

INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

idsa

NEWS

EDITION No.34 AUGUST 2019

- **NEW DIVERS FROM SWEDEN**
- **ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**
- **A SKILL SET WE WILL LOSE?**



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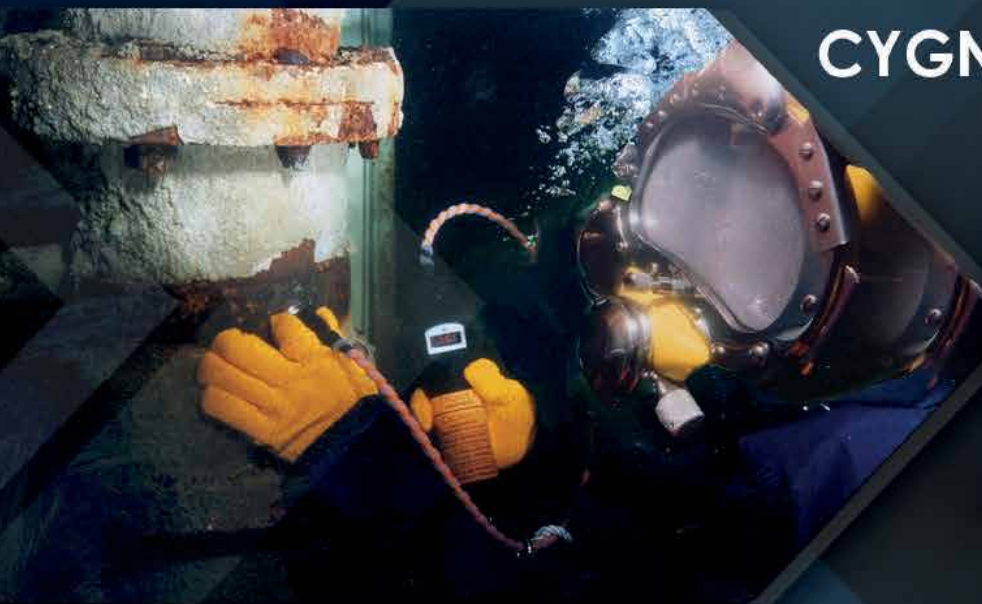
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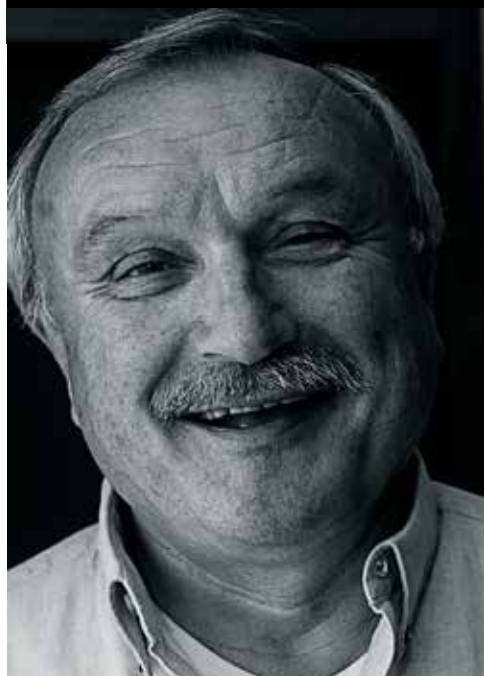
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Articles and photographs to be considered for publication should be submitted to the editors at the address above



FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Members

I should like to welcome new members who have joined the Association since the last issue of the 'News'. They are: Associate Members:

Darya Koosh Co (Re-joined) Iran

Port Academy for Maritime & Technical Studies Saudi Arabia

BG Dive Solutions Ltd Bulgaria

Ocean Force Marine Ltd India

Industrial Member

Subservices S.I.Spain

A number of things have happened which have altered our planned programme for the summer. Whilst these are not permanent, members may find an explanation useful if they were expecting certain events or changes to happen – we always try to keep you in the picture where possible!

After several months of planning I am pleased to say that the office of the

Dutch National Diving Organization has now moved to a new building a few kilometers away, and that IDSA's desk has moved with it and it is now fully operational. There have, however, been some disruptions, not least being the upgrading of the administration's computer over the last few months. As anyone who has been through a similar process will know, such changes are fraught with difficulties and so, although we have done our best to check, we do ask that Members also check their own entries in the list of members at the end of this issue – any omissions and corrections should be sent as soon as possible to Alan Bax who will be responsible for such entries in his new role of Membership Manager for the Association.

