



COUNCIL  
102nd session  
Agenda item 18(f)

C 102/18(f)/Rev.1  
16 March 2009  
Original: ENGLISH/SPANISH

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### (f) International Maritime Prize

#### Note by the Secretary-General

#### SUMMARY

<b><i>Executive summary:</i></b>	This document reports on the follow-up to information previously provided in connection with the Prize for 2007; the nomination of candidates for 2008; and on arrangements for the 2009 Prize
<b><i>Strategic direction:</i></b>	11
<b><i>High-level action:</i></b>	11.1.1
<b><i>Planned output:</i></b>	11.1.1.5
<b><i>Action to be taken:</i></b>	Paragraph 6
<b><i>Related documents:</i></b>	C 100/D and Circular letter No.2869

#### The Prize for 2007

1 The Council may recall that when deciding, at its 100th session (June 2008), to award the International Maritime Prize for 2007 to Mr. Jørgen Rasmussen of Denmark, it expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Poland and Venezuela for their magnanimous gesture in withdrawing their own candidates for that Prize. As the Council will also recall, Mr. Rasmussen was awarded the 2007 Prize at a special ceremony held at IMO Headquarters, on 12 November 2008, in conjunction with the 101st session of the Council.

#### The Prize for 2008

2 In accordance with the arrangements previously approved by the Council, Circular letter No.2869 was issued on 30 April 2008 inviting nominations for the award of the Prize for 2008. Governments and organizations concerned were invited to submit their nominations by 15 January 2009.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.



3 In response to that invitation, the Secretary-General has received the following two nominations:

- (a) From the Government of Panama:  
Person nominated: ENGINEER ALBERTO ALEMÁN ZUBIETA; and
- (b) From the Government of Poland:  
Person nominated: MR. JERZY W. VONAU

4 The letters of nomination, together with the particulars provided in respect of the two candidates nominated, are reproduced in annexes 1 and 2 to this document, respectively.

#### **The Prize for 2009**

5 In due course, a circular letter will be issued inviting nominations for the award of the Prize for 2009. Once received, the nominations will be submitted to the Council for consideration and decision at its 104th session in June 2010.

#### **Action requested of the Council**

- 6 The Council is invited to:
- (a) consider the nominations for, and decide on, the International Maritime Prize for 2008; and
  - (b) note that arrangements will be made in due course in respect of the Prize for 2009.

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**ANNEX 1**

Panama Maritime Authority  
Office of the Administrator

Panama, 14 January 2009

Ref. No. ADM-0101-09

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Panama Maritime Authority I have the honour to nominate Engineer Alberto Alemán Zubieta, current administrator of the Panama Canal Authority, for the 2008 International Maritime Prize.

Under Mr. Alemán Zubieta's leadership the Panama Canal Authority has made a significant and positive contribution towards the objectives of the International Maritime Organization by fostering and facilitating the adoption of regulations and practices which enhance maritime safety and efficiency of navigation.

Mr. Alemán Zubieta has distinguished himself in the maritime world both professionally and in the personal capacity, and now bears on his shoulders the enormous responsibility of the work to expand the Canal.

For these reasons, we believe that Mr. Alemán Zubieta deserves this prestigious award.

Please find attached the necessary documentation.

With the assurance of my highest esteem,

(Signed) Fernando A. Solórzano  
Administrator, Panama Maritime Authority

Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos  
Secretary-General  
International Maritime Organization  
London

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**NOMINATION OF CANDIDATE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL  
MARITIME PRIZE, 2008**

***THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA and  
THE PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY***

*hereby nominate* Mr. Alberto Alemán Zubieta, administrator of the Panama Canal Authority (ACP). The ACP is the autonomous governmental agency which administers the Panama Canal, the interoceanic waterway that serves world maritime trade. From 1996 to 1999, Mr. Alemán Zubieta was administrator of the former Panama Canal Commission, the United States Government federal agency which administered the Canal until 31 December 1999. In 1998 he was appointed as the ACP administrator, a role which he performed simultaneously with that of administrator of the Commission. He has led the ACP since 2000. On his shoulders rests the considerable responsibility of carrying out the work to expand the interoceanic waterway in response to the popular mandate expressed in the national referendum held in October 2006.

