Some campaigners claim that ships owned by companies based in Europe should not be recycled in the developing world because of lower safety and environmental standards. This initiative ignores that the recycling of ships in the less developed world contributes to the sustainable development of those countries because virtually every part of a ship’s hull, machinery, equipment, fittings and even furniture is recycled and re-used. Adopting a black and white policy to ban the recycling of European owned ships would further deprive poor countries of the much-needed economic development that is brought by the large-scale direct and indirect employment and trade that is created through the ship recycling industry.

GMS believes in supporting the economies of the developing world. GMS has been working with a number of recycling yards throughout Asia and the sub-Continent to help implement gradual improvements with regard to worker safety, environmental protection, and social welfare. These responsible recycling yards need – and deserve – to be supported through the patronage of quality shipowners so that their success can be used as an example to be replicated by the rest of the recycling industry. In order to initiate change, the progressive yards located within these developing economies must be supported by well established governing bodies and socially responsible shipowners. It is crucial that the advances made by socially and environmentally conscious recycling yards are recognized and rewarded so that progress continues throughout the developing world.

Most shipowners find it difficult to identify the more responsible recycling yards due to their distant and remote locations and because the choice of a “good” yard in the context of corporate social responsibility requires the making of judgements on standards that are not absolute. Within a few years it is expected that the European Union will establish, through the proposed European Regulation on Ship Recycling, a European List of approved ship recycling facilities. Until the European List is prepared, GMS proudly offers its expertise and knowledge of the ship recycling industry to socially responsible politicians and shipowners who wish to differentiate between the more conscious recycling yards.

GMS has a dedicated staff that specializes in tailoring ship recycling plans and programmes to the needs of socially and environmentally cognizant shipowners who would like to ensure that their vessels are recycled to high standards.

Please contact any of the GMS offices listed below for more details on our “green” recycling initiatives.

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