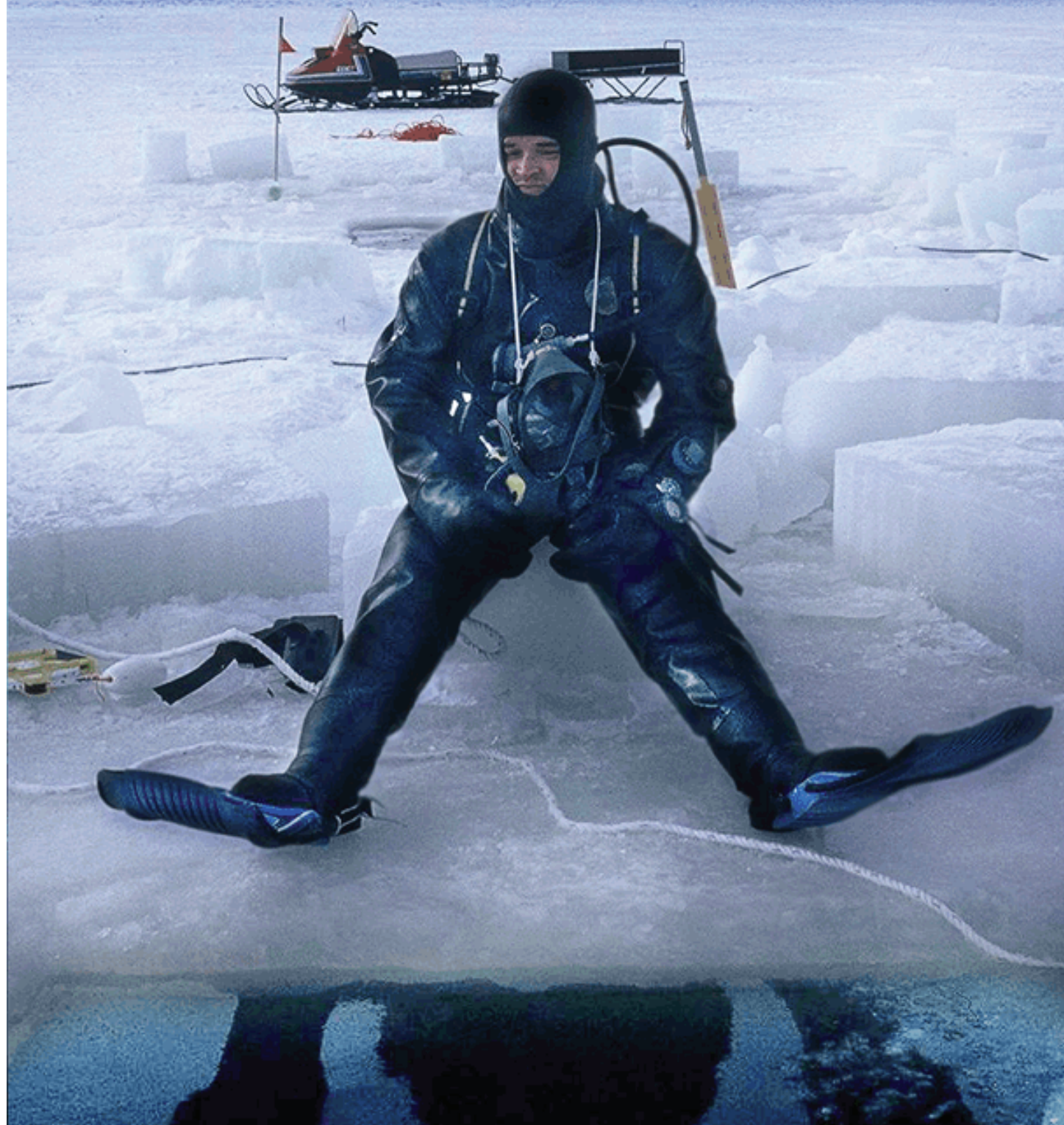


INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

idsa

NEWS

EDITION NUMBER 13 JANUARY 2009



ANNUAL MEETING 2009 WILL BE HELD IN PALERMO, SICILY

Hosted by the Commercial Diver Training School CEDIFOP



Monday 5 to Wednesday 7 October 2009



THE CONFERENCE HOTEL

The Conference Hotel is the San Paolo Palace Hotel

Address:

San Paolo Palace Hotel

via Messina Marine, 91

Palermo

Tel.: +39.091.6211112

Fax: +39.091.6215300

e-mail: booking@sanpaolopalace.it

Web : www.sanpaolopalace.it

ATTENDANCE

In addition to delegates from member schools and organisations, the meeting will be open to non members by invitation; interested individuals and organisations should contact the Administrator. info@idsaworldwide.org

Wives or Guests wishing to attend meals and other social occasions, for example the Association Dinner, are welcome on payment of an appropriate fee.

CONFERENCE FEE

Is expected to be about Euros 200.

FURTHER DETAILS

Further details of accommodation booking procedures, the Conference Fee and all other relevant information will be circulated as soon as they become known.

The preferred rates for IDSA in this 4 star Hotel are: double room for single use with breakfast and taxes included €120 per night, and for double occupancy €150. These rates will apply to delegates arriving early, or staying on in Palermo after the meeting.