*for the International Maritime Prize, 2008.*

The following statement is submitted in support of Mr. Alemán Zubieta's candidature.

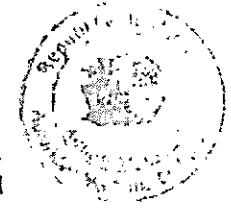
On behalf of the Government of Panama and the Panama Maritime Authority

(Signed) Fernando A. Solórzano  
Administrator

Date: 15 January 2009

(Official seal)

\* \* \*



# ALBERTO ALEMAN ZUBIETA

BORN MAY 26, 1951

MARITAL STATUS: MARRIED

## EXPERIENCE

1999 - 2009 Panama Canal Authority Republic of Panama  
*CEO / Administrator*

- Responsible for the Panamanian autonomous agency that manages the Panama Canal, the leading interoceanic waterway that serves world maritime commerce
- Responsible for the management and execution of the Third Set of Locks Project, which was approved in a National Referendum held on October, 2006.

1998 - 1999 Panama Canal Commission Republic of Panama  
Panama Canal Authority  
*CEO / Administrator of both agencies*

- Under his leadership, as Administrator of both, the Panama Canal Commission and the Panama Canal Authority, he was responsible for the seamless transition of the Panama Canal from U.S. to Panamanian stewardship on December 31, 1999.

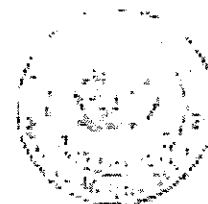
1996 - 1998 Panama Canal Commission Republic of Panama  
*CEO / Administrator*

- The federal agency of the United States Government which was responsible, until December 31, 1999, for the administration and operation of the Panama Canal.

1992 - 1996 Constructora Urbana, S.A. Republic of Panama  
*CEO*

- One of largest construction companies in the Republic of Panama

1974 - 1992 Constructora Urbana, S.A. Republic of Panama



#### EDUCATION

- 1974                    Texas A & M University                    College Station, TX
  - Bachelor of Science - Civil Engineering
  
- 1973                    Texas A & M University                    College Station, TX
  - Bachelor of Science - Industrial Engineering

#### MEMBERSHIP IN ACADEMIES AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- International Advisory Board of Texas A & M University
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development
- Chief Executives Organization
- Panama Contractors Association
- Panama Architects and Engineers Association

#### AWARDS, HONORS, AND DISTINCTIONS

- February 2009 - "Maritime Personality" Prize, Panama Maritime IX World Conference and Exhibition
- May, 2007 - Inducted to the Maritime International Hall of Fame
- December, 2006 - Awarded The National Order of the Legion of Honor by the French Republic
- October, 2003 - Declared "Meritorious Son of the City of Panama" and awarded the "Key to the City" by the Municipal Council
- 2003 - Outstanding International Alumnus Award of Texas A & M University
- 2003 - Government Official of the Year, *Capital Financiero*
- 2003 - Order of Rio Branco, Government of Brazil
- 2002 - The Businessman of the Year 2002, Panamanian Business Executive's Association
- 2001 - Maritime Personality 2001, Seaside
- 1998 - Florencio Izaza Award, Association of Panamanian Engineers and Architects
- 1998 - Federal Engineer of the Year Award, American Society of Civil



Engineers

- 1997 – Honorary Fellow, American Society of Civil Engineers
- 1992 – William Ross Medal, Panamanian Chamber of Construction

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## **NOMINATION OF CANDIDATE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PRIZE, 2008**

### **Supporting statement**

The Panama Canal Authority, under the leadership of Mr. Alberto Alemán Zubieta, has made a positive contribution towards the objectives of the International Maritime Organization by adopting regulations and practices to the highest feasible level in matters relating to maritime safety, environmental conservation, security and efficiency of navigation.

Since the first year of Panama's administration of the Canal, the number of transits by Panamax ships – the largest vessels able to pass through the locks – has grown steadily, ships' length of stay in Canal waters – the measure of service quality – has improved, and the number of accidents during transit has fallen. Safety is a vital aspect of the Canal's operations, and this has seen particular improvement under the leadership of Mr. Alemán Zubieta, whose administration has been characterized by substantial and sustained investment in the maintenance of facilities (prevention and refurbishment), machinery and equipment. This ongoing maintenance effort is an intrinsic part of the ACP ethos.