Another thing which has hampered our planned programme has been my need to have surgery in June. I am pleased to say I am now feeling much better and seem to be well on the road to recovery – but of course this has meant that a number of our planned activities had to be postponed. We hope to catch up with them during the autumn and winter, especially activities such as school inspections and visits. Meanwhile, thank you to Members for their good wishes for my speedy recovery.

Looking forward to the Annual General Meeting in Oslo, I am hoping that there may be an opportunity to look at the tasks undertaken by members of the committee. It is clear that as schools change so too do the roles of committee members and it is always useful to review the contribution which individual members can make, where more or less time becomes available.

Similarly, Revision 6 of the Standards is still 'a work in progress'. It has taken some time to collate all the changes, and some have had to be re-written. It must be remembered that we are an International organization and that Standards sometimes require students to have knowledge of procedures/equipment which is not used locally.

I look forward to meeting you all in Oslo at the Opera Hotel on Monday 16 September

IDSA ANNUAL MEETING RETURNS TO OSLO 16-19 SEPTEMBER



Instructor and students from NYD

NYD, the Norwegian subsea training center celebrates 30 years in operations this year, making it a natural host of IDSA's annual meeting.

With more than 300 divers passing through their various courses annually, NYD is a long-time prominent member. Almost half of all IDSA qualification cards issued go to NYD graduates. NYD is also the first and only member training to IDSA level 4, closed bell diving.

Since hosting the annual meeting in 2014 lots have changed at NYD. A tour of the school will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of this year's meeting.

The venue of the meeting will be



the same as in 2014. Thon Hotel Opera is conveniently located at the footsteps of the airport express train at Oslo Central Station, a short 20-minute train ride from Oslo airport (OSL) who has good connections with Europe.

The hotel is located in an exciting new part of the city. A former industrial harbor area has recently been transformed to a modern business and residential area, with the architecturally iconic Opera house as the main attraction.

Oslo, the distant and remote outpost which once was Christiania, has in recent years turned into one of Europe's fastest-growing capital cities, with a population of 700,000 expected to reach the 1 million mark within the next twenty years.

Dozens of lively cafes, bars and restaurants have popped up, and continue to do so, all over town, at a rate which even most Osloites find hard to follow.

And whilst the once rusty docks have transformed into luxurious seafront architectural marvels, other less known pearls of Oslo's industrial past have been re-discovered and revamped into foodhalls, colleges, bars, and art galleries, breathing a much-needed breath of fresh air into Oslo's cultural life.

Oslo is the cold north. It is also warm summery days on the fjord. Oslo is skiing and trekking in the Oslomarka and fine dining later the same evening. Oslo is Munch, the Opera, stunning parks, unique cocktail bars and restaurants, and a vibrant urban scene.

NYD and IDSA welcome you all to the annual meeting 16th – 19th September 2019.

Hotel info:

Thon Hotel Opera

opera@olavthon.no

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Telephone +47 24103030

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Travel from Oslo Airport (OSL) with the airport express train. Departs every 10 minutes. Conference fee: The conference fee is set to 350 Euros pr person. The fee includes lunch Tuesday – Thursday, dinner Wednesday evening and refreshments during the meetings. Bank transfer in advance, only.

