Statement of Intent

The Mission to Seafarers Adventure Race Japan will take place from 18-21 May 2023. The event has attracted considerable interest from around the world, and from Asia in particular. This is the first event of its kind to be staged in Japan with 64 teams of three taking part in a two-day challenge on the Izu Pennisula, an area of outstanding natural beauty and designated UNESCO Geopark, with views of Mount Fuji.

Teams have also been asked to raise a minimum of US$5K in sponsorship. We thank the 37 companies which have committed to sponsorship, already raising US$430K. It is anticipated that almost 100% of the team and corporate sponsorship will go towards our frontline work.

This purpose of this **Statement of Intent** is to give an idea of where the money raised will be spent. It will go to support our frontline services in order that we can continue to provide for seafarers' welfare in the same way we have done for 167 years. Our 200 ports and 121 Centres are a vital footprint of coverage of our worldwide services. It means that being in so many ports around the world we can reach as many seafarers as possible.

We will ensure that the funds are spent where they are most needed, which may be in some of the poorer or more remote regions of the world, where seafarers find access to any form of service more difficult or impossible. With shore leave restrictions beginning to lift, there are still seafarers who have been unable to leave their ships for months on end. Our face-to-face, ship visiting service is so vitally important at the best of times, but during these conditions it forms a crucial lifeline. During 2022 our 20,000 shopping trips for seafarers totalled US$3m.

Thank you to all our sponsors and teams for taking part in this exciting challenge event. With companies paying the registration fees for their teams, it has enabled us to allocate all of the corporate sponsorship and all of the team fundraising to our frontline work. This is a tremendous achievement and one which we should all be pleased to have contributed too.

On behalf of all at the Mission and on behalf of seafarers may I thank you all.

Sustainability

As the industry embraces its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and works fast and actively towards protecting the environment, the Mission itself is gearing up to improve the impact of its services on the global environment. We established an Environmental Action Group in 2022, representing the different elements of our work, as well as our geographical footprint. The Action Group is led by our Chief Operating Officer, whose recent MBA dissertation covered ESG within the maritime industry.

Our plan is to use some of the funds raised by the ARJ to fund further research and survey the deeper MtS operations to ensure we are addressing as many areas of environmental sustainability as possible. We will respond to the needs within the UK, our branches and those areas which we grant fund around the world before moving into the more autonomous regions. The ARJ money will also fund a part-time Sustainability Manager for an initial two years to carry this work forward.

Green environment for seafarers

As part of our concern for the environment and also for the welfare of our seafarers, we are using some of the ARJ money to create garden havens at our Seafarers Centres. Our centres vary in size and location but we know even the smallest one – illustrated here in Falmouth – shows that much can be done with a small space. During HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year, we embraced the Queen's Green Canopy planting trees and plants in many locations including Durban and Rotterdam. Your contribution will assist in the health and wellbeing of seafarers ashore.

Key Welfare Hub – Tuas Singapore

In February 2022, the Mission unveiled its five-year strategy. This included the set up and roll out of Key Welfare Hubs, the aim to enhance services in locations such as Singapore and Rotterdam, on key shipping routes, where there is a considerable through-put of seafarers. The Mission's role will be to offer an enhanced service, both in terms of numbers of ship visitors and also offer a wider portfolio of services. Often we find our frontline staff operating on their own with a small numbers of ship visitors, facing what can be a herculean task of visiting as many ships as possible in a vast port covering miles of road.

We know that companies in Singapore will feature strongly in the ARJ sponsorship and team participation, so our plan is to invest a large amount of these funds into supporting the running of Tuas, Singapore, as a Key Welfare Hub. Building upon funding provided by the EPS Sammy Ofer Fundraiser, we feel that this will address not only the local need but also the donors wishes that Singapore be supported.

