Mr. Carlini will lead the Federation until October 2027. Full details of the 2024-2027 Executive Committee and the revised structure can be found on the FONASBA website at www.fonasba.com

As is traditional, this year's Council Meeting closed the 2024 Annual Meeting held in October and hosted by our Greek member, the International Maritime Union. The Council Meeting was preceded by three full days of plenary meetings, covering ship agency, ship broking, European developments, education and quality, and best practice. One session was dedicated to issues of specific importance to our Greek colleagues. In addition to speakers from FONASBA and the host community, the plenaries featured input from recognised experts in the fields of geopolitics and disruptive and alternative technologies. A highlight of the programme was a presentation by Mustafa Oztaskin, winner of the 2024 Young Ship Agent or Broker Award, of the research that went into his paper entitled "The Importance of Compliance and Quality Management in Ship Agency Operations". Mustafa is the first Turkish winner of the Award, which is now in its tenth year. The Award is open to young professionals (under 40 at the time of submitting their entry) in the worldwide ship agency and shipbroking sectors. Previous winners of the Award have been based in Brazil, Belgium, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Australia. Tim Polson, then of Asiaworld Shipping, took the 2016 Award for Australia with his paper on breakbulk shipping. Details of the 2025 Award, and how to enter, can be found on the FONASBA website.