Mr. Alemán Zubieta's administration stepped up the Canal modernization programme, which was completed nine years earlier than originally planned. The programme included straightening, curve reduction, and widening of the Gaillard Cut, the narrowest stretch of the Canal. The two projects help to improve visibility and safety of navigation on the waterway, as part of a multi-million dollar investment in improvements and technology intended to assist navigation that included new and better tugs and locomotives, the introduction of CTAN-AIS, radar and security cameras.

In addition, during Mr. Alemán Zubieta's tenure as administrator a series of contingency plans has been put in place to deal with fires, spillage of hazardous substances and medical emergencies involving ships in transit. There is continuous training to enable personnel to respond to emergencies, and drills and exercises are held regularly to test the effectiveness of planning and staff training; these in turn are channelled into ensuring continuous improvement of the contingency and emergency response plans.

The period under Mr. Alemán Zubieta's leadership has seen a sustained effort to invest in training and development. In the maritime sphere especially, the training has focused on renewing the licences of pilots, engineers and tugboat captains, thus ensuring safer practice, reducing accidents, improving relations with clients and keeping the workforce abreast of the latest requirements under the international conventions which affect the maritime industry.

In 2002 the Maritime Centre for Simulation, Research and Development (SIDMAR) was inaugurated. It is equipped with a 360° field-of-view simulator, a 150° field-of-view simulator and a tug simulator. The first two of these have all the necessary equipment to deliver courses approved under the STCW Code, while the tug simulator replicates the features of Voith Schneider and ASD tugs. With these new tools the Panama Canal Authority has set out to enhance the efficiency and performance of its staff and has widened its scope so as to provide new training options for other institutions in Panama and Latin America. SIDMAR offers international certification in courses on simulation, e-navigation and the ISPS Code, and courses for operators of small ships, all under an ISO quality system which fully meets the requirements of the STCW Convention and the Panama Maritime Authority.



In response to the maritime security standards established by IMO, the ACP has equipped its workforce with the knowledge to implement the ISPS Code internally. The ACP took part in the working group on maritime security and the IMO diplomatic conference in connection with the drafting and approval of the ISPS Code, has participated in meetings of the Maritime Safety Committee since 2002 through a representative of its Division for Security and Emergency Response, and has also taken part in meetings of the NAV Sub-Committee and the Marine Accident Investigators' International Forum since 1999.

Every year the ACP participates in forums concerned with the safe transport of dangerous goods, particularly nuclear materials and waste. These include meetings of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Panama Canal has consistently complied fully with all the guidelines issued by the various IMO committees.

The ACP has been certified as meeting ISPS requirements by the American Bureau of Shipping (Consulting), complies with the IMO regulations and, three months prior to the mandatory implementation date, became the first institution in Panama and one of the first in Latin America to fulfil all requirements and obtain certification of compliance under the ISPS Code.

Under the leadership of Mr. Alemán Zubieta the ACP took the decision to implement the ISPS Code voluntarily, since the Canal, not being defined as a port facility, is not required to comply. This has strengthened ties with clients by reducing the possibility of them suffering unnecessary delays in ports following their transit through the Canal.

As the Canal is an internal body of water it does not have to comply with SOLAS and MARPOL; however, Mr. Alemán Zubieta's administration decided to incorporate both instruments into ACP regulations when the Canal was transferred to Panama.

Everything mentioned above – the contingency and emergency response plans with drills and exercises for review and updating and measuring effectiveness; the personnel training and development programme; the ongoing maintenance programme for facilities, equipment and machinery; the modernization and improvement programme; the participation in safety forums and committees at IMO and in other organizations; and voluntary implementation of the highest safety standards proposed by IMO – is testimony to the commitment and vision of the Panama Canal Administration in seeking to become a world leader in the maritime industry.

Safety is a key factor in Canal operations, for both administrators and workers, as they pursue the planned objectives. The ACP and its team of over 9,000 men and women led by Mr. Alemán Zubieta strive to maintain the highest safety standards. This translates into a low accident rate, even allowing for the greater complexity in handling the transit of ever-larger ships, the considerable number of transits per year, and the works to widen and deepen the channel, which increase the risks for ships passing through.