Edition 13: January 2009

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Front Cover

Photograph shows a

Finnish diver from the

Commercial Diving

School Innofocus in

Helsinki 'at home'

CHANGE AT THE TOP



"THANK YOU JULIO"

We would like to say thank you to Julio Melegari our Chairman for the last two years for his untiring work on behalf of the Association, particularly in creating links with the Diving Industry. He spent much time and effort to this end, and attended many meetings, furthering the Associations progress whenever possible. He has built on our past and opened the way for continued work in the future. Again, we thank him and his partner Eliana for all their efforts on behalf of the Association, and look forward to their support in the future.



"HELLO LEO"

Leo Lagarde was elected Chairman at our recent Annual (2008) Meeting in Philadelphia. Under the IDSA Rules he holds the position for two years with the possibility of a further two.

Leo was born in Dordrecht, Holland, the son of a barge skipper travelling between Basle and Rotterdam. On leaving Technical School at the age eighteen, Leo joined the Royal Dutch Engineers, gaining a wide variety of experience before being promoted sergeant after three years. It was then that he found his real métier in

the diving unit, where he followed a logical progression from Reconnaissance diver, through a range of qualifications – demolitions, safety, Diver Medic etc – and experience to become a Supervisor and then Superintendent.

With his theoretical education backed up by his wide ranging practical experience both in diving and in Management it is no surprise that Leo's expertise has been used by Lloyds in the capacity of Lead Auditor, by the Royal Dutch Army as Auditor/Controller, and as an Examiner for the Diving School. He has also acted as an Auditor in assessing the suitability of Applicants for Full Membership of IDSA. His final career move was to become Commanding Officer of the Royal Dutch Military School – where he started his diving career in 1965 – a post which he held for twelve years until, his retirement in 2004.

We welcome him to the post of Chairman and look forward to benefitting from his expertise and experience.

One of Leo's first tasks as the new Chairman was to represent IDSA, at the IMCA meeting in Kuala Lumpur in November. This proved to be an excellent opportunity for networking with representatives from industry. He was well received, as many in the Industry are concerned to find a means of standardising diver qualifications so that they can be related to national qualifications in an internationally recognised framework. This has been our goal for a number of years, and it is good to know that it is already accepted in some countries and it is hoped that it will be followed by others.

The Association is grateful to a number of Members and supporters whose financial support made this attendance possible.



Leo at Work

IDSA MEETING PHILADELPHIA 15-17 Sep 08

An enjoyable and productive AGM was held in Philadelphia from 15-17 September 2008, hosted by the Divers Academy International and attended by 24 members and four observers. Unfortunately, American immigration laws prevented the attendance of some members from the Middle East, and the clash with the annual EDTC meeting others. Nevertheless, the meeting provided its usual opportunity for extended networking and the development of understanding about different systems of diving and qualification.

William Castle, President of FE and Associates and a Board Member of ADCI opened the meeting, emphasising that the standardisation of diving standards would be of considerable benefit to industry. IDSA Chairman Julio Melagari followed up this point in his address when he reported that the OGP (Oil and Gas Producers), of which he is a member, was considering the introduction of a "Diver Passport", which would clearly need to be linked to the concept of international qualification. At the same time, though, he reminded the meeting that there were many more divers working Inshore than Offshore, even though the latter dominated the industry. In his view, shallow diving needs more attention than deep, especially since there are more accidents in this area and accurate decompression is more critical.

Several new members were welcomed to the Association: three Associate members (Marine Centre, Bombay; Podvodnochny, Moscow; and Diver Ltd., Hungary), one Affiliate member (Searchwise, UK), and one Industrial member (Palurbarus, Italy). There were also two new members in the recently introduced category of Reciprocal Members: the Association of Diving Contractors (ADC) UK and the Association of Commercial Diving Educators (ACDE) USA. Reciprocal Membership is an exchange of membership with organisations whose aims are similar to those of IDSA and from which both sides can benefit.

Of the agenda items discussed at the meeting, there are at least two which will be of general interest. The first was a review of IDSA Standards and their relationship to other Diver



Delegates take a break to visit the US Battleship 'New Jersey'

Training Standards internationally. This analysis has already been carried out between IDSA and EDTC Standards and will shortly be circulated to members for information. After discussion, the members agreed that the priorities for further 'gap analyses' would be between IDSA and the standards of HSE, NORSUK, ANSI and France.

A working group was set up to undertake these tasks and to report back to the next AGM. As a first step towards harmonisation it was agreed to change the names of IDSA standards to match those more generally in use.

Also of more general interest is probably the progress of the International Glossary of Diving Terms. As might be expected, this has needed considerable effort on the part of Members, co-ordinated by the

Administrator. At the present time the English glossary has been translated into seven other languages which will now be circulated on CD to all members for comment. The system is flexible enough to allow for an unlimited number of other languages which will be included as they are obtained.

As usual, those attending benefited from several specialist papers, presented by experts in the field. These included: the Rednet Diver Record Programme (Kris Wilk, Canada); the American Offshore Scene (Gene Locante, Epic Divers, USA); Non-destructive testing of the Liberty Bell (Vince Roding, USA); The Monkey Hot Water Systems (Demonstration by Arnie Monk) and a presentation on the Videonay ROV by Tom Gibbas.

The Meeting of the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP) and the Diving Operations Safety Sub Committee (DOSC)

Held in Lerici (La Spezia - Italy) on October 22nd - 23rd.

Initiated by Shell, DOSC was created three years ago in order to create a safer and more competent diving/working community for the underwater intervention in the area of oil and gas exploitation. Members of DOSC are the most important oil operators (Shell, BP, Statoil-Hydro, Exxon-Mobil, TFE, Conoco, Petronas, ENI, etc.). Since then DOSC has created and issued a code of recommended practices (OGP DOSC RP) which is common to all the members and must be met by diving contractors. The aims are to:

- (1) Reduce the number of accidents and shortcomings during inshore and offshore underwater intervention for the industry.
- (2) To create a common worldwide platform of competence and of standards in formal training of divers.

