

## **IUMI 2006 Tokyo.**

### **Report by Massimo Canepa**

From 17 to 20 September I attended the IUMI conference held this year in Tokyo in the dual capacity as an observer for FEMAS as well as a member of the Executive Committee.

The distinction makes sense only because as an observer I was invited to attend the Informal Lunch Meeting for the President, Members of the Executive Committee and Chairmen of the Technical Committees with the press on the opening day, the lunch for the International Observers with the Executive Committee on the second day, which gave me an excellent opportunity to promote our Federation and the role of Surveyors in the areas of loss prevention and claims control.

This year the main theme of the conference was "Risk Assessment and Loss Prevention – a Common Goal", which demonstrates an important shift by Marine Underwriters towards the domain which is very much in keeping with the activities of surveyors.

In the last three years there has been a marked change in the Conference approach to insurance profitability as compared to the more remote past. The key issue is no longer adequate premiums to compensate losses, as in the past, but a new concept has now become a very strong point: preventing losses from occurring and controlling them when they do occur.

It may be pure coincidence, but this change of perspective coincides with the more visible role that FEMAS has achieved within the conference and the pressure applied by our Federation at every possible opportunity with the Executive Committee and the Chairmen of the Technical Committees, with the encouraging result that we now have representation on the Loss Prevention Committee.

FEMAS should be much encouraged by this success to refuel our efforts to revitalise the Federation, expand the membership to other Associations and seek more involvement within other organisations in the maritime community.

As an example, at the conference I met Henk Arntz who reiterated the intention of the Dutch Association to re-join FEMAS. I found him eager to do so and he told me that the executive committee of his association had already approved the resolution. He was not apparently able to contact our Secretary to begin the re-entry process due to the initial problems we experienced with our website. He intends to send me an e-mail on the subject which I will bring to the attention of our Secretariat.

During my contacts with the press I passed to the IUMI PR Consultant, Denzil Stewart, a short note about the role of FEMAS for him to publish in Lloyd's List. He promised that he would do it, and in fact in the 28<sup>th</sup> September issue of Lloyd's List there is an article regarding FEMAS.

Finally, another FEMAS initiative was accepted and developed by IUMI's Executive Committee. You may recall that at last year's conference in Amsterdam I proposed to the President and the Secretary to try to create a link with the Dublin Claim Conference, which is now running its' third consecutive year. I was then appointed to act as a liaison and create the conditions for bringing to fruition the proposal which I made at the last year's ICC. Having obtained the consent from the International Claim Conference Organisers, I

further discussed the matter at the IUMI Spring Meeting in Berlin and the Loss Prevention Committee Chairman, who is based in London, took over the task. I have since learned at the Tokyo Conference that the President of IUMI has been invited to the 2006 ICC in Dublin.

To complete the summary of our activities for the current year, I spend a few words on the conference topics in which I personally attended all the general sessions and the following groups of presentations:

“Facts and Figures” Open Forum – “Cargo” Workshop – “Ocean Hull” Workshop and “Loss Prevention” Workshop.

The presentations are available on the IUMI web site [www.iumi.com](http://www.iumi.com)