Under the leadership of Engineer Alberto Alemán Zubieta, the Canal has shown the world that Panamanians are able to administer this interoceanic waterway to higher standards of safety, efficiency and quality than those achieved when the Canal was under United States administration.

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ANNEX 2



REPUBLIC OF POLAND  
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE  
VICE-CHIEF OF STATE  
*Anna Wypych-Namiotko*

Warsaw, 15 January 2009.

BM6-052/1/IMO-2009  
D: 893621

Mr. Efthimos Mitropoulos  
Secretary-General  
International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7SR  
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Mitropoulos,

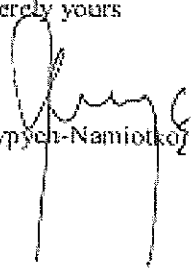
Subject: International Maritime Prize, 2008

Reference is made to the International Maritime Organization Circular letter No.2869 dated April 30, 2008, inviting Member States to nominate candidates for the International Maritime Prize, 2008.

It gives me a great pleasure to submit, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Poland, the candidature of Mr. Jerzy W. Vonau.

Enclosed, please find the completed form of nomination and brief curriculum vitae of the candidate for your kind consideration and decision of the Council of the International Maritime Organization.

Sincerely yours

  
Anna Wypych-Namiotko

Enclosure

**NOMINATION OF CANDIDATE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME  
PRIZE, 2008**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND**

hereby nominates **Mr. Jerzy W. Vonau** (former Director of the International Mobile  
Satellite Organization) for the International Maritime Prize, 2008.

For and on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Poland

Signed: .....  ..... Date: 15 January 2009  
Mrs. Anna Wypych-Namiotko

Designation: Undersecretary of State  
Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Poland

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Jerzy W. Vonau**

Born in January 1936 in Poland  
Polish nationality  
Married and father of one son.

Graduated in Law (speciality - shipping and international maritime law) from the University of Wrocław in 1958, and immediately thereafter entered the Polish Maritime Administration - Maritime Office in Gdynia as a Legal Advisor; later becoming Deputy and Head of the Legal Section.

From 1970	Director of the Department of Maritime Administration at the Ministry of Shipping in Warsaw
From 1973	Director of the Maritime Department at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Shipping
From 1975	Head of the Polish Shipping Mission in London with the main duties of liaison between the Polish Maritime Administration and the IMO
From 1980	Senior Official in the Marine Environment Division of IMO Secretariat
From 1985	Director of Maritime and Inland Waters Administration Department at the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Economy responsible for shipping and international maritime law, safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment, protection and proper utilization of the resources of the Polish maritime areas, including port and coastal management
From 1992	Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to IMO, in the rank of Counsellor-Minister Plenipotentiary, at the Polish Embassy in London
From 1999 to 2007	Director of the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)

During his professional career:

- co-sponsor of the Gdansk and Helsinki Conventions concerning protection of the living resources (1973) and protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area (1974), respectively;
- Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Diplomatic Conference concerning protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area;

- head and/or member of the Polish delegations to various international maritime conferences and meetings, including:
  - International Maritime Organization (IMO);
  - United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
  - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);
  - International Conference on North Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF);
  - North East Atlantic Fishers Commission (NEAFC);
  - International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC Fund);
  - London Dumping Convention (LC).
  
- Chairman of the IMO Pension Staff Committee (1978 - 1979);
  
- Chairman of Committee I of the Tankers Safety and Pollution Prevention Conference (TSPP 1978), and on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping of Seafarers Conference (STCW 1978).
  
- Chairman of Committee I of the 15th and 16th Sessions of the IMO Assembly;
  
- Chairman of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) 1986 - 1988;
  
- President of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety Systems Protocol Conference (GMDSS-P) 1988;
  
- Chairman of the Baltic Sea Fisheries Commission, 1991-1992;
  
- Chairman of the Working Group on Project "P" of the 10th Extraordinary Session of the Inmarsat Assembly, 1994;
  
- Chairman of the 11th Session of the Inmarsat Assembly, 1996;
  
- Chairman of the Flag State Implementation Sub-Committee of the IMO, 1997-1999;
  
- Chairman of the Assembly of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC Fund), 1998.