The first day and the meeting was a restricted to OGP members only.

The second day session was open to the world industrial associations and largest establishments. In addition to members of OGP the following representatives were present: ACC international (represented by Phil Newsom), ADAS (represented by Paul Butler), IMCA (repre-

sented by Jane Bugler), CAL dive int. (represented by Fabio Egidi), IDSA and the Norwegian School of Commercial Diving - Oslo (represented by Dag Woldsen).

DOSC opened the meeting with a summary of the most recent industrial requirements and codes of practice issued to enhance underwater safety and competence. Paul Butler (ADAS) made a complete and detailed presentation of Australian standards in divers' training and certification. Cato Hordnes (Statoil-Hydro) presented the results of a study on divers training schemes and patterns. Dag Woldsen (Commercial Diving School, Oslo - IDSA) made a detailed presentation of TUP (Transfer Under Pressure) equipment and methods, stressing its importance during air diving operations. He also gave a clear presentation of how TUP is important from the point of view of diver training in order to make them fully conversant with the use of closed bells and of bell into chamber transfer before they begin the formal training sessions to become mixed gas and saturation divers.

Following this presentation, Dag Woldsen also gave a detailed introduction to the International Diving Schools Association (IDSA) and its history and activities. Its next annual Conference will be in Palermo. Representatives from Mediterranean countries' Governments (Italy, Croatia, Tunisia and others) will be present. This OGP/DOSC meeting in Lerici, was co-hosted by the Ligurian regional Government and by ENI - in the same building where, five years ago, (2004) the IDSA - IMCA convention took place.

FROM SUBMEX DIVING BOOKS

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www.submex.co.uk

The Professional Diver's Handbook

2nd edition, 2006. Reprinted 2008. Soft-back. 370 pages. Fully illustrated, comprehensive handbook for the professional diver, inshore and offshore. Includes tasks, equipment, techniques, safety and much more. Used by training establishments worldwide. Every diver should have one.

The Professional Diver's Daily Record

A4 format. Hardback. 84 pages. Logbook for inland/inshore divers. One row entry per dive for easy recording of repeat dives. Room for over 1,000 dives.

The Infernal Diver

Hardback. 314 pages. Limited edition of 1,000 copies. The history of the development of the diving helmet as told through the lives of the inventors, John and Charles Deane.

The Complete Illustrated and Annotated Underwater Glossary

Paperback. A5 format. 140 pages. A light-hearted look at the professional diving industry in cartoons.

CEDIFOP

The Commercial Diver Training School in Palermo

by Ninni Radicini

CEDIFOP based in Palermo, Sicily, is a centre for professional training accredited by the relevant Regional Authority and with Quality Assurance to ISO 9001. Started in 1982, it has been immediately accepted into the sector for Professional Training in the underwater field. During these early years the Centre developed different courses, financed by the European Social Fund and by the Sicilian Region, focussed on the needs of Sicilian residents. More recently, development has expanded to include the provision of 'self-financed' courses not only for students from Italy but also from overseas. During the courses, 12 teachers are alternated, all of whom are well-qualified to teach both the theoretical and practical curriculum and possessing good communication skills.

CEDIFOP in Palermo represents one of the most dynamic Italian schools in the sector for teaching Underwater Technical Operators (OTSs) - a professional qualification whose standards are controlled by the Merchant Department of the Navy in Italy (today Office of the Infrastructures and Transports). Since 1979, this Government Department has maintained a "Register of Divers" which is available to the underwater operators that work inshore, including all the employers of scuba divers, whose work includes recovery or demolition of wrecks, salvage diving, port interventions, harbour diving, and for the operations of inspection, careening, maintenance and repair of the ships and the moorings. Additionally, it also includes simpler operations such as positioning boats and control, in the port areas and in the maritime domain (coastal and inland waters). In general, the firms that operate in Italy have the obligation to hire qualified personnel who are on the Register of the Divers and in possession of the book of recognition; the same is true for the firms that operate in the sector of aquaculture

(tonnage, breeding of fishes in sea, etc. "fish farm diving") or sea reserves.

The professional qualification of OTS can be considered, also, as the basic qualification to work with firms that operate in the industrial sector and of the hydrocarbons in off-shore oil and gas diving. This latter is an activity that has developed since World War 2 and it has absorbed increasing groups of operators and underwater professionals, to the point where, today, over three underwater professionals in four are engaged in this field. The OTS trained by CEDIFOP is an underwater operator with a technical/cultural preparation in keeping with the present demands of the market. In this way together with the ability to use specific equipment, (for example the masks and Kirby Morgan helmets) the instructors stress the necessity to acquire those basic technical & safety skills to the students, as it is essential if they are to work effectively with divers from other regions and of other Nationalities.

Since the majority of the students, before the course, have not used professional diving equipment, the program is based on a gradual development - both theoretically and practically. Practical training begins with safety and basic drills in a pool and progresses to task and tool training in open water at increasing depths. An open helmet is used during basic training in the pool in order to boost the students' confidence in the water. Similarly, the development of skills such as cutting and welding are preceded by lessons in the mechanical shop in which the technology of the metals and their characteristics are explained in order that the students have the maximum necessary understanding of the techniques.

