



*Dear ITA executive members,*

I believe a Patron should stay at the background and only in certain situations he may raise his voice. I think there is such a situation now, because we need you all to create an attractive ITA web site.

For all our present as well as our future members it is imperative that we have a comprehensive and informative website. This takes a great deal of time and energy and cannot be done by our General Manager Steve alone. Creating a website is one thing, but filling it with interesting information is something which requires the assistance of every executive member.

Maritime suppliers and maritime institutes are often willing to provide information and the ITA web site is a perfect promotion tool for them. However, such information is always one-sided, because they all say their product is the best. This may apply to simulator manufacturers, training institutes, towing winch builders, tug yards, tug designs, towing ropes, etc. Although they all say they offer the best, there may be maritime suppliers with better and more suitable products with fewer disadvantages.

It is therefore vital that the ITA web site should not become a promotion tool in the hands of one or more commercial companies. It should be our strategy to have an independent and objective view not influenced by marketing activities on our web site. Of course, logos of marine suppliers, companies' profiles, and advertisement are welcome on the web site as long as they are paid for.

How can we achieve an informative and independent ITA web site with interesting articles for tug masters? We need the help of every executive member! When you visit the web site you will see the various subjects for which information needs to be supplied. As you will see, on a number of web pages articles are already published. However, much more is needed for the web pages to be a comprehensive source of information for or members, such as, for instance, conference papers, study and research reports, interesting articles seen in professional magazines, articles written by yourself regarding specific experiences -good or bad- with tugs, tug equipment, weather conditions, training and articles with information about new developments with respect to tugs and tug equipment. There is a large range of subjects and possibilities.

So, the first request is:

Please, provide our General Manager with professional articles which are of interest for your colleagues, or from which they can learn, or which can be of help if members find themselves in a situation which you have already experienced. In doing this we can make a well-respected ITA web site.

Then the second request:

We also need an editor who will go through the articles and advise the General Manager whether the provided information is indeed suitable for the ITA web site and/or in which form. This is exactly the way it is done for newspapers and magazines.

You all know an executive member has rights but has also responsibilities; the position is not free of obligations. So, therefore I want to ask you, please give your full support in building the ITA and the ITA web site. We cannot leave it to just two or three persons, who also have full-time jobs and family commitments. We need your help! An attractive ITA web site with interesting information supplied by its executive members will certainly attract new members.

Please, reply to Arie (ITA President), Andy (ITA Chairman) and Steve (ITA General Manager), with a copy to me.

Kind regards,

Henk Hensen

Patron ITA