Monday 16th September			
Time	Subject	Location	Responsible
1800-2000	Registration and drinks	Restaurant	Lars W
Tuesday 17th September			
0900-1130	The meeting will be opened by the Norwegian Minister of Fisheries Harald Tom Nesvik	Meeting room Carmen	
	Introduction of delegates, apologies for absence		Leo , Carin
	Chairman's report		Leo
	Acceptance of minutes from the annual meeting. Trebeurden 2018		Leo not Carin
	Matters arising from the minutes not included in the agenda		Leo not Carin
	Administrators report		Alan
	Financial report		Leo
	"Election of excecutive board members: Current board members willing to continue:		Carin,
1130-1230	Lunch	Restaurant	
1230-1345	Status of Offshore diving in Norway - The Government perspective	Meeting room Carmen	Olav Hauso, PSA
	Offshore Diving in Norway - The Contractor Perspective		Øyvind Loennechen, TechnipFMC
1345-1400	Coffee break		
1400-1600	Fish Farm diving in Norway	Meeting room Carmen	Victor Jensen, Abyss
	Meeting session		
Wednesday18th September			
0915	Arrival at NYD	Fagerstrand	Lars W
0930-1200	Presentation of NYD	NYD	Lars W
	Tour of NYD's facility		Dag
1200-1300	Lunch	Classroom NYD	Lars W
1300-1530	Battleship Blücher and the German invasion in 1940	Classroom NYD	Arnfinn Moland
	Blücher Oil removal operation		ASkild Moe
	R&P matters		NYD,
18.30	Pre-dinner drinks	Restaurant	Lars W
19.30	Association Dinner	Restaurant	Lars W
Thursday 19th September			
08.30. 11.15	Meeting session	Meeting room Carmen	
	Meeting session		
	Any other business the chairman may allow		Leo
	Next year's annual meeting		Carin
11.15.11.30	Summary and closure of the annual meeting 2019	Meeting room Carmen	Leo
11.30-2.30	Optional lunch	Restaurant	Lars W
NOTES	The above programme is subject to such changes as are necessary for it's smooth running. All meeting sessions will take place at the Hotel Opera Transport will be provided from the Hotel and return as necessary throughout the meeting. Break times are approximate.		



The Bergen International Diving Seminar
"Sharing best practice by meeting"

2019

Are we adapting to a volatile market?



Bergen International Diving Seminar 13th and 14th November 2019

Planning for the seminar is ongoing and we already have confirmed presentations from authorities in Norway, UK and Australia. It is also confirmed we have a very interesting presentation of a research project headed by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology with collaboration from Equinor and TechnipFMC. AkerBP will present their experience and future strategy for diving operations.

Please keep an eye on our [webpage](#), the program will be updated as we get the various presenters confirmed. If you have a good idea or would like to present anything, please get in contact.

Registration for both exhibitors and participants can be done by sending an email to NUI (post@nui.no). The online registration site will be available in a few days from now, you will be able to log in from the [webpage](#).

There will be stands available for exhibitors

Seminar partners:



DMAC

OFHB

The Bergen International Diving Seminar is arranged by NUI AS on behalf of The Association of Operators for Hyperbaric Lifeboat Reception Facilities (OFHB):



Bergen, 13th and 14th of November 2019

For further information please visit www.nui.no or contact us on +47 55 94 28 00 or post@nui.no

YRGO

COMMERCIAL DIVER TRAINING IN GOTHENBERG

Seventeen new
Commercial Divers
are awarded their
certificates

Yrgo, in Gothenberg, is a Polytechnic with one of the widest ranges of course work that Sweden has to offer. Every year, more than 1,700 students enroll to train in these courses and the graduates are highly sought after in the labor market.

(Continued on page 8)



Leo Lagarde, the chairman of IDSA awarding the students their IDSA certificates. This year Yrgo has trained another 17 talented professional divers who will take their places in the Swedish and European commercial diving markets



YRGO (continued from page 7)

The goal at Yrgo is to make sure that all students will move on to a job in the area they have studied immediately after they have completed their education. This means that Yrgo not only has to maintain close links with industry but also has to pay close attention to the needs of industry. Therefore it runs and develops its courses in close collaboration with private companies, public enterprises, industry organizations and other colleges.

All the courses are in areas where the business sector and the public sector have said that they need more competent and committed employees.

Yrgo also organises tailor-made courses specially designed to aid companies that want to develop their business.

One of the many faculties in Yrgo is the Commercial Diving School of Gothenburg.

This year on the 5th of June, Yrgo examined the commercial diving class 2017-2019 on a sunny summers day in Gothenburg. The examiner was Leo Lagarde the President of IDSA.

Two years is a long time for students and instructors to spend together. So a close bond is often established between the two. This examination meant that their time together was coming to an end so it was a particularly emotional time as well as a happy one.