In the last few years CEDIFOP has also been the promoter of initiatives. Of particular importance was the conference organized in April 2007



A student during training.

for the reform of the Italian legislation for the region. It had the support of important personalities drawn from industrial, sporting and recreational organisations), among whom was Giulio Melegari, then president of IDSA.

CEDIFOP information can be found on the Net; its site www.cedifop.it is frequently visited and has proved a useful source for potential students. As well as different videos of training exercises other CEDIFOP initiatives can also be found on YouTube.

ISO 9001 accreditation was received in 2007 as was Associate Membership of IDSA. The centre is now working towards further expansion and will be applying for Full Membership of IDSA. Meanwhile after the Annual Conference in Philadelphia the next is planned to take place in Palermo 5 to 7 October 2009. For CEDIFOP this will be an opportunity to make comparisons and discuss techniques with Commercial Schools from many parts of the World.

Beyond that we look forward to this prestigious opportunity to show once more the effectiveness and competence of our staff.



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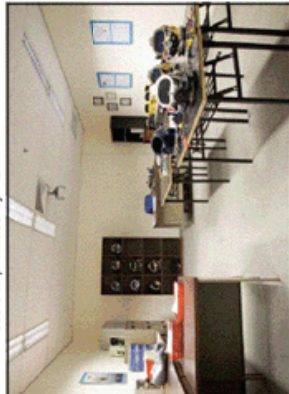
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KBA Training Centre Pte Ltd

A Member of IMCA

KB Associates Pte Ltd (KBA) and KBA Training Centre Pte Ltd (KBAT) have recently relocated to a new facility based in Changi North – Singapore. The move has allowed the companies to develop and meet the growing demand for both the Diving/Marine Safety Management Consultancy services of KBA and training courses provided by KBAT.



Helmet Technician Classroom

The new facility comprises 11,000 sq.ft. (1021sq.m) of office and training classrooms providing an excellent ambience for training. KBAT have also increased their portfolio of training courses available.

New courses introduced in 2008 include the KM DSI Helmet Operator and Basic Technician courses. To support this training, KBAT has purchased the full range of Kirby Morgan Helmets and Masks, including the latest KM 77 Model and tools to provide the industry a quality training course within the South East Asia region that meets the demand for the competency training and development requirements.

In October 2008 KBA Training Centre Pte Ltd joined the International Diving Schools Association as a Full Member under the Specialist Training Category, as it was considered that membership would provide a greater

awareness of diver and other related training courses that KBAT provide to the industry.

The Centre is the only approved training provider for the full suite of International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) approved courses which include IMCA Trainee Air & Bell Diving Supervisor courses, IMCA Assistant Life Support Technician courses, IMCA Diver Medic and Diver Medic Refresher courses, within the South East Asia Region. Delegates who attend these courses are from all over the world including the USA, Europe, Asia, Middle East, Australasia.

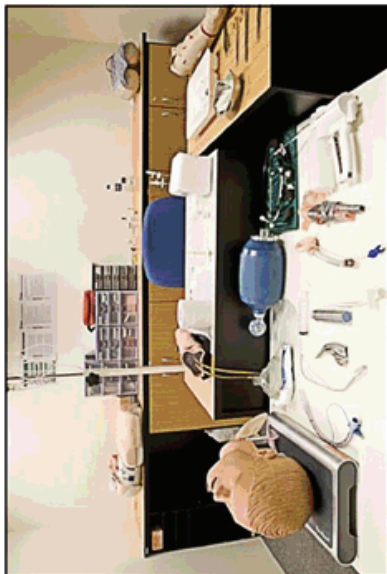
KBAT has its own 60" Deck Decompression Chamber that is used as a training aid for Diver Medic, ALST and other courses. Our Medical training aids for the DMT course comprise an extensive range from Intubation, IV, Suturing, AED, various stretcher types, Catheterisation aid,



Assistant Life Support Technician Training

chest decompression manikin, CPR manikins and much more. This allows the DMT students to practice the full range of procedures and skills prior to the valuable experience of our local hospital A & E department attachment.

Additional courses provided by KBAT are EBCOSH International General Certificate and International Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety, Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) Managing Safety and Working



Medical Training Room

Safely as well as range of courses accredited by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health courses BESPOKE Diver Assessment. In addition to the IMCA courses provided by KBAT – KB Associates Pte Ltd is the only company outside the United Kingdom approved by IMCA to provide the 'IMCA Surface Supplied Diver Assessment' which allows for experienced divers in countries that do not have a recognized diver training system or certification scheme to be assessed in accordance with the IMCA assessment criteria. On successful completion and meeting the assessment requirements, the divers are issued the IMCA Surface Supplied Divers Certification.

In this time of global uncertainty with many industries affected by the recession, it is actually time to plan and train for the future, allowing personnel to upgrade their skills and be ready for the global rebound. In 2009 KBAT are planning to introduce new and exciting courses to be available for the offshore diving and support industries. Having recently purchased a new facility with 14,700sq.ft. (1365sq.m) of floor area this will allow us to further develop our current courses offered and integrate new courses to continue to provide a high quality training service to meet the needs of the industry.

