

Statement of Intent

The Mission to Seafarers Adventure Race Japan will take place in May 2023. The event has already 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 and will involve a minimum of 50 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.

The teams will pay a registration fee of US$6K which will cover the cost of running the event. Teams will also be asked to raise a minimum of US$5K in sponsorship. Companies are invited to take up the many sponsorship opportunities which are also available. 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. This has further been exacerbated by the pandemic and shore leave restrictions which increases the pressure on seafarers unable to leave their ships for months on end. Our ship visiting service is so vitally important at the best of times, but during these conditions it forms a crucial lifeline.

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 have established an Environmental Task Force representing the different elements of our work, as well as our geographical footprint. The Task Force is led by our Director of Human Resources and Administration 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.

Modular Seafarers' Centres

Modular Seafarers' Centres are self-contained buildings which can be operated with minimum oversight. Located either within the port confines or outside, they present a versatile solution for a seafarers' centre. As we know as ports grow, often centres which were built decades ago, now find themselves distant from the main port activity. This adaptable centre can therefore be relocated if needed.



Port Talbot modular centre external and internal photos.

There are many ports around the world which would benefit from a modular centre within the port confines, as it would provide essential services to seafarers coming ashore for limited periods of time or for those ports which are distant from local amenities. There are locations in Asia, Australia and India where we know a centre of this kind would be most beneficial. We anticipate placing one of these in Asia, using the funds raised from the ARJ. If more funds allow, we will place these in two locations.

The Centres will be bright and clean and fitted with free wifi, a small shop area, recreational facilities, soft furnishings, TV, faith/quiet space, kitchen and toilet facilities. Parts of the facility will provide 24-hour access for seafarers so they can use the centre outside of normal hours. This will provide sheltered access to wifi, comfortable seating and a multi-purpose vending machine (with toiletries, sim cards, chocolate etc).

Key Welfare Hub

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 commitment from Pacific Basin Shipping to cover 1/3rd of the annual costs for three years.

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 build other teams in key ports around India, namely Chennai, where we anticipate placing a Modular Centre funded from the proceeds of the EPS Fundraiser in February 2022.

The ARJ Funds will go towards supporting this endeavour for two years.

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 our all-important Panama Canal operation and Chaplains 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. Shortly after the event we will be able to update this Statement of Intent to share with all sponsors and participants where the funds they have raised will be spent.

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