

Finding the right word

The new International Maritime Dictionary is set to become essential reading onboard every ship with a multinational crew. Lead author **Peter van Kluijven**, right, explains what's on offer...



The idea of creating a multilingual maritime dictionary was prompted and inspired by a conversation I had with a student who had just returned from his first apprenticeship and who noted that in almost all shipboard activities, especially in the engine room, there was a strong need for standard, handy and conspicuous books of reference. What he especially found lacking was a good maritime dictionary.

By 'standard' he referred to the need for a dictionary that could be used by everyone on duty, whether high or low ranking, of whatever nationality. 'Handy' referred to size, and by 'conspicuous' he meant easy to find.

There were three nationalities among the engine room staff on the student's ship: Filipino, Russian, and Dutch. All were skillful and well-trained; their general English proficiency was very high and their practical English was OK. But with the engine and auxiliary manuals all being in English, the seafarers often had translation problems related to idioms and expressions that they had never come across during their studies. 'What's that word?'

The shipowner had been very much aware of the importance of making reference books available, such as high quality dictionaries, and had installed a number of general English dictionaries in the engine room computer. Which was slow, and not always on. And which had a keyboard that was hard to operate when you had grease on your hands. The keyboard was covered with black smear anyway, so pretty useless, and frustrating.

And that is how the idea was born of creating one dictionary with multilingual translations of

English words and phrases, nicely sized and conspicuous (bright orange!). The English corpus already existed in the Dutch Lexicon of Shipping and Transport. All that was needed now were the translations of all the items in this Lexicon into the key languages in maritime business in the broadest sense.

At the 2009 IMLA-IMEC Conference (the professional forum for maritime English teachers), a number of Maritime English professors and lecturers were invited to join the project, and all of them immediately and very readily said yes. This has now resulted in the publication of The International Maritime Dictionary — IMD Part 1. It is the outcome of close cooperation between lecturers from some of the world's leading maritime institutes, and is at the same time proof that close cooperation between maritime professionals from all over the world is very much possible!

The IMD Part 1 covers the following languages: Filipino, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Arabic. Part 2, which will be published later this year, will cover German, Polish, Romanian, Croatian and French. This volume will also be particularly suitable for usage in European inland navigation.

Protests from Italy, Hungary and Baltic states have already come in: what about us? Yes, indeed, this project has gotten way out of hand! A third volume will have to be considered.

So what's inside The International Maritime Dictionary? It is a maritime English Dictionary about navigation, engineering, safety, communication, naval architecture, inland navigation, chartering, insurance and logistics. The

B	ENGLISH	INDONESIAN	SPANISH	RUSSIAN	CHINESE	ARABIC
	balance	timbangan, balanse	equilibrio / saldo	вес / баланс	秤 / 平衡	مقياس التوازن / التوازن
	balance rubber	balanse ang timon	timón compensado	противан; контргруз	平衡橡胶	مطاط التوازن
	balance weight	balanse timbang	peso de compensación	противанский груз	平衡重	موزن التوازن
	balance valve	balanse katup	válvula compensadora	противанственный клапан	平衡阀	صمام التوازن
	hale (out)	palas	achicar	вентильный вала	倒车绞盘	موتور عكس
	hale (wind, cotton)	palas (danti na lana, bulak)	hala (de lana, algodón)	вал, валок; наматывать в вал; пресовать в валочку	成包线, 羊毛包	موتور لف
	hale spar	puwang sa barko	espato para mercancías embalsadas	валовая проушина	包索绞车	حجر الحبال
	hull and socket joint	pinaglangug sa bala at alaka	junta de rótula	шаровый шарнир	球架关节	مفصل كروي
	hull bearing	malalagang bala, kiyas sa bala	cojinetes de bala	шарикоподшипник	滚珠轴承	محامل كروي
	hull valve	halalagang bilog	válvula esférica	шаровый клапан	球阀	صمام كروي
	huller	malak	lance	шарикоподшипник	加力螺旋钻	موتور حثيث
	hand	banda, pangkat, grupo	zampo	лента (полоса (частот), динемы, сигналы)	带	حبل
	handage	bandaha, banda	tenda	бент; веревка	绳	حبل
	handshake	pinaglangug sa bala at alaka	feno de zampo	шарикоподшипник	球架关节	مفصل كروي
	hatch/joiner	balans	huananilla	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	hatch	patung, barko	balje	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	haul of tubes	lupisan ng tubo	hala de tubos	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	har	pagkaka ng tubo	hara (har (cantidad de presión))	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	hark	hara ng kilya	quilla de hara	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	har meter	tagayunag ng hara	medidor de atmósfera	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	hate boat charter	pag arkilal ng barko	flete sin destino	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	havely	halaga sa, halas	apenas	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	harge	lanta de deslaga	baxaza, gaharra	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	harge carrier	tagayunag ng gaharra	bague portabaxaza	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	harge traffic	trapalaga gaharra	transporte por baxaza	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	harge	taga-gaharra	gabarrero	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	hargeman	takas sa baxaza	puerto de baxaza	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	hargeman's deckhand	kahayaga ng hargeman	marinero de baxaza	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	harley	cehada	cehada	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	harmacks	nga talipap	percebes	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي
	harmonizer	panatuk sa harung	harmonio	шарикоподшипник	球架	محامل كروي

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It has been the authors' intention from the start to create a user-friendly and inexpensive tool for the industry. This kind of specialist dictionary normally costs a small fortune. The publishing House Alk & Heijnen in Alkmaar, Netherlands, realised this from the moment the project started and will set an affordable price.

The International Maritime Dictionary English to Filipino, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Arabic. Pictionary included De Alk & Heijnen Publishers — info@alk.nl PO Box 9006, 1800GA Alkmaar — Netherlands ISBN: 978 90 5961 090 3

The book is also available from the Marine Society (www.msbookshop.org) priced at £35.99 plus postage.

English corpus has been collected, compiled and updated over many years from maritime literature, manuals, pilot books, charter parties, conversations with students, experts from the dredging industry, authorities etc.

Many maritime terms and phrases have been included that cannot be found in general English dictionaries. In the world of international logistics the book will form a new and formidable tool that will enhance the quality of communication and safety in the maritime industry, particularly for shipboard practices onboard vessels that have multinational crews. A web based version will be available next year, including applications for iPads and Macs.

Included in the IMD is a separate 'pictionary' — a dictionary on tools and devices that uses pictures to show what the English words mean.

The book also has a separate section on abbreviations.

These are the authors and their maritime institutes that have been and are involved:

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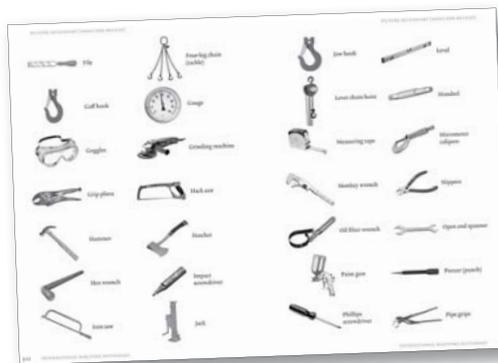
China
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Maritime Transport, Alexandria, Egypt

Prof. Peter Trenkner — chairman of the IMLA-IMEC Steering Committee

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