KBA provides independent consultancy and audit services in the areas of diving, ROV and safety management audits to the Offshore Oil & Gas, Marine Civil Engineering Works, and telecommunications cable organisations. Established in Singapore in 2001, KBA has

audited SME's and multi-national organisations in South East Asia, North East Asia, Middle East, Australasia, Europe, and North & South America. KBA also regularly perform regulatory required environmental control testing and evaluation on saturation and system hyperbaric rescue craft. KBA Training provides approved IMCA training courses in Diver Medical Technician (DMT), Assistant Life Support Technician (ALST), Trainee Air Diver Supervisor and Trainee Sat Diver Supervisor. Other courses include the Kirby Morgan Helmets and Masks and the EBCOSH International General Certificate, EBCOSH International Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety, and IOSH Safety Management training courses. KBA Marine Services provides independent audit and consultancy services in the areas of marine and vessel management, additionally KBAM can supply key marine personnel such as SDPO's etc.

For more information, please contact:

Darren Brunton,
Managing Director KB Associates Pte Ltd.
KBA Training Centre Pte Ltd.
email: darren@kbassociates.org



Diver Assessment

THE YAK DIVING ACADEMY

The YAK group was formed in 1989 by Mr. D.S. Yadav whose vision was to provide quality education and training to all strata of society, keeping in mind the changing global educational requirements and the needs of society. His vision was also to encourage all citizens to improve their education so that they will be able to contribute constructively to society and the nation. Special emphasis is laid to bring forward the backward and poorer classes.

The Group started with Maritime Courses approved by D.G Shipping (Govt of India) and has successfully trained over 70,000 professionals up until 2008. It has grown from strength to strength and has a commanding reputation in the shipping industry today. It has now diversified running courses in various other businesses such as Commercial diving and welding, Computer and Animation, Shipping and Logistics, Warehousing, Custom Clearance, Freight

Forwarding and construction. It is now venturing into various other avenues and a large number of schemes/courses are in the pipeline and shortly affiliations with foreign universities as well as Mumbai university (India) are expected. Its head office is at CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai where large offices are co-located with a training institute of approximately 20,000 Sq ft. It is conducting a number of DG Shipping approved STCW courses together with a number of other marine and offshore courses at this location in the name of the 'Yak Management and Marine Education Center'.

The Group has another training campus called the 'Yak Education Trust'. It is a self contained independent training campus spread over 25 acres of land located at Khopoli (40 minutes drive from Navi Mumbai on the National Highway). It is located in an eco-friendly and pollution free environment in a very scenic spot with a salubrious climate. The campus houses modern residential facilities, a separate training complex, large modern workshops, computer laboratory and library. There are adequate outdoor and indoor sports facilities with a modern Gym and an international size Swimming Pool having a maximum depth of 18 feet (5.5m). This campus is approved by the Director General Shipping (Govt. Of India) for conducting Merchant Navy (Officers and crew) courses.

The other additional courses planned for ship-

ping are listed below:

1. Graduate Marine Engineering and BE Marine Engineering. (Ship in campus facility for training engineering graduates)
2. Diploma in Marine Engineering
3. BSc in Nautical Science (Three Years Degree Course for Deck Officers)

Diving Training

The Group has recently diversified into Commercial Diver training. The training infrastructure includes an international size swimming pool, and a separate dive tank for underwater cutting and welding. In addition, there is a dedicated 33 feet (10 m) water tower for diver training. A Commercial SCUBA Training course based on the IDSA Level 1 diver training syllabus has already commenced. The intention is to achieve full membership of IDSA as soon as possible so that the entire range of IDSA diving courses can be offered. The Diving Academy is staffed with well qualified and highly skilled instructors all having 10 - 15 yrs professional experience in various facets of diving including mine clearance, ship inspection and repairs, underwater salvage, chamber operation etc. Professional Diving Services.

With the aim of improving the Group's competence in diving training, it has simultaneously decided to offer professional diving services by establishing a separate company YAK DIVING SERVICES PVT LTD with particular focus on offshore assets including shipping. Our Service portfolio includes underwater hull inspections and maintenance, U/W cutting and welding, NDT testing and shallow water salvage & videography.

The diving division is headed by Cdr. Vinod Lok (Retd, Indian Navy), who has over 20 yrs experience as a diving specialist in the Indian Navy. His professional qualifications include the Indian Navy's Deep Diving course, the US Navy's Deep Diving & Salvage course and the French State Saturation Diving Course. His professional experience encompasses the entire range of diving activities - 10 years as a diving supervisor where he was responsible for the planning and executing of diving & salvage operations, time as a diving instructor and as Project Manager for the Indian Navy's first Dynamically Positioned Diving Support Vessel which included the installation and supervision, to DNV/LLOYD's certification of a 300m saturation diving system. As a senior diving officer, he has held the appointment of Diving Officer of the Western Naval Command, where he was directly responsible to the Commander in Chief. The job entailed the strategic planning and execution of offensive/peace time diving operations on the Western seaboard of India and responsibility for the diving assets of the Command including diving vessels, shore based diving units and over 300 professional divers.

Apart from the above, the Yak Group runs distance learning MBA and Diploma courses in



Commander D.S. Yadav, Chairman of the Diving Academy

Logistics and Supply Chain Management which are approved by the World Trade Center Business School, Singapore. It is also the Study Center of the Bharati Dasan University (UGC recognized) for a 3 Year BSc Degree and a one year Diploma course in Animation.

The Yak Group is owner and publisher of an international fortnightly magazine for the whole marine industry having a large readership with



The residential block

Commander D.S. Yadav as the chief editor. The magazine website www.themarineworld.com is extremely popular and has a large number of users and new readers. The website also provides job opportunities and has a large database of Marine Professionals globally. We are privileged to be member of IMCA (International Marine Contractors Association) and Associate member of IDSA (International Diving Schools Association). In addition we are members of GLOBALMET (Global Marine Education Training) and CILT (Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport). We are in the process of obtaining OPITO (Oil and Petroleum Industries Organization) membership for conducting training for the offshore industry. The Group is also an ISO 9001:2000 company accredited by BSI and holds the "VERY GOOD" grading awarded by ICRA (Credit Rating Agency).

