

IMO Celebrates

The International Day for Biological Diversity

22 May 2009

Every year, the Secretariat for the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) arranges an annual International Day for Biological Diversity, with the aim to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. This year, the International Biodiversity Day will be celebrated on 22 May. Shipping can have a range of impacts on marine biodiversity and IMO plays an important role in addressing this challenge. Interestingly, the Biodiversity Day theme for this year is “**Biodiversity and Invasive Alien Species**”, an issue that IMO is directly engaged in.

To highlight this event and the pioneering efforts by IMO in addressing the issue of Invasive Alien Species, the GloBallast PCU invites all IMO staff to a presentation titled:

Marine biosecurity and invasive alien species: An added challenge for IMO in the context of climate change

by
Dr. Jose Matheickal, Chief Technical Adviser (GloBallast), MED

Date: 22 May 2009 (Friday)

Time: 15.00 to 16.00 (including Q&A)

Place: Committee Room 9

The introduction of invasive marine species into new environments has been identified as one of the greatest threats to the world’s oceans, and shipping is one of the major vectors. The presentation will describe the background, impacts and scope of the problem, with emphasis on the role of shipping. The different initiatives by the international community to address this issue will be presented, in particular the work carried out by IMO and the GloBallast Partnerships Programme.

The presentation will also describe the impact of climate change, for example through changes in ocean temperature and circulation patterns, and the additional challenges that this will pose in the fight against these aliens.

All are Welcome!

