Call for Papers on “The Maritime Industry: Addressing Corruption”: WMU Journal of Maritime Affairs (WMU JoMA) Special Issue

Topic of the Special Issue

Papers are invited for a Special Issue of the WMU Journal of Maritime Affairs (WMU JoMA) on the topic of “The Maritime Industry: Addressing Corruption”.

Improving ethical standards and, in particular, working against corruption has received increasing attention. A quick browse of news headlines will point to recent major events convened on the topic, including the London Anti-Corruption Summit 2016 and the International Anti-Corruption Day.

In the maritime world, corruption springs up in different thematics. A typical case will be poor enforcement or collusion by the local authorities. This type of corruption leads to embezzlement in ports, the erosion of business credibility, the depletion of public funds, and the facilitation of other crimes such as human trafficking, piracy or terrorism. The costs to international trade are, as a corollary, increased.

The subject has gained notable awareness in the maritime industry due to its uptake in companies implementing Corporate Social Responsibility reporting tools, where anti-corruption is one of the fundamental responsibilities of a company.

Furthermore, the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 expressly address the battle against “corruption and bribery in all their forms” (Target 16.5).

On the governmental side, a spate of new laws criminalising bribery and facilitation payments, including, for instance, in the UK and France, have instituted hefty sanctions for unethical behaviour across the public and private sectors.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has dealt with corruption in the maritime sector since its inception. The subject has direct implications for maritime safety, security, environmental protection and the sustainability of the maritime industry. Some industry groups are actively advocating the issue at the IMO, which has itself recently come under the spotlight with respect to how its current governance system is able to balance all interests ethically.

The literature related to the fight against corruption in business and public administration has witnessed a notable increase over the last few years, but is still quite limited in the maritime field.
This Special Issue is designed to attract high-quality and original articles on the topic of “The Maritime Industry: Addressing Corruption”.

Prospective themes of the Special Issue

As the subject of corruption is all-encompassing, papers will likely originate from various perspectives and disciplines. An indicative list would include the following themes:

- Identifying corruption in the maritime sector
- Management and communication science
- Anti-bribery laws and their applicability to the maritime sector
- Maritime contracts and corruption
- Corruption as a threat to security, safety and environmental protection
- IMO regulations on corruption
- Maritime corruption case studies and anti-corruption success stories
- Maritime corruption and international trade
- Corruption and governance issues in the ship and port interface

Editorial style

All submitted papers follow the Journal’s editorial style and submission guidelines.

Deadline and targeted publication period

Full papers submission deadline: 15 February 2019

Targeted publication period: Second half 2019

Special Issue editors\(^1\)

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\(^1\) Guest editors may also be co-opted.