Our website www.yakindia.com can be visited for more information.

Apart from the above Yak Group is active on distance learning MBA and Diploma courses on Logistics and Supply Chain Management approved by World Trade Center Business School, Singapore. Yak Group is also Study Center of Bharati Dasan University (UGC recognized) for a three Years BSc Degree and one year Diploma courses in Animation.

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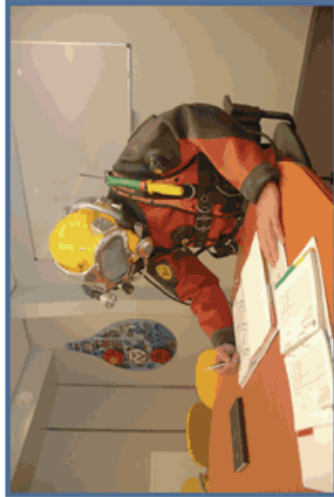
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BC-opleidingingen



The Future: BC-opleidingingen

Features:

- Main goal is taking the current commercial diving training to the next level.
- Facilities like a 3meter tank and a 9meter tank
- Introducing eLearning and prescriptive teaching methods

Introduction

Let me introduce you to BC-opleidingingen from the Netherlands. BC-opleidingingen is a young organization on the Dutch diving market, providing courses and training services for the (Dutch) diving industry. At this moment we are an IDSA affiliate member and working towards meeting the Conditions of Acceptance to allow us to become Full Members of IDSA.

The Story so far...

BC-opleidingingen is a young training institute which has originated from the high-quality researches and consultancy Baars-CIPRO diving courses and training services, like the use of hydraulic tools, core drilling, welding and cutting. BC-opleidingingen is innovative and open minded towards new diving development in the industry, and the training and courses are adapted towards these developments. From the beginning of 2007, we are arranging all that is necessary to become a recognized commercial

diver training institute. We distinguish ourselves from the current market, by introducing eLearning and use prescriptive teaching methods to make lessons more efficient and spending less time in the classroom, and more time in the water, which in our view favors the students and improves the quality as a diver. At this moment we are writing our own study material for the Dutch Category D diver and Dutch MAD A courses, while running underwater welding and cutting complete training.

Future Prospects

Our main goal is taking the current commercial diving training to the next level. Right after 'safety' it's 'quality' that will assure us to reach this goal. By doing so, we can create more competent divers for the near future. As we work closely with the dive industry to develop courses, it will help the student diver to find a great job.

Facilities

To carry out all (future) objectives, BC-opleidingingen has already constructed training facilities such as:

- 3 meter tank for tool training (welding, cutting etc.)
- 9 meter tank for safety training,
- ...and are planning to develop more facilities to be operated in the near future:
- own confined water site (swimming pool)
- 6 meter shaft
- deep shaft for training objectives

Summary

As you've read, BC-opleidingingen is a young and dynamic organization with great potential and willing to work our way in the dive industry with new ideas and great facilities, regarding the IDSA philosophy and standards.

Why join IDSA?

The reason for us to join the IDSA organization, is that IDSA has a clear and stated view and objective on how the commercial diving education should be taught. By following IDSA General Standard and Regulations, we will be sure to follow stated guidelines which help us along the way.

BC – Opleidingen

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GOT THAT SINKING FEELING?
-funny'goings on' at NYD.

On the 19th November 2008, at 06.30 hour M/S Crete Cement loaded with 5000 tons of cement and 150 tons of diesel and oil heading north for Oslo hit the rocks close to the Norwegian Commercial Diving School (NYD). She started to sink and the captain decided to manoeuvre her in to shallow water. The reason she hit the rock is not yet clear, but there was no technical failure. It may be some communication error on the bridge and the Norwegian pilot maybe gave the order to change course too late. Investigation is still going on, but no alcohol or drugs was involved. The Captain was Russian and the crew was Malaysian and Polish. No one was hurt.

It was a dramatic moment when the ship turned in the fjord, started to sink quickly and passing very close (a few metres) to the NYD jetty and sank in the bay just to the south. NYD Technician Leif Larsen was drinking his morning coffee when he heard the bang and he followed the whole incident from there. Rescue boats and a Sea King helicopter were mobilised, and the crew were brought to the School's office and warmed up with coffee and Danish pastries.

Two days later Smith Salvage had filled up NYD pier with salvage and diving equipment from the Netherlands and 10-15 men were installed at the local hotel ready to start the salvage operation. Smith Salvage did a very professional job and MS Crete Cement was again floating December 15th. It is very impressive to

REALISTIC TRAINING!!

observe how quickly the company mobilised heavy salvage equipment and specialists. They must be the US-Marines of the diving world – they can be anywhere in the world in less than 48 hours. Smith Salvage first pumped out the oil, then sealed the hull and finally lifted and pumped the ship afloat. The great professional and efficient job these Dutch specialists did impressed everybody who was involved in, or followed, the salvage operation.

The students who started the 4 month Part-1 IDSA Level-3 course the day before the accident were very happy. To follow a real salvage operation from the classroom was of course extremely interesting for them, especially for one of our students Mr. Jasmijn Residovic who was sent and paid for by Smith Salvage to do the course! Two days after the course started he was very surprised and happy to meet all his friends and colleagues from the Netherlands at the school. So now he is the class hero. The world is small.

