

Spotlight on Laurence Jones, Deputy Chair of the ICHCA International Board



In this series of interviews with ICHCA Members, Spotlight is in conversation with Laurence Jones, Deputy Chair of the ICHCA International Board.

Spotlight: Laurence, your association with ICHCA goes back 16 years we understand. What drew you to the organisation and how has your dedication led you to your current role as Deputy Chair of the Board?

Laurence: I joined TT Club in 2006 as Director Global Risk Assessment. TT Club is the established global market-leading independent provider of mutual insurance and related risk management services to the international transport and logistics industry. TT Club's primary objective is to help make the industry safer and more secure. My role in TT covers internal advice and support in underwriting decisions and claims assessment, and externally I work proactively with clients and industry to identify areas where risks may be reduced. ICHCA's focus on safety in cargo handling was a perfect match with my role. TT had been involved with ICHCA for many years so I immediately joined the International Technical Panel or ISP as it was known then. In 2008 I joined the ICHCA International and ICHCA Australia Boards.

Spotlight: You are a qualified engineer with over 50 years' experience. What does that experience cover?

Laurence: I am not really an expert on any one thing but my experience covers many areas including general management, operations, maintenance, design, construction, mechanical, electrical and civil engineering, industrial relations, safety, environment, risk assessment and auditing. My industry

experience includes bulk materials handling (terminals, open cut mines and underground mines), container terminals, logistics (rail and road), manufacturing (steel) and now insurance. I worked 26 years for BHP in the steel, open cut and underground mining industries, and engineering design and construction. The last 15 years with BHP was in designing, building and managing bulk materials terminals. I then spent 8 years in container terminals with P&O Ports and attained the role of General Manager Global Engineering and Asset Management. After assisting with the integration of P&O Ports and DP World, I joined TT.

Spotlight: So, you are now sharing that 50 years of experience to help make the industry safer.

Laurence: Well, I hope so. However I am continuing to learn like we all must and identify new innovations in safety. I continually analyse TT insurance claims to identify the risks in our industry. By visiting TT and ICHCA members and also working closely with PEMA, the Port Equipment Manufacturing Association, I keep up-to-date with new systems, procedures and technologies and identify loss prevention actions to mitigate the risks which I can then share with TT and ICHCA members and the industry generally. I am passionate about safety and I see my role as sharing loss prevention information to help reduce insurance claims, save the industry money, but most importantly help prevent injuries and save lives.

Spotlight: What specific things does ICHCA do to make the industry safer?

Laurence: We actively participate at international meetings and get involved in projects that impact the industry. Our NGO (non-governmental organisation) status in consultation with United Nations bodies allows us to have input into International Regulations and Standards, and our Technical Advisory Service can answer any question you may have. We keep members informed via our multiple communications channels. Members receive a monthly newsletter, ICHCA Insights covering an array of topics such as events, reports from our meetings, news from ICHCA's Chapters, international measures, standards and items thought to be of particular interest to members. We regularly publish safety alerts and are also active on social media and encourage our members and the industry to take the opportunity to follow ICHCA on LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook. Members have access to our entire catalogue of Publications which are produced to inform, consult and advise on industry relevant issues. To download these, plus other member-only documents including event presentations, you do need to be a member and create your member account on the ICHCA website to gain access to the ICHCA Member Area. New Publications are produced and published on a rolling basis. We have done many joint publications with other industry associations. Our technical advice service taps into a global group of over 80 experts in their respective fields and geographic locations, an unparalleled resource for cargo handling safety, legislation and operational best practice. If you have a question to raise about safety in cargo handling, ICHCA can help. If an answer exists, ICHCA will find it. Individuals from any member organisation are entitled to apply to join the ITP. Membership is subject to the approval of the ITP Steering Group and is based on each person's

credentials, knowledge and experience in their particular field of expertise. The ITP convenes formally at least twice a year to discuss key industry challenges, share information and to agree initiatives and positions on a wide range of safety, operational and regulatory issues. Participation in ITP meetings is open to ITP members and invited guests; ICHCA members who are not panel members are always welcome to attend as observers. As well as authoring publications and guidelines, the ITP plays a crucial role in ICHCA's Non-Governmental Organisation liaison and lobbying work at IMO, ILO, ISO, UNECE and other regulatory bodies. The ITP establishes focussed working groups on topical and important issues. ITP members are welcome to join these task-and-finish groups and participate on topics that fire their interest. You can have your say in what the ICHCA community addresses next.

Spotlight: What do you do when you are not focused on TT and ICHCA?

Laurence: I travel a lot with my work and luckily have been to many countries across all continents, but I still love travelling and seeing new places. My partner and I are finally embarking on a cruise around the Croatian islands later this year which had been delayed for several years due to COVID. We are then spending time in Greece and visiting Meteora where the rock formations host one of the largest and most precipitously built complexes of monasteries. I love the history, culture and scenery of Europe. My partner has 2 children and I have 4 resulting in 14 grandchildren so that also keeps us busy.

Spotlight: Finally Laurence, looking to the future. What are your main areas of concern for safe cargo handling?

Laurence: Unfortunately what I have seen lately is the same old issues time and time again in many operations. Pedestrians mixing with forklifts in warehouses, quay crane boom to ship collisions and stack collisions on a ship and in the container yard continue to be major risks. They continue to cause injuries and equipment and cargo damage. The sad thing is, they are mostly preventable with available procedures, systems and technologies.

Spotlight: Many thanks Laurence.