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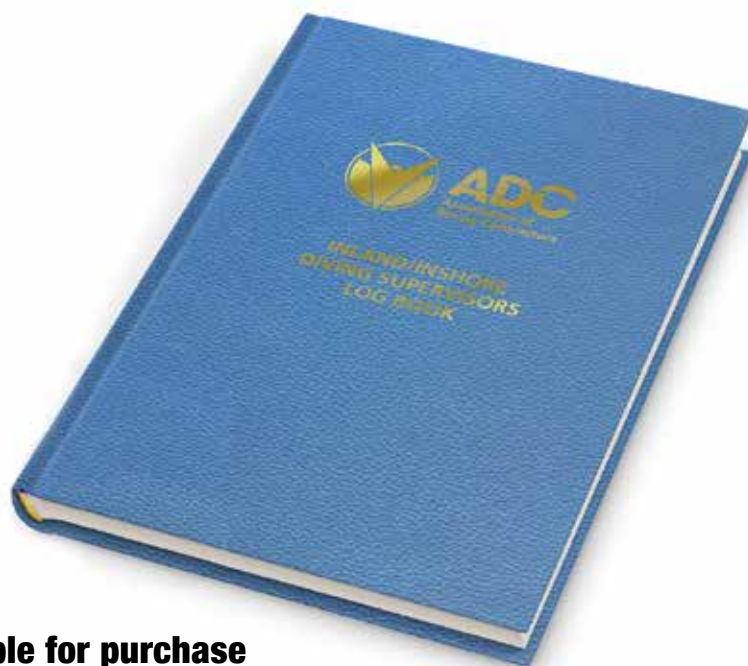
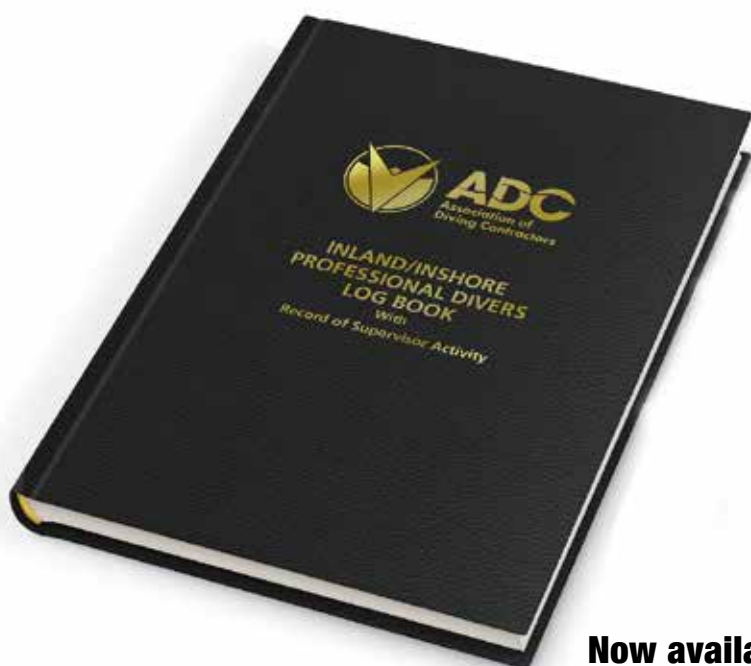
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The Inshore Diving Supervisors Manual

*(Second Edition – Issue 6)
(October 2016)*



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COMMERCIAL DIVER TRAINING

Is it a skill set
the industry
will lose?

By KBA Training

With the recent years of decline across all offshore oil and gas sectors, one of the most serious considerations, if not the most serious consideration that is now raising concerns is the competence of personnel and returning to work management.

The commercial diving industry is no different. In fact, it is at the higher end of the risk management considerations as the operational hazards have a direct impact on the safety of the diver. There is always the argument within the risk management process and hierarchy of controls to 'not dive' and conduct the work by other means. However, human interface in many subsea operations is always required and that requirement is not going away anytime soon.

There is no current research data on the numbers, of commercial divers or diving supervisors who have left the industry over the last 5 years (yes, it has been 5 years since the change commenced), but we can be sure that our industry has lost a great deal of knowledge and competence over this period. To add to this dilemma; companies and individuals have not been training

or keeping current with today's latest industry guidance – safe practices – or maintaining their own skill sets as a diver or as a diving supervisor.

Commercial diver training, diving supervisor training have also been on an all-time low, with closures of commercial diving training centres in UK and Australia adding to the challenges faced by the commercial diving industry.

“Wherever there is a negative – if you dig deep there will always be a positive!”

