China's shipboard commissars take on welfare role

In China's ports, the shipboard commissar, a role that has been a fixture of maritime life for centuries, remains as important today as ever. These officials, often religious leaders or social workers, are responsible for the spiritual and welfare needs of seafarers. They act as a link between the crew and the shore, providing support and assistance in times of need.

In practice, the fact that these “political thought workers” were present on merchant vessels, sailing together with the crew on a daily basis for long periods at sea, allowed the regime some control. In most cases, the ISC still keep a seafarers' social centre on board, staffed by qualified personnel, to assist seafarers when their ships call at ports, such as Shanghai, Dalian or Xiamen. Each centre has an annual budget and is run by dedicated staff. In this case, they usually have an openly designated paid post on their ships. Many reported understanding the commissar's role with that of the captain and the crew. Sometimes, they are also able to help solve all the problems for seafarers, our observation of the ISC study.

Commissars are usually recognised by most seafarers as “one of us”. The commissar, particularly when abroad, is considered as the captain's maker aboard. But in line with the growth of the country's scale, the shipboard commissar has been moved to a location forty miles away from the port. The section head of seafarers whose ships call at China's ports, and other eastern European ships, have been accepted or even welcomed by most seafarers. These institutions are certainly significant in the operation of the ship at sea. Our observation of the SIRC study.

China's shipboard commissars take on welfare role

Dr Minghua Zhao, deputy director of the Seafarers' International Centre (SIRC) at Cardiff University in the UK, pointed out that when the shipboard commissar's role is rationally ironing out clashes among seafarers, the commissar turns to the role of a mediator, helping seafarers to resolve the conflicts among them. Our observation of the SIRC study.

According to the ISC research, the SIRC in China has a welfare role, which is needed in rapid economic growth. However, the scale of seafarers can vary widely, and the ISC's operations can be affected. In this case, they usually have an openly designated paid post on their ships. Many reported understanding the commissar's role with that of the captain and the crew. Sometimes, they are also able to help solve all the problems for seafarers, our observation of the ISC study.

In this case, they usually have an openly designated paid post on their ships. Many reported understanding the commissar's role with that of the captain and the crew. Sometimes, they are also able to help solve all the problems for seafarers, our observation of the ISC study.

International trade, we cannot help feeling deeply concerned about seafarers' welfare of seafarers of all nationalities when their ships call at the ports of twenty years ago. Meanwhile, the...