NEW IHMA PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED AT 9TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

The International Harbour Masters’ Association’s Executive Committee has announced its decision that Captain Kevin Richardson is to serve as IHMA President for the period 2014 to 2016.

This announcement was made at the conclusion of the Association’s 9th International Congress hosted by the Ports of Ghent and Zeebrugge, Belgium, from 26th to 30th May 2014.

Captain Richardson has had a distinguished career both at sea and ashore spanning some 46 years with the last 27 years at the Port of Dover where he retired as Chief Harbour Master at the end of March 2014. He was proud to serve as the President of the UK Harbour Masters’ Association from 2007 to 2012. One of the major achievements under his presidency was the introduction of a UK Certificate for Harbour Masters which was launched in 2013 and which is flourishing. He is an Associate Fellow of the Nautical Institute and has been a member of IHMA since 1998 serving as Chairman of the Papers’ Committee and latterly as Hon. Treasurer.

Captain Richardson is keen to see the continuing growth and development of the Association’s activities including project activity and outputs which are relevant to the international business of Harbour Masters. Captain Richardson co-ordinated the development of the IHMA Strategic Plan 2013 to 2018 which was adopted at the IHMA’s recent congress in Belgium.

Captain Richardson said, “IHMA’s recent congress demonstrated the broad interests of the Association and the vital role of the harbour master as delegates discussed a range of subjects related to safe and smooth access to ports: a challenge. High priority areas for our attention include the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a fuel for ships, ports as places of refuge for ships in distress and the provision of validated nautical information provided by harbour masters for port users. The need for easily accessible and reliable nautical port information has never been more important as all players in the industry aim to increase efficiency, reduce costs and achieve environmental benefits. I am pleased that IHMA is working in collaboration with the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) in the rapidly developing field of e-Navigation.

“The Association will continue to form strategic alliances where such alliances are beneficial and complementary to the aims and objectives of IHMA and its members. The most recent example is the signing of a memorandum of understanding with PIANC and this is already yielding tangible benefits. In maintaining and developing its international profile, I am keen that IHMA
continues to maintain its IMO observer status which enables it to both track and influence future maritime policy and legislation in safety, security and the environment.”

With more than 200 members in 40 countries, the IHMA, founded in 1996, brings together marine professionals responsible for the safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound conduct of marine operations in port waters into one professional body.

**Picture caption**

*IHMA President, Captain Kevin Richardson (left) and European Harbour Master Committee Chairman, Captain Amaury de Maupeou.*