



## EVENTS AND NEWS

### IMMTA NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "ROTTERDAM RULES" AT MARRIOTT HOTEL KARACHI ON TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2011:

As you are aware, one of the most important issues in international transport of goods is the question of carrier's liability for cargo loss or damage. Currently there are three international regime in force that may govern liability arising from the