DIVER CERTIFICATION IN SWEDEN

During the last two weeks of October, 2008 a category B certification course was held at the Swedish Armed Forces (SAP) Diving School in Karlskrona (IDSA level 3 without warm water and wet bell). The training attracted students from all over Sweden, from Boden far up north, to Malmö in the southern parts of Sweden.



The successful group.

The training included two different types of diving systems. The SAF new diving system, the SLT 60 (from 2006), and the 'back to the root' system with copper helmets (type Karlskrona).

from the mid forties). These helmets are still used when it comes to working hard for a long time under water. Diving without neck sealing is a bit different, but once you get used to it, it offers great advantages compared to other systems. The students were excited by the fact that they would be able to dive like our old heroes seen in the movies and in historical books.

The first week of diving included copper helmet training from a land based diving station at our base. The divers had a lot of different tasks during the week ranging from light carpentry to heavy lifting bags. All tasks were completed with good results and smiling faces.

At the end of the first week the students changed diving area and became sailors in the HMS Agir (an old name from Nordic mythology). Our vessel Agir is a newly modified small diving ship with an A-frame and a 'double basket' for the divers. The last week of diving was conducted in the archipelago of Västervik north of Karlskrona. The tasks were welding and use of hydraulic and other tools down to a depth of 45 meters.

The certification period was completed back in Karlskrona with a group of pleased students, all approved on the course. With one voice they asked us to make sure that the copper helmet survives in the future. Since our Naval Base is a part of the UNESCO world heritage list, as a still active old naval base, that might be a good idea.

Books for Commercial Divers: available from BEST PUBLISHING

Commercial Diver Training Manual: New and updated for 2008
Written for commercial divers who plan to work offshore or as an inland diver

The most comprehensive book on diving includes advanced applied diving technologies
NOAA Diving Manual, 4th Ed

Solid Brass
Stories of oil rig and construction diving - a 'must read.'

Underwater Construction Using Cofferdams
A book to guide you through the marine cofferdam: design and construction process

Riggers That Dive
Colorful stories of commercial diving and rigging in all types of adverse conditions

Shadow Divers A New York Times best seller
This book captures the adventure of divers who risked everything to solve of the mysteries of a sunken submarine.

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IDSa EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 2008

A meeting of the IDSa Executive Board took place at the Netherlands Diving Centre (NDC) in Delft on 10 December. Among the items discussed were:

- The contacts made by the Chairman during his attendance at the recent IMCA Seminar in Kuala Lumpur in November.
- A work programme to compile a 'GAP-Analysis' between IMCA and Other organisations – HSE, EDTC etc
- Whether or not levels 2A & 3A should be retained – to be discussed at the next annual meeting.
- The requirements and need for an IDSa Transfer Under Pressure (TUP) Standard. A draft standard to be produced in time for discussion at the next annual meeting.
- Updating the requirement for Nitrox training in the Diver Training Standards.

- Consideration of creating an IDSa Commercial Diving Instructors Standard.
- Liaison with industry.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for April/May 2009.

Any member who has an item he would like discussed, should contact the Administrator well before the meeting – the exact date will be circulated by Memo.



Members of the Executive Board with staff members of the NDC



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WHO ARE EAL?

EAL (EMTA) - Engineering & Marine Training Awards, part of the SEMTA Group – Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technology Awards are licensed by the Secretary of State for Education and are the UK's leading qualification authority, issuing over 80% of all engineering vocational qualifications and are a recognised worldwide authority.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF AN AWARDBODY?

To consult with industry, employers and Government. To develop qualifications that recognise achievement and provide credibility to industry. Support and encourage education through approved test centres to ensure the highest standards are delivered to meet industry demands.

WHO RUNS THE COURSE?

This is the USP of this training programme; you run it, we audit it, EAL certify it. Now for most approved diving schools this will be business as usual, as they no doubt already include welder training, to one standard or another. But by adopting this programme, a diving school or training provider can now provide a standardized platform for teaching all underwater welding skills that permits a consistency for training and ensures high standards of welding ability is offered to industry.

(continued on page 18)

INTRODUCTION

The training of commercial divers, with regards to underwater welding, has for many years and to a large extent even now, only played a small part of the overall diver training process. This has led on occasions to a questionable mixture of training standards and abilities taught and some-times may have led to very little or no welding skills being acquired. Speciality Welds, experts to the welding industry, has received approved Test Centre status from the UK's leading engineering awarding-body EAL for their WeldCraft-Pro® underwater welding course. The company is also a registered ISO 9001 approved organization and David is the official welding supervisor, approved by Zurich Insurance Risk Services, UKAS/SAFEd accredited inspection laboratories.

WHAT IS BEING OFFERED?

Mr David J. Keats, president of Speciality Welds has been involved in the welding industry for over 33 years, of which, 25 have been connected with underwater. David has been teaching wet welding skills since 1980 and has produced an industry first, with the first ever approved self-teach training package. David will present this unique programme of diver-welder training, one that allows all approved diver training schools and other interested training organisations to deliver the course themselves, and in so doing, will permit the issue, by EAL, of an international welding qualification.



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(continued from page 17)

HOW DOES THE SELF-TEACH METHOD WORK?

