News Release

WOC SUPPORTS THE WISTA INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH OF ITS PLEDGE FOR INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY

“Empowering women is one of the keys to a sustainable development and successful financial performance for the ocean business community.” – WOC Board Member and COO and WISTA France Treasurer Christine Valentin

8 March 2019

The Women’s International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA) has launched an inclusion pledge that addresses the underrepresentation of women in the maritime industry through a series of statements aimed at embracing diversity through individual action and personal responsibility.

Individuals are encouraged to sign the pledge in support of a diverse and inclusive maritime sector. The pledge can be found online on the WISTA International website: https://wistainternational.com/pledge/

"Embracing diversity and inclusion is a business decision that no leader in today's global and competitive marketplace can ignore. Leaders who encourage diversity of thought, including gender, age, race, and ethnicity, know that their teams benefit from a wide variety of experiences and perspectives, which drive innovation and change," said WISTA International President Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou. "We geared this pledge to individuals, for we feel strongly that individuals have the power to bring about change."

Theodosiou served as Chair for the inaugural plenary on “Women's Leadership in Ocean and Coastal Business and Advancing Sustainable Development” at the World Ocean Council's Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) last year (Hong Kong, 14-16 Nov 2018), which highlighted the challenges and opportunities for better advancing leadership by women in ocean industries. A similar session is being planned for the SOS 2019, Paris, 20-22 Nov. Progress is also underway for the development of a MOU between WISTA International and the WOC.

Recent and Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement
8 March, HOUSTON
WOC-Kelley Drye Ocean and Waterways Conference (Co-Organizer, Speaker)

13-15 March, SINGAPORE
1st World Congress on Maritime Heritage (Plenary Speaker)

20-21 March, COPENHAGEN
Green Ship Technology Europe (Speaker)

21 March, PARIS
Mare Forum France (Panelist)

World Ocean Council (WOC) – The Global Blue Economy Business Organization

The WOC is the only international, cross-sectoral alliance for private sector leadership and collaboration in ocean sustainability, stewardship and science. Companies from a range of industries worldwide are distinguishing themselves as leaders in “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”, including: shipping, oil and gas, tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, renewable energy, ocean technology and investment.

WOC Members are listed here, a part of the WOC Network of 35,000+ ocean industry stakeholders around the world. The WOC is a registered not-for-profit organization in the US and the UK/Europe.

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