

## WHAT IS WISTA?

In 1974, in the UK a handful of women brokers involved in the tanker market met for a Christmas lunch. They decided to repeat the experience on a regular basis, to exchange views on professional matters of common interest. Over the years, contacts from overseas were invited to join the meeting and the group gradually expanded throughout Europe to include women from other areas of shipping. Within a relatively short period of time 25 women were involved, who decided that an Association should be formed, WISTA (**Women's International Shipping & Trading Association**) was thus born.

The annual meetings were extended to a conference program 1981, when the first WISTA conference was held in Hamburg, Germany. Since then conferences have been held annually in:

1981	Hamburg, Germany	1996	Athens, Greece
1982	Rotterdam, Netherlands	1997	Helsinki, Finland
1983	Le Havre & Paris, France	1998	New York, USA
1984	Stockholm, Sweden	1999	London & Dover, UK
1985	London, UK	2000	Gothenburg, Sweden
1986	Madrid, Spain	2001	Sardinia, Italy
1987	Oslo, Norway	2002	Oslo, Norway
1988	Lisbon, Portugal	2003	Durban & Cape Town, S. Africa
1989	Antwerp, Belgium	2004	Rotterdam, Netherlands
1990	Athens, Greece	2005	Hamburg, Germany
1991	Marseilles, France	2006	Singapore, Singapore
1992	Copenhagen, Denmark	2007	Copenhagen, Denmark
1993	Liverpool, UK	2008	New Orleans, USA
1994	Hamburg, Germany	2009	London, UK
1995	Genoa, Italy	2010	Athens, Greece

Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA) is an international organization for women in management positions involved in maritime transportation business and related trades worldwide.

WISTA aims to be a major player in attracting more women to the industry and in supporting women in management positions. With networking, education and mentoring in focus we can enhance members' competence and empower career success.

WISTA is growing! With over 850 individual members and 20 National WISTA Associations (NWAs), our membership has increased by 40% during the past two years.

The 2008 conference "Raising the profile - reducing the footprint", will be held in New Orleans 15th-17th October, attracting delegates from all parts of the shipping industry from more than 30 countries.

We still need more women in top positions in the maritime sector. In spite of positive support from many government bodies in encouraging equality among sexes, the increase in women's representation is far too slow. Too many women are however, far too modest, and there's a lot more leadership potential than meets the eye. Being a member of WISTA can make a difference!

WISTA was established in 1974, when a handful of women in the tanker market in London met for Christmas lunch at a wine bar in London.

## MISSION

WISTA is a networking organization for women at management level in the maritime industry. WISTA shall:

- Facilitate the exchange of contacts, information and experiences among its members
- Promote and facilitate the education of its members
- Provide liaison with other related institutions and organizations worldwide

## VISION

WISTA shall be acknowledged as a professional and highly reputable shipping organization with focus on improving levels of competency in the shipping industry and shall:

- Attract highly qualified people to the industry
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- Improve level of competency through focus on education and knowledge sharing

## VALUES

### **Professional**

- WISTA Ltd is a legal entity which complies with corporate governance regulations
- WISTA is managed by a board of directors - Exco - who are elected and accountable to the membership
- Our brand and activities, such as our annual conference, set high standards

### **Dynamic**

- We bring WISTA forward by setting strategic objectives and working for common goals
- We aim for growth through individual and National memberships. Our individual membership increased by 20% in both 2005 and 2006

- We pursue and support the creation of both national and international business relationships among WISTA members

### **Open-Minded**

- We seek diversity and innovation for the industry
- We see changes not as threats, but as opportunities
- We support people who are interested in making shipping a career

### **Committed**

- WISTA has been around for more than 30 years, and has grown from 5 to over 800 members
- We work on a long term basis, always having WISTA's and its members' best interests in mind
- We have made contact with 12 countries in 2006 with a view to creating new National WISTA Associations in them

### **MEMBERS**

Membership of WISTA is made up of National WISTA Associations (NWAs) established with the approval of the members at a general meeting. The purpose and objects of every NWA conforming to those of WISTA.

Members are women at management level. Members include representatives from ship-owners, charterers, brokers, agents, insurers, marine personnel, lawyers, banking & finance, risk management, consultants, shipyards, industry organizations and suppliers

### **ACTIVITIES**

Our main activity is the annual conference held in September - this year in Singapore. Please see the separate folder on conferences or click here: [Conferences](#)

Other global activities include the mentorship program and the new initiative to nominate the WISTA Personality of the Year. You can read more in the subfolders.

A number of issues are coordinated globally for example: Press coverage. In addition we have discussion forums in the membership area to share information, seek advice or discuss issues of common interest.

Members of National WISTA Associations (NWAs) are actively engaged in the development of the shipping industry; For instance the President of WISTA Hellas will be one of judges for the Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards; board members of WISTA Norway are board members and participants in the Maritime Forum; President of WISTA

**UK and an Exco member were asked to present to the European Union's Ministers for Shipping in 2005 on the topic of "Bringing more women into shipping" and were successful in getting this put onto the EU's agenda.**

**The most frequent activities are, however, at a national level, where frequent meetings, company visits, educational speeches, tours of shipping sights etc. are arranged. Please click on your country to see your local activities.**

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE LOG ON [www. wista.net](http://www.wista.net)**