

Navigator event spreads the net wide despite Athens deluge

Gillian Whittaker **Athens**

A violent thunderstorm that flooded roads and even led to the first ever bump of a cruiseship in the port of Piraeus could not deter the enthusiastic delegates of the 12th Navigator conference.

Despite shipping minister Miltiades Varvitsiotis being delayed over an hour because of the deluge and others for a lesser time, the conference kicked off with just a quick change of programmed speeches.

Navigator differs from other shipping conferences in that not only do its speakers and panellists chew over the industry issues of the day but it also spreads its net a little wider.

Hence the programme included a panel where ambassadors were challenged on various themes by a shipping journalist; the Hellenic

Coast Guard showed a factual but moving video of how it tries to deal with the huge problem of illegal immigrants not only from the operational but also the humanitarian side, while the Mayor of Oinousses, Evangelos Angelakos, made a presentation of the maritime tradition of the tiny speck of an island that has been the home of so many famous shipping names.

While the evening prior to the conference saw speakers and some friends mingling at a reception at the Yacht Club of Greece, on the day there was a strong accent on youth, with many attendees from the University of the Aegean in evidence. But first and foremost, a very special delegate was the daughter of Navigator managing director Danae Bezantakou, Dioni, who came to hear Mummy speak. As they say – catch them young!



► **CATCH THEM YOUNG:** Danae Bezantakou, managing director of Navigator Shipping Consultants, with her daughter, Dioni.

Photos: GILLIAN WHITTAKER



► **KICKING OFF:** Apostolos Poulouvassilis, regional marine manager EMEA for Lloyd's Register, with Irina Taka, formerly in-house counsel at Capital Ship Management.



► **ATLAS MARITIME:** Marigo Lemos-Patitsas.



► **TALKING POINT:** Captain James Murray (left) of Moran Towing Corp, Connecticut, with Roy Titchmarsh, chief executive of V.Ships Agency Group based in Singapore.



► **NAVIGATOR SHIPPING CONSULTANTS:** President Captain Dimitris Bezantakos.



► **BROTHERS:** George (left) and Nicos Vernicos.



► **CLOSE UP:** Jasvinder Viridi of St Kitts & Nevis International Shipping Registry with Next Maritime commercial director Christophe Gouteux.



► **ON HAND:** Stephanos Angelakos (left) of Angelakos (Hellas) with Keith Simpson of Falcon Private Wealth.



► **JOINING IN:** Captain Christos Lagos (left), operations and crew manager at Titan Maritime, with Apostolos Doucas of DND Management.



► **ALL SMILES:** George Ringos (left) of Oceanstar Management with John Belousis of Independent Marine Consultants.



► **GIRL POWER:** (From left) Katerina Stathopoulou of Investments & Finance Ltd; Dorothea Ioannou, managing director (Piraeus) of the American P&I Club; Despoina Panayiotou-Theodosiou of Tototheo Group of Cyprus; Angie Hartmann, crew manager of Starbulk; and Lucy Mylonaki, marketing director of IRI Hellas Ltd.