Family Support Philippines

The Mission to Seafarers runs a successful Family Support Network in the Philippines. Its objective is to support the families of seafarers who face challenges each day, without the daily support of their menfolk. Clustered around seven chapters, these communities are self-supporting, with the assistance of the Family Support Coordinator and her team, which is based in Manila.

The Mission believes that this project has enormous potential and to that aim we are investing time, energy and funds into making the most of this unit. The group undertake various campaigns, orientation sessions and pastoral visits which is aimed at raising awareness of the support offered by the group, in which case they have people as well as many goods, materials and supplies which need transporting as part of these activities.

Their minibus is needed to transport seafarers and their families to various events such as group gatherings, renewal of marriage vows services, and events. The group is involved in the following activities: counselling, financial guidance, basic social and welfare services, transportation service.

They are also actively training seafarers and their families in our WeCare training programmes on social communications and financial wellbeing. Both have an impact on their lives and that of seafarers whilst at sea, assisting mental and physical health as well as safety at sea.

Funds raised from the ARJ, will go to support the running costs and expansion of this service over two years and to pay small horarium sums to the Chapter leaders. We already have a three-year commitment from Pacific Basin Shipping to cover 1/3rd of the costs and have allocated funds from the EPS Fundraiser in 2022.

Family Support India

During the pandemic, our fledging Family Support unit in Tuticorin did some amazing work. Not only did the team provide emotional support for those with loved ones at sea, but they also supported those unable to get to sea, because of the closure of borders, and lack of flights. When the Delta variant hit India, they mobilized their team to deliver food parcels and oximeters and subsequently facilitated the availability and delivery of vaccinations. We aim to consolidate this team in Tuticorin and we are in the process of building new family teams in key ports around India, starting with Chennai. The ARJ Funds will go towards supporting this endeavour for two years.

Justice & Welfare Manager, Dubai

In 2022, we relocated our Regional Director from Dubai to Cyprus, and replaced the role there with a Justice & Welfare Manager, who took office in January 2023. The UAE has been historically a place where we have fulfilled a role in supporting a higher than average level of abandoned seafarers, although this has declined recently, due to the action taken by the authorities, we maintain a vigilant presence in support where it is needed.

However, we continue to respond to the needs of seafarers in abandoned, sometimes for years, outside the confines of the local waters. Without food and water, they beg from passing ships, fish for their food, cook on deck and wait for the slow progress taking places through the courts. Determined to remain steadfast to secure the wages owed, they face difficulties in staying intouch with their families.

The ARJ contribution will fund half of the costs of our Justice & Welfare Manager for two years.

Bahrain vehicle

We plan to use the ARJ funds to purchase a new vehicle for ship visiting in Bahrain. The current vehicle is in need of considerable repair which is not worth the outlay. Shore leave is a precious commodity in Bahrain and our new port chaplain, Revd Franklin, is committed to providing transportation to assist seafarers in accessing shopping and welfare facilities in and around the port.

In 2019, each month an average of 84 ships were visited and 70 seafarers were transported. The 14-year old MtS vehicle currently used for ship visits in Bahrain is often in need of repair, and despite having to rent or borrow a vehicle, Revd Franklin is keen to build the current figures to a pre-Covid level. In the last 30 days he has visited 40 ships, met with over 200 seafarers and provided a shopping service when shore leave was not possible. Repairs on the MtS vehicle are proving very costly; due to the age of the vehicle, spare parts are not readily available and need to be imported. So a new vehicle with the ARJ money will be most welcome.

Japan

With some considerable support from Japan for our ARJ challenge, we felt it important to channel funds back into our operation there. During 2022 we were able to fund the running costs of three minibuses with some of the proceeds of the EPS Fundraiser, so we felt it entirely appropriate to allocate funds for the continuation of the running costs of the three minibuses from the ARJ efforts. We would like to thank all the Japanese companies for their contributions to the ARJ, knowing that funds will support seafarers arriving in Japan as well as supporting seafarers in the wider Asia and global shipping community.

