

## **Report from Bangladesh IIMS Regional Director for AGM 2020**

Though the membership of IIMS from Bangladesh started quite long time back in 2000 the membership growth has not been up to the expectation. In Bangladesh we have one Fellow and six Members but two members left recently for not being in the surveying profession anymore. One prospective Member has completed his application form and waiting to send the application to IIMS HQ after the lockdown in Bangladesh would be lifted in early June 2020.

Targeting the increase of local membership by 20% per year, that is one member per year for Bangladesh would have been great but due to local socio-economic conditions, marine surveyors not being well organized and due to attitudes and behaviour characteristic of surveyors, this target could not be achieved.

The locally recognized body for the marine surveyors is the Marine Surveyors Association of Bangladesh (MSAB) and I have been elected the President of MSAB this year for two years tenure. The present membership of MSAB is 79 and all of them are Master Mariners/Marine Chief Engineers.

I have adopting two-pronged approach to have the awareness of IIMS established in the shipping industry of Bangladesh. I am trying to convince the surveyors of the benefit to be associated with IIMS and to persuade the maritime administration to take onboard the IIMS for the professional development of the marine surveyors. The maritime administration of Bangladesh (Department of Shipping) issues the Certificate of Ship Survey to the Master Mariners and Marine Chief Engineers to conduct marine surveys in Bangladesh.

My initial planning was to have an online introductory presentation from the HQ in MAR 2020 with the members of MSAB and then have online training sessions on surveying issues every three months. We are comfortable with ZOOM for the online meeting and we have held our first EC meeting over Zoom successfully during the ongoing lockdown for COVID-19.

Once the present pandemic effect would be subsided, I shall approach the IIMS HQ to have an online introductory session with the members of MSAB and then a training session. The majority of the surveys conducted in Bangladesh ports is Draft Survey for bulk carriers and the first training session can be held on Draft Surveying.

Promoting the IIMS Diploma in Marine Surveying course locally needs to be addressed but socio-economic condition and attitude of the surveyors towards the cost-benefit factor is negating the introduction of this course among the local surveyors. It is worth mentioning that the prospective IIMS member has obtained the Diploma from LMA while I persuaded him to join IIMS. The reason for his preference to LMA being, according to him, the LMA has more name and fame in international shipping industry than IIMS.

Frequent interactions between the HQ and/or regional IIMS branches and the members of MSAB can enhance the Bangladeshi surveyors' perception of IIMS leading to membership increase. We have both challenges and opportunities for the growth of IIMS in Bangladesh.

Capt. Zillur R Bhuiyan, FIIMS, FNI  
Regional Director, Bangladesh