

Setting global trends in maritime shipping



INTERSHIPPING SERVICES
 GABON MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

Intershipping Services, which offers representation to the Republic of Gabon for its maritime sector, shares sea links with India and has a regional office in Mumbai

Intershipping Services is the sole authorised representative for maritime administration of the Gabonese Republic worldwide. It is based in the UAE with its head office in Ajman, along with branch offices in Dubai, Mumbai in India and Piraeus, Greece. In this exclusive interview, *GN Focus* speaks to Hysham A. Shaikh, Commissioner, Maritime Affairs, Republic of Gabon, Karan Kapoor, Technical Director, Intershipping Services, Ibrahim Shaikh, Technical Manager, and Arshad Khazi, Manager, UK as they elaborate on the brand's scope of activities and profile.

Where is Gabon located, what are its advantages?

Gabon is a sovereign nation located on the equator. Its capital is Libreville (also the Port of Registry for International Ship Registry of Gabon). The Gabonese Republic is a country rich with biodiversity, with more than 80 per cent forest cover and a population of about 2.1 million. Abundant petroleum reserves and foreign private investment have helped make Gabon one of the most prosperous countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

How was the International Ship Registry of Gabon initiated?

The International Ships Registry of Gabon was established through the Presidential decree of 2013, and passed in Parliament and implemented as an Act. It is the shared collective vision of the President of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba and Ministry of Transport to see Gabonese flagged vessels flying high worldwide and rated among the top ship registries.



From right to left: Tanvi Patel, Akram Shaikh, Arshad Khazi, Hysham Shaikh, Ibrahim Shaikh, Karan Kapoor and Munib Ahmed

Please elaborate on the role of Intershipping Services?

In September 2018, Intershipping Services signed an agreement with the Government of the Gabonese Republic to manage and perform all functions relating to its Maritime Administration thereby encompassing the International Ship Registry of Gabon and appointing it as the exclusive representative of the Gabon flag worldwide. We have consistent interaction with the Ministry of Transport, especially with the Special Advisor to the Minister of Transport, Ludovic Moundounga, who is also a prominent lawyer.

Why was the UAE chosen as the centre for Gabonese Maritime Administration?

The Gabonese Maritime Administration has its head office in the UAE, with branch



offices in Greece and in India. We have plans for expansion to five new locations for setting up new offices for client outreach and business development. The UAE is undoubtedly the best destination for business and we enjoy all the necessary support from the UAE authorities.

What is the present status of the fleet run by Intershipping?

Intershipping has registered more than 130 vessels since inception in April 2019. Up to 86 per cent of our fleet comprise tankers (oil/chemicals/gas), while 90 per

cent of our trading fleet is with IACS Class.

Could you elaborate on the activities of Gabonese Maritime Administration?

The Commissioner of Maritime Affairs, Hysham Akram Shaikh is fully empowered by the government of the Gabonese Republic to operate, promote, register and issue all certificates for the International Ship Registry of Gabon. Hysham is supported by his highly professional team.

This includes Akram M. Shaikh, CEO, Intershipping services and who offers more than three decades in the maritime industry; Karan Kapoor, Technical Director, Master Mariner, UK; Ibrahim Shaikh, Technical Manager, Naval Architect, UK; Arshad Khazi, Manager, UK, and Tanvi Patel, who manages the Registration Department.

INTERSHIPPING SERVICES

The maritime administration for the international ship registry of Gabon



Akram M Shaikh, CEO, Intershipping Services

In conversation with Akram M Shaikh, CEO, Intershipping Services

Please elaborate on the role of Intershipping Services LLC.

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Could you share some information on how the International Ship Registry of Gabon was developed?

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Presidential decree of 2013, passed in Parliament and implemented as an Act. It is the shared collective vision of the President of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba, and the Ministry of Transport to see Gabonese flagged vessels flying high worldwide and rated among the top ship registries.

Please share the Gabonese maritime administration's global footprint. Why did you choose the UAE as the base?

We have our head office in the UAE with branch offices in Greece and in India.

We have plans for expansion to five new locations for setting up new offices for client outreach and business development. The UAE is undoubtedly the best destination for business and the fact that we receive all necessary support from the UAE authorities makes this the perfect venue to conduct business from.

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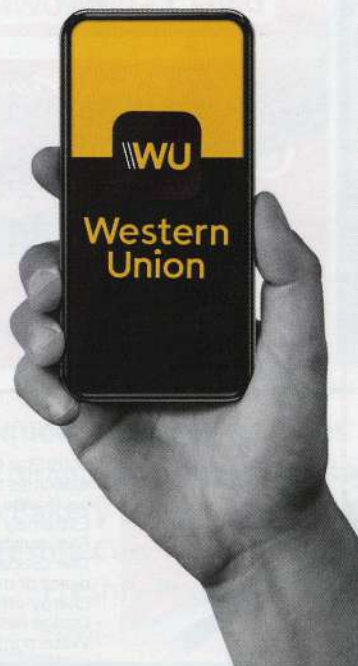
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