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IRS Names Said Nassif as Managing Director

LONDON, 24 Aug 2009 – International Register of Shipping (IRS), one of the largest independent classification societies, appointed Said Nassif as managing director as incumbent Bijimon Punnoose is promoted to the management committee.

This new promotion of Mr Punnoose will now allow him to develop global strategy for IRS. Incorporated within this role will be business development for the Americas.

The appointments take immediate effect.

After his sea career, Mr. Nassif joined the Canadian government as a marine surveyor, rose through the ranks and held several management positions including Director Marine Security where he was responsible for the promotion and enforcement of policies, standards and regulations to improve security in the maritime sector. Additionally, he acted as professor and instructor in safety, security and protection in multimodal transportation.

Mr. Nassif brings a wealth of experience to IRS. He has helped develop and lead a number of large and complex projects in the sectors of supply chain management, logistics and marine transportation.

Mr. Nassif has received both Bachelor in Maritime Transportation and Master of Business Administration degrees. Additional to his First Class Marine Engineer qualification, he possesses certifications in freight forwarding, agency and ship brokering and is certified as an anti-terrorism specialist.

Fluent in English, French and Arabic, Mr. Nassif, who is a Canadian national, has extensive experience of working with different international bodies and he maintains a strong partnership with international bodies, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Department of Homeland Security (USA), members of Port State Control, the marine industries and associations, among others.

“We are delighted to appoint Said as managing director,” said Julian Padilla, chairman of IRS. “He brings a raft of experience to IRS and we believe he will help us move towards further success in the future.”

He continued: “We expect to significantly increase our quality tonnage levels over the coming years and we see this growth will come from both quality new buildings and from

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existing ships. It will be our international growth that will strengthen the organisation's global brand."

"I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank Bijimon for his tremendous efforts as managing director," Mr Padilla added.

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Classification societies seek to establish and apply specific technical requirements for the design and construction of maritime facilities, such as offshore structures and the essential parts of a ship's hull along with a vessel's other auxiliary features, such as steering systems and power generation. Any such requirements are judged to be the rules of membership of the society and it is essential that any ship owner comply with to ensure membership.

The International Register of Shipping has more than 1,300 ships on its register, with a combined gross tonnage of 7.3 million tonnes.

It is currently authorized by 18 flag administrations to perform statutory certification in accordance with many of the International Maritime Organization's conventions. With 15 offices across the world and a presence in 90 countries through affiliated offices, the IRS has a truly global presence

It is an independent classification society without the patronage of any particular flag administration.

Also independent of the IACS, IRS acts with impartiality and objectivity as a self-regulating agency to the international marine industry, with the mission of serving the public interest as well as the needs of clients by promoting the safety and security of life, property and the natural environment.

The society does this by acting as a regulatory body governing the development and verification of standards for the design, construction and operational maintenance of marine-related facilities.

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