As you might expect a number of quality control systems are involved. But briefly, the process follows the following format. An interested party completes an application form, which then generates the need for a site audit to be conducted, together with a briefing of all welding teaching staff. This provides a familiarisation for Speciality Welds of the schools staff and facilities and for the teaching staff to become familiar with the teaching manuals and audit documents. (There is no obligation for a school to progress to approved status following this site visit and the site visit is presently being offered at travel expenses only). However, following approval the school needs to sign a legal

licence agreement to protect all IP, after which Speciality Welds will issue the teaching syllabus, coursework materials and examination/question papers. The school then registers all new students with Speciality Welds, which will then generate the necessary test record and issue identification numbers. The school then commences training. Upon completion the school provides the necessary evidence of student ability and course work. Where appropriate, certification is then issued.

The process may sound complex but is very straight-forward to implement. The programme is presently running in two recognised schools one in the UK and one in the USA. The course has also run in Sweden and in Greece and we presently have registered interest in Spain, Belgium, Finland and Norway. David has also presented a paper at the Italian Welding Institute in Genoa on behalf of a company in Varese.

WHAT QUALIFICATION IS ISSUED?

EAL issue certificates under the International Institute of Welding (IIW) and the European Welding Federation (EWF) guideline document 570-01 for fillet welder – plate, with certificates of approval issued under our Zurich (UKAS/SAFED) accreditation to either: AWS D3.6-00 ISO 15618-1:2002

For more information on the WeldCraft-Pro® welding course please visit www.specialwelds.com

www.video-ray.com



IDSA PROGRAM

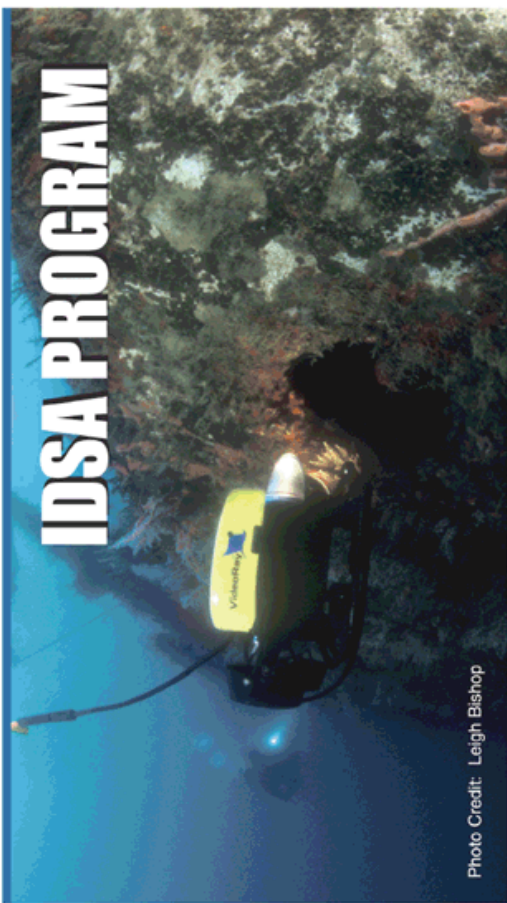
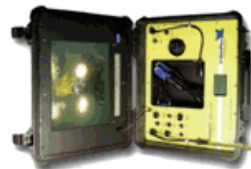


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THE INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION (IDSA) LIST OF MEMBERS

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Nautilus Dive company	Austria
Centre de Formations pour Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (CFPME)	Belgium
SYNTRA	Belgium
Royal Danish Navy Diving School	Denmark
Innofocus	Finland
Institut National de Plongee Professionnelle (INPP)	France
Hydrocat	Italy
Netherlands Diving Centre (NDC)	Netherlands
Norwegian Commercial Diving School, Oslo (NYD)	Norway
West Coast Commercial Diving School	South Africa
Farjenas Diving School	Sweden
Swedish Armed Forces Diving School	Sweden
Divers Academy International	USA
National Polytechnic College of Science	USA
Santa Barbara City College	USA
The Ocean Corporation	USA

FULL MEMBERS: SPECIALIST TRAINING

KB Associates	Singapore
Interdive Services Ltd	UK

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Alpe SUB Srl	Italy
Palumbarus Diving Works	Italy
Norwegian Association of Underwater Entrepreneurs (NBU)	Norway
Svensk Sjoentreprenad	Sweden
Best Publishing	USA

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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Institute of Oceanology, Commercial Diving School	Bulgaria
Croatian Diving School (HRU)	Croatia

Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport (AASTMT)	Egypt
International Academy for Diving Technology (IADT)	Egypt
Diver Ltd	Hungary
Marine Centre, Mumbai	India
YAK Diving Academy	India
Darya Koosh Marine Company	Iran
Israeli Professional Diving Academy	Israel
Centro Studi C.E.D.I FO.P.	Italy
Marine Consulting Srl	Italy
Caspian Dive School	Kazakhstan
Namibia Commercial Diving School	Namibia
Podvodrechtstroy Diving School	Russia
Diving Diseases Research Centre (DDRC)	UK
London Diving Chamber	UK
International Diving Institute	USA

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Maritim & Croatian ADC	Croatia
NAVFCO Military Diving School	France
BC-opleidingen	Netherlands
Nautiek	Netherlands
BCN Explorer	Poland
Aqua Mont Service	Serbia
Sumergia	Spain
Tecnosub International	Spain
Hydroweld	UK
Speciality Welds	UK
The Underwater Centre	UK
The University of Plymouth	UK
Searchwise Ltd	UK
Minnesota Commercial Diver Training Centre	USA
Sri Lanka Ports Authority	Sri Lanka

RECIPROCAL MEMBERS

Association of Diving Contractors	UK
Association of Commercial Diving Educators (ACDE)	USA

