

# PRESS RELEASE

Oslo, 11 June 2018

**Oslo Shipowners' Association, Ocean Industry Forum Oslofjord  
and Shipping & Offshore Network form the**

## **MARITIME OSLOFJORD COOPERATION ALLIANCE**

[www.maritimeoslofjord.no](http://www.maritimeoslofjord.no)

*The domain is parked for the time being*

**“Through the Maritime Oslofjord cooperation alliance, we wish to contribute to strengthening the maritime cluster in the Oslofjord region, to increasing cooperation across the cluster and to ensuring that the enterprises benefit more from their membership of the three associations”, say the chairs of the three associations, Aage Thoen, Jon Rysst, and Per Olaf Brett, respectively.**

### **BACKGROUND**

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There are many associations and organisations in the maritime and ocean industries in Norway in general and in Oslo in particular. They have different backgrounds and histories.

Through the Maritime Oslofjord cooperation alliance, the associations want their member enterprises to get as much as possible out of their membership. The alliance also aims to contribute to closer contact, more cooperation and experience-sharing between member enterprises. As part of the alliance, the three associations will coordinate their member-oriented activities and open some of them to each other's members. The associations will make their focus and activities more targeted, so that they complement each other better and improve what they offer the different levels and professions in the enterprises.

*‘As the Oslo branch of the Norwegian Shipowners’ Association, we represent the shipowners and top executives in related sectors within the industry. Through this alliance, we want to strengthen our focus on creating arenas for top executives in the maritime sector,’ says Aage Thoen, shipowner and chair of the board of Oslo Shipowners’ Association.*

*‘Ocean Industry Forum Oslofjord focuses on innovation, competence and reputation in the region. The forum also includes Maritimt Forum Oslofjorden, with all the possibilities and obligations a nationwide network of such maritime forums entails. Through this alliance, we will be able to offer our members an even wider network and better cooperation, so that we can contribute to restructuring, development and competence-building across the ocean industries,’ says chair of the board Jon Rysst, who is also Senior Vice President, Regional Manager North Europe of DNV GL.*

*‘Shipping & Offshore Network was founded in 1981 and is a nationwide international association that focuses on geopolitics, market analysis and competence-building. Many of our members are located in the Oslo region, and the idea is to use Maritime Oslofjord to bolster the environment in this maritime cluster. This model could also work well in other regions,’ says chair of the board Per Olaf Brett, deputy managing director of Ulstein International AS.*

## THE ALLIANCE PARTNERS

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**Oslo Shipowners' Association (OR)** is the Oslo branch of the Norwegian Shipowners' Association (NR) in relation to which it has two main tasks: Approval of new members applying for membership of NR and nominating candidates from the association for election to NR's board and committees. The member enterprises' permanent representatives, normally 1–4 persons from the top management, are invited to attend the association's events. The association also has 'Executive Members' who are top executives in related businesses: banking, finance, brokers, lawyers, and shipowners who, for various reasons, are not members of NR. These Executive Members are personal members 'by invitation only'. As of 1 January 2018, the association had around 60 Executive Members. The association's main event is the meeting series 'Executive Dialogue: From manager to manager unfiltered', which is held two to three times a year. Helge Lund, Ståle Kyllingstad and Kristian Siem were the speakers in 2017. The traditional Christmas dinner will be hosted for the 59th time this year. Shipowner Aage Thoen is the chair of association's board.

**Oslo Shipowners' Association does not have website, just a Facebook page.**



**OCEAN INDUSTRY FORUM OSLOFJORD (OIFO)** also includes Maritimt Forum Oslofjorden. Geographically, the association covers Oslo, Akershus, Buskerud, Vestfold, Østfold and Telemark counties. OIFO aims to be a cooperation arena for innovation and restructuring in the ocean industries. The arena includes local and global enterprises from the region that are part of the ocean industries, as well as expert environments at the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN), the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) in Ås in Akershus county, the Oslo School of Architecture and Design and BI Norwegian Business School in Oslo. Through various network activities and committees, OIFO endeavours to contribute to increased innovation, restructuring and value creation in the region. The chair of the board is Jon Rysst, Senior Vice President, Regional Manager North Europe of DNV GL – Maritime.

**[www.maritimt-forum.no/oslofjorden](http://www.maritimt-forum.no/oslofjorden)**



**SHIPPING & OFFSHORE NETWORK (SON)** is a maritime network organisation for enterprises in the maritime and offshore industries in the Nordic countries. Established in 1981 as Bulkforum, Shipping & Offshore Network now mainly focuses on geopolitics, market analysis and competence development. SON hosts its flagship event Annual Summit at Losby Gods in April every year. The fixed items on SON's annual schedule include the annual meeting on a geopolitical issue in February, the DNV GL meeting for SON's members in March (Oslo and Bergen), the Annual Summit in April, Market Update meetings in Oslo and Bergen in October, and the 'Tjuvholmen seminar' (paid for by suppliers) at Tjuvholmen Sjømagasin and in Bergen in November every year. The course Basic Shipping and Maritime Law, which is also organised once or twice a year, comes in addition. SON's members come from all over Norway and from countries such as Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Japan and China. SON is also a partner in the three-year (2016–2019) Interreg project GO LNG in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). The chair of the board is Per Olaf Brett, deputy managing director of Ulstein International AS, which is part of Ulstein Group ASA.

**[www.shippingoffshorenetwork.no](http://www.shippingoffshorenetwork.no)**

All three associations have offices on the ground floor at the Norwegian Shipowners' Association and the general manager is Tom O Kleppestø, MSc (siv.øk.) in Economics and Business Administration. At 17.00 on Monday 11 June, the members will get together for a fjord cruise on the *Christian Radich*, where the Maritime Oslofjord cooperation alliance will be officially launched.

## **CONTACT PERSONS, MARITIME OSLOFJORD**

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### **Tom O Kleppestø, business economist, general manager of all three associations**

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Many know Tom O. Kleppestø as the man who started and ran the Maritime Trainee Programme on behalf of the Norwegian Shipowners' Association for ten groups in the period from 2004 to 2017. He was also responsible for the development and implementation of the association's top executive programme Marex from 2010 to 2016. Tom has been the general manager of Shipping & Offshore Network since 2008 and secretary to the board of Oslo Shipowners' Association since 2010. He took over as general manager of Ocean Industry Forum Oslofjord in January 2018 after Vidar Pederstad, who took up the position of director of the

Christian Radich Foundation. Tom is also working on establishing the Centre for Ocean Business (OBZ) at BI Norwegian Business School together with Professor Torger Reve, who is also a member of the board of OIFO. Tom is a business graduate (*siviløkonom*) from NHH (1992) where, among other things, he was affiliated to the Centre for International Economics and Shipping (SIØS) led by Victor D Norman. He worked with Torger Reve back then as well.

In 2007, Tom and Torger wrote the report 'Norway – a Global Maritime Knowledge Hub' for the Norwegian Shipowners' Association and Oslo Maritime Network. This report led to the endowed professorship project now known as MarHub, through which the maritime industry donated more than 20 endowed professorships to important Norwegian educational institutions, such as NTNU in Trondheim, the former Aalesund University College, the University of South-Eastern Norway (then known as Vestfold University College) and BI Norwegian Business School.