



Small Vessel “Safety at Sea” – International standards meeting local needs



The origins and objectives of Galileo Maritime Academy, Class Act Media and the Thai Yachting Business Association (TYBA) joining forces to raise the standard of Thai marine operations.

As the leading international maritime training facility in Asia for professional seafarers, Galileo Maritime Academy has a responsibility to play a key role in raising the standard of local marine operations in addition to its core task of providing the top standard of maritime training for international seafarers.

For many tourists, travelling to the region as either independent travellers or in tour groups, Thailand and the Asia region represents an exciting and unique opportunity to explore the surrounding coastlines in search of their own tropical island experience.

Unfortunately, in recent years the lack of an initiative to standardise maritime operation practices in Thailand has had a significantly detrimental

effect on both those who have chosen Phuket as their holiday destination, as well as on the wider an economy that so heavily relies on tourism. This was brought to the fore after last year's July 5th sinking of the M/V Phoenix off Phuket and the loss 47 lives; also representing Thailand's worst maritime disaster on record and costing the economy an estimated 10Bn Thai Baht.

In addition, there are all too frequent collisions, fire on board incidents, speed boat accidents and tour boat sinking's and in many if not all such incidents, better crew safety training and the provision of adequate safety equipment on board could reduce the occurrence of unnecessary loss of life or injury.

All vessels, commercial and private, that are 24 metres long or more are subject to international



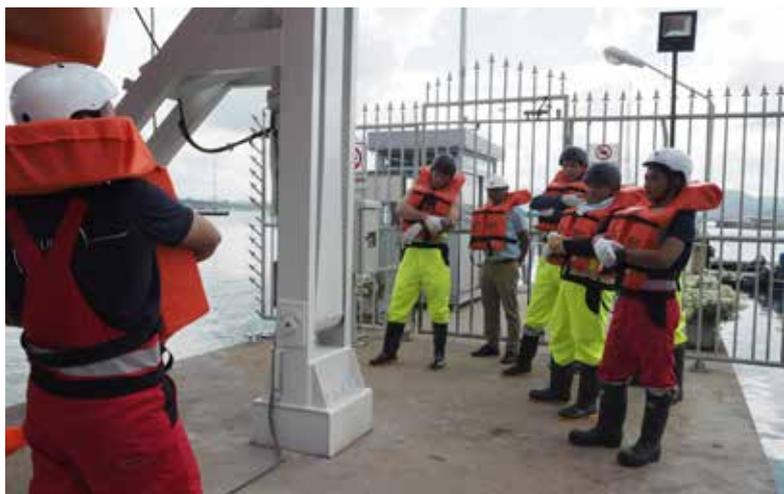
standards of crew safety training, competence and safety equipment requirements. There are 174 maritime nations, including Thailand, which are signatories to the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) and for whom these safety training and equipment standards are mandated by international law.

Vessels under 24 metres length are subject only to local national standards and requirements for crew training, competence and safety equipment. The great majority of Thai vessels engaged in tourism related activities are thus subject to Thai safety regulation and crew training standards.

In July 2017 Galileo Maritime Academy, an MCA accredited professional seafarer training cen-

tre based in Phuket, proposed that Thailand could adopt a modified version of the MGN 280 training standards. These crew training standards have been developed and implemented over the last 10 years by the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) for small vessels in commercial use for sport, tourism, work boats and pilot boats.

In the wake of the avoidable and catastrophic events of July 2018, Galileo decided that its responsibility was to move ahead independent of government support to introduce an initiative that would offer training packages tailored for the businesses around Phuket engaged in marine operations. With the support of Class Act Media and its media platforms, the Phuket News and Live 89.5, along with the Thai



Yachting Business Association; the "Small Vessel Safety at Sea" initiative was launched.

The core objectives of the campaign are to provide a training solution designed to raise the standard of Phuket marine operations by protecting guests, marine assets and the local environment while providing Thailand's tourists with the sense of safety and security they deserve. This is accomplished through providing crew with the training and experience they need to effectively manage risk and to prevent a crisis situation from occurring in the first place, while also ensuring they are well prepared to swiftly and successfully take necessary action should such a situation arise. Through this process marine operators can inherently strengthen their brands while highlighting the importance of their customer's safety in providing a premium service; and thus, improving the reputation of Thailand's marine tourism industry and preventing further avoidable loss of life.



Drawing from the MGN 280 proposal and the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) Safety and Security training programs (STCW 2010), a range of training packages was created covering; Fire Prevention and Fire fighting, First Aid



at Sea, Personal Survival Techniques, Crowd Management, Personal Safety and Social Responsibility, Small Vessel Handling and Control, Inboard and Outboard Engineering and more. Understanding the specific requirements of each member involved in maritime operations; from deckhands and stewardesses, through engineers and captains, to those with the overall responsibility for the operation; Galileo created role-specific training packages spanning from two to six and a half days.

With each member of a team working in synergy and professionally trained in the skills specific to their role and function, the result is a marine operation with the combined expertise to prevent emergency situations from arising, and confident to react as an organised and effective unit in the event one does. Ultimately, raising the standard of Thailand's marine operations and reputation as a safe holiday destination.

In addition to providing training packages, the partnership with Class Act Media has also allowed for marine safety tips to be broadcast four times daily across Phuket's most listened radio station, bringing further awareness to the importance of safe marine practices when enjoying our marine environment in private leisure craft.

Galileo Maritime Academy, in association with Class Act Media and the TYBA, will continue to champion the highest international maritime standards and practices in Phuket, Thailand and beyond. For more information on the Small Vessel Safety at Sea training program and other professional seafarer accreditations for those engaged in the superyacht, cruise line, merchant shipping or oil and gas industries, contact Galileo on info@galileomaritimeacademy.com

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