Rotterdam

As Rotterdam is a key welfare hub for the Mission, we have already embarked on enhancing our service delivery here. We have used funds raised from the EPS fundraiser to fund a Senior Chaplain and electric vehicle. But much is to be done here, and funds from the ARJ will go towards the running costs of a further vehicle needed to reach seafarers who are unable to reach our centre, due to the long distances involved in travelling the port.

Latin America

Our Latin American operation is very important in the context of provision across the world. With so much tonnage going through the Panama Canal it is entirely appropriate that we have located our Regional Director there in this central location. Elsewhere in Latin America there is very little provision for seafarers' welfare and our intention is to increase support for this region to meet the evident need. Funds raised from the ARJ will go towards and additional member of the team in Panama, freeing the Regional Director from some of the ship visiting to concentrate on more development further afield.

Frontline team training

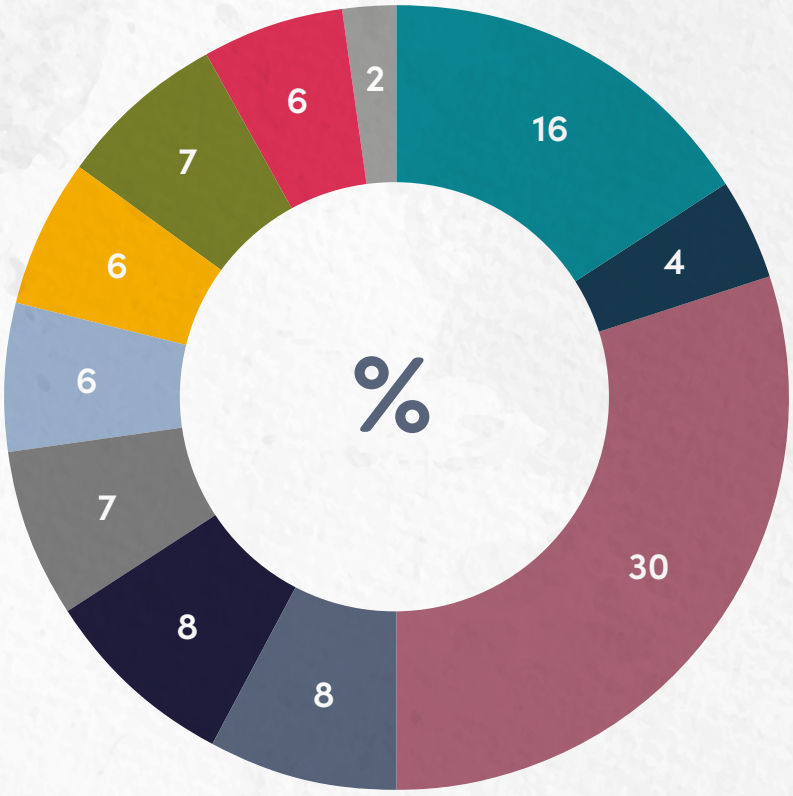
We all know how important training is for all our staff, and our frontline staff are no exception. Often working in isolation within a port, they need to have a wide range of skills to meet the growing and developing needs of seafarers. We know without the necessary training they will not have the most up-to-date knowledge to help in mental health and emotional situations. These funds will help seafarers across the world with an enhanced frontline ship visiting workforce.

Fundraising

As with any fundraising, it is dependent upon those taking part and supporting this event to ask for financial support for the Mission. If we raise more than anticipated, it will provide funding for more of our operations in other strategic locations around the globe. We will be monitoring the progress of fundraising and supporting teams where best we can. However, we will not know how much has been raised until the final figures are consolidated in May 2023. See chart on next page.

Allocation of funds raised

- Sustainability Manager
- Centre Garden/greening work
- Key Welfare Hub/Tuas
- Family Support India
- Family support Philippines
- Justice & Welfare Manager/Dubai
- Bahrain vehicle
- Japan
- Latin America
- Rotterdam
- Frontline staff welfare training



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