

# The Rise & Rise of CAMA Belize – a dynamic Flag



India is a hotspot today, with players across industry keen to grab market share. Whether it is promoting consumer goods, telecom, e-com, software, engineering - or shipping, India promises great scope. Several foreign majors consider India their prime market today.

In 2011, the Belize Government body IMMARBE (Flag State) established their designated office in India 'Central American Maritime Affairs' or CAMA Belize in short. In the last 2yrs CAMA Belize issued over 2,800 COC's and over 7,000 Seaman Books to Indians and other foreign nationals from their Navi Mumbai Head Office. CAMA Belize is now established well, and all officers who were awarded Belize COC are issued an Indian CDC by the Shipping Master. Today, over 18 Master Mariners holding CAMA Belize issued COC's command Great Offshore (GOL Offshore) vessels flying Indian flag.

India has several agents today who claim that they are authorized by Belize. Their 'shops' sell all kinds of CDC's and COC's of many Flags-Belize, Liberia, Panama etc. Some agents even reward candidates with double or triple promotions, sometimes with the rank of Master/ Chief Engineer directly, creating a crisis for ship managers. To be on the safe side, some managers discourage agent issued Belize COCs while other shipping companies insist on only a CAMA Belize issued COC and other documents. The US based companies Tide Water, Disney Cruise Lines and others honour only CAMA Belize issued Belize documents.



Mr Gautam Chatterjee - Director General of Shipping, India and Capt Partho Das - Deputy Registrar - Govt of Belize (IMMARBE)

With the demand for CAMA Belize issued COCs shooting up, the Belize Director General of Shipping-Capt Encarnacion Samaniego-visited his country's designated office in India- "CAMA Belize" and "Belize Maritime Affairs" in early June. Both offices are located at the Marine Centre, Vashi- Navi Mumbai. The 3 day visit included **meeting** with high officials from the Indian DG Shipping including the Shipping Master. The Belize DG was accompanied by the legal head of CAMA Belize - Mr. A Moreno, who handles legal affairs on behalf of CAMA Belize worldwide.

The head of the Belize Designated Office in the Indian Sub-Continent is Capt. Partho Das - Deputy Registrar appointed by Govt. of Belize (Ministry of Finance). He also acts as the Belize Maritime Affairs - Chief in Asia and the Principal Officer of CAMA Belize. The extension of CAMA Belize in Hong Kong, Malaysia and West Africa is under the supervision of Mr. Devraj D - Seafarer Officer. Mr. Shubb Mukherjee - Sub Registrar of Belize Maritime Affairs who attends Academies, including in Malaysia and the Philippines (Manila) and Dhaka. New extensions of CAMA Belize are being finalised in London, Alexandria (Egypt), Jordon, Casablanca (Morocco) and Myanmar (Burma).

The ship registration and seamen certification of Belize has been fully nationalised by the Govt. of Belize from June 11, 2013.

Amongst CAMA Belize's achievements during this year is that the Govt. of Malaysia now honours CAMA Belize issued COCs & CDCs permitting seamen to work on Malaysian flagged ships. Similarly, countries across Africa, including Egypt, officially honour a CAMA Belize issued COC. **All these achievements have been engineered by CAMA India.**



Mr Devraj D - Seafarer Officer (CAMA Belize) India, Hong Kong, and Malaysia and Capt Partho Das - Deputy Registrar - Govt of Belize (IMMARBE) at the designated office of Govt of Belize in India



Capt E Samaniego - Director General of Shipping, Govt of Belize (IMMARBE), Capt Partho Das - Deputy Registrar - Govt of Belize (IMMARBE) and Mr AA Moreno - Legal Head of CAMA Belize

Belize and CAMA Belize were bestowed the Sailor Today SEA-SHORE AWARDS 2013 for the "Most Upcoming Popular Foreign Flag"

Several agents in India claim to represent Belize and charge variable rates; the difference with CAMA Belize issued COCs and CDCs is that they are official and verifiable on both official websites and available at a standard tariff which is cheaper than others. Moreover, COC issued by CAMA Belize are honoured by the Indian DGS & officers and engineers holding CAMA Belize issued COCs are rewarded with Indian CDCs.

Capt. Partho Das claims: "We shall create bigger numbers of qualified Indian Officers who will contribute with higher foreign exchange remittances to India, and help Indians rule the seas."

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