The Commercial Diving Industry now needs to look at several factors; embracing up-to-date technology pertaining to learning; embracing up-to-date technology for maintaining and demonstrating competence; establishing alternative means of training, such as collaboration between training providers and approving bodies. Additionally, adopting a long term vision by investing in training that will yield a higher return of investment rather than the short term perspective that is so evident in today's industry.

Failure to act now will certainly lead to a greater skill set loss; Failure to implement robust Return to Work policies pertaining to retraining and assessment of skills will lead to personal injury and project failure. The question is – ‘What are you doing about developing your skills to enhance employability or as a company, what are you doing about validating your personnel's competence’?

For more information and to discuss your options and how KBA Training Centre Pte Ltd can support you with your training and competence requirements, please contact KBAT at Tel: +65 6542 4984, courses@kbatraining.org or visit our website

at www.kbatraining.org.

MARC JASINSKI

-REMINISCES

Forty years on, well known Belgian underwater photographer, cave diver and author Marc Jasinski looks back on an interesting period of his life.

The year of 1962 was definitely most interesting for me, because I became acquainted with the standard diving dress, during the CMAS World Congress on Underwater Activities, held in London in October that year.

We were invited to visit the Siebe and Gorman works, as I remember then managed by Commander Shelford. Among many distinguished guests, I remember Commandant Philippe Taille, Frédéric Robert, founder and owner of Aquastar Watch factory in Geneva, and famous Italian underwater movie producer and cameraman, the late Victor Aldo de Sanctis.

Needless to say, we were all addicted to scuba diving, and in my youthful arrogance I felt that visiting Siebe and Gorman was akin to a study in industrial archaeology, although the name had barely been invented at the time.

I watched in awe expert copper-smiths hammering at copper plates, changing basic metal into the perfect polished shape so avidly sought after by modern collectors.

But most amazing was discovering that S & G was still manufacturing hand pumps, the very same model that had been in use for more than a century.

When I wondered aloud, why these (in my opinion) antiquated contraptions were not considered obsolete in this modern industrial world (remember, walking on the Moon was just a few years ahead), Commander Shelford produced

(with a discreet smile) the obvious explanation: there were (and probably still are today) many far away countries where cheap labour abounds and is a lot more reliable than any old and poorly maintained – as is usually the case – powered compressor.

I learned the lesson and found it dramatically confirmed in 1971, while Robert Sténuit was experimenting with a replica of John's Lethbridge diving barrel at the

Comex headquarters in Marseilles - I had been hired as an underwater cameraman by my good friend BBC producer and director Ray Sutcliffe, and I was also acting as assistant to Robert.

Practically nothing went according to plan, and as days went by

The coppersmith at his bench, refining the basic metal shape to accept valves, portholes and various other fittings. It was more artistry than industry.



and we were struggling to send the THING under a quite modest number of inches of water in the Comex experimental pool, our respect and admiration for great John Lethbridge's power of invention and expertise was getting deeper and deeper, a lot deeper in fact than our dives with the barrel.

However, after some days, Robert managed to get himself and the barrel a few feet under water. Success, at last ? Well, to put our modest achievements in perspective, remember that old John consistently dived to 50 feet, and sometimes deeper.

Then, an unexpected problem arose: there was a power failure while the barrel was hanging from an electric hoist under several feet of water. Everything went dead. Thanks to a huge, modern, powerful and sophisticated piece of equipment, in daily use for handling secret Comex experimental machinery, there was no way to get the barrel out of the pool and Robert out of the barrel.

John Lethbridge had known much hardship and several close calls, but defi-



nitely not of this kind.

His crew of hired hands was always available and didn't know of power or mechanical failure. No doubt the Master had his own ways to take care of the slightest lack of stamina or low morale among the crew. So much for electric hoists.

Marc confesses to some envy, as he inspects finished helmets at the Siebe Gorman works

(Continued on page 15)



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MARC JASINSKI (continued)



Final assembly stage of a pump due for shallow water diving work in Africa.

Back to the year 1963.

Victor de Sanctis hired me as his assistant at the Club Méditerranée diving base of Lipari, one of a group of volcanic islands off Sicily North coast. Victor was assigned to produce and film a story about a thinly veiled underwater dancing mermaid who was supposed to bring unheard of bliss to one unsuspecting and naïve character picked from among the Club's most athletic diving instructors.

