

Contact:
Dr. Christoph Hasche

Taylor Wessing
Tel.: +49-40 – 36 80 32 13
Fax: +49-40 – 36 80 32 92
Am Sandtorkai 42
20457 Hamburg
Germany

www.gmaa.de

GERMAN
MARITIME
ARBITRATION
ASSOCIATION



PRESS RELEASE

New concept agreed for Arbitrators Congress

The 2009 summit for Arbitrators will be open to shipping merchants and engineers

Hamburg, 20. November 2008: At its general meeting of members last Wednesday the German Maritime Arbitration Association (GMAA) approved the new concept for a summit meeting of international maritime arbitrators in Hamburg that has been developed by the appointed Host Committee. Between the 5th and 9th of October 2009 around 300 arbitrators will be coming to the Hanseatic City of Hamburg to discuss the latest developments in maritime and arbitration laws. The GMAA is hosting the „International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators – ICMA XVII“ for the second time since 1989. The GMAA has decided that the event shall not just be open to arbitrators. In order to encourage a more extensive exchange of information, the format of the ICMA will include a Shipping Day when shipping experts will bring arbitrators up to date with the latest technical and commercial developments. At the same time, representatives from the shipping industry will be given the chance to make direct contact with arbitrators, whereas normally, contact is made through a lawyer as intermediary. This will serve to strengthen mutual understanding between the parties. Furthermore, representatives from the shipping industry will be able to obtain first-hand legal knowledge of the different procedures in London, New York, Singapore, Dubai, Hamburg/Bremen and other jurisdictions. In this way, charterers, agents and shipping company representatives can be clearly informed of their legal options if an arbitration clause is included in the contract, and how these options can be used responsibly. „Far too often a standard form arbitration clause is blindly included for the benefit of the pre-printed venue without any thought as to whether another place of arbitration and another arbitration system might be more suitable“, says GMAA-General Secretary Dieter Griebel. „In doing so, parties make their lives unnecessarily difficult and expensive.“

The members of the GMAA welcomed the ICMA's statement on its website (www.ICMA2009.org) as well as the opening up of the Congress to representatives from the shipping industry. „By providing its arbitrators on the doorstep, the GMAA has succeeded in closing the gap between those who apply the law and those who carry the consequences. But also in a non-German context, the client who has requested the decision, and the arbitrator as provider of the service, should have more direct contact

so that the proceedings are more efficient. That is the aim of the ICMA in October 2009" confirmed Griebel.

Furthermore, the GMAA held elections and added at the general meeting that the following lawyers are now members of the board: Dr. Friedrich Strube (Blaum Dettmers Rabstein), Jan Wölper (CMS Hasche Sigle), Esther Mallach (Dabelstein & Passehl) and Dr. Christoph Hasche (Taylor Wessing). General Secretary is Dieter Griebel.