Instead of bliss, the lady brought the whole films crew endless misery, because of her bad temper and utter lack of acting ability. Why Victor had picked this person for the leading role of his film I really can't figure out.

However, diving along the seemingly bottomless volcanic cliff (the cliff, not the lady, who was perhaps volcanic but definitely not bottomless) of Filicudi and Vulcano was magical, and those seascapes remain among the very best I ever saw, comparing only in my memory with Ras Muhamad or Zembra.

Sailing among these magical islands was a dream. So it was, indeed, for the crew of a small British motor yacht, who seemingly relied, instead of sound and proven navigation methods, on extra-sensorial perception resulting from unrestricted use of an excellent malt liquor carefully stored on board in adequate quantities. It so happened that the crew failed to identify a huge and massive cliff for what it actually was and bumped head on into it at full speed. The instantly sobered crew managed to save their skin by hanging onto the cliff while the boat sank in shallow water, about 20 feet deep.

A palombaro (standard diver) from Messina was assigned to refloat the wreck and we were curious to see how an experienced pro, working alone but for small boy acting as a tender, would manage to salvage a 12 metre motor yacht.



This expert wisely decided to take care of the whisky first. It was a famous brand, but our man didn't really like it, so we traded some the Scotch for a reasonable quantity of his favoured kind of grappa. As the great Humphrey Bogard said in the film *Casablanca*, that was 'the beginning of a beautiful friendship' and the good man soon offered to teach us how to use his standard dress.

Standard, yes, but up to a point, as the antiquated contraption had been often repaired, modified and simplified. But it still worked, and so did the petrol driven compressor that supplied us with a vast amount of exhaust fumes

The palombaro from Messina at work on the yacht's damaged stern. He is hammering chunks of wood into the gaps into holes torn in the hull's steel plates –expert divers will appreciate such local maintenance habits, while perhaps studying the fine repair job on the palombaro's own helmet and fittings.

(Continued onpage 16)

MARC JASINSKI (continued)



A few months later, in Lipari, our diver friend helps a rather diffident looking Marc into his much battered standard dress. He generously shared his gear with us, but declined testing our SCUBA gear, which he declared did not look safe enough to him.

and mineral oils mixed in various proportions with some Mediterranean breeze.

In the best tradition of Mediterranean palombari, we took turns in the single available dress and quickly learned some tricks

of the trade. It meant borrowing woolen underwear that had seen better times, but definitely very little laundering.

The stench of sweat and urine mixed with exhaust fume remains to this day the strongest olfactive impression diving ever impressed into my memory.

Had I lived 50 or 100 years earlier, a finely tuned, silent and perfectly balanced Siebe & Gorman hand pump would have spared me the unwanted chemicals if not the pungent stench of a Sicilian underwear of uncertain colour.

How right Commander Shelford had been about his splendid machines.



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ABOUT IDSA

The Association was formed in 1982 as a result of a meeting between Schools attending the American Diving Contractors Conference (Now 'Underwater Intervention') in New Orleans.

The aims of the Association were then, and are now

To implement common International Standards of Diver Training

To provide a means of effective communication between schools.

To improve the quality of commercial diving education

To work towards improved standards of safety, emergency drills and procedures.

To provide a common and collective voice to government industrial agencies on any matter affecting members.

To co-operate on matters which may improve placement opportunities for graduates from member schools.

To promote any activity, idea or subject which furthers the international operations of the Association.

The Association is concerned with all divers - Offshore, Inshore and Inland - as well as non diving qualifications e.g. Supervisor, DMT and LST. The Association has established International Diver Training Standards based on the consensus opinion of its many members, they are available in a separate publication. The Standards provide both a yardstick for those responsible for either administering existing National Standards or creating new ones, and a guide for Clients, Diving

Contractors and Divers themselves. It is considered that the introduction of these Internationally agreed diver training standard will have the effect of;

Equating Standards Internationally.

Providing Guidance to Organisations setting Standards for the first time.

Improving Safety.

Providing Contractors with a direct input to the Diver Training Syllabus.

Enabling Contractors to bid across National Borders on a more even playing field.

Improving Diver quality.

Providing Divers with greater Job Opportunities.

Some governments have and will, set their own National Diver Training Standards. The IDSA programme provides a means of equating them by maintaining a Table of Equivalence - see the Publications section of the Association's Website.



Ref №	School Name	Contact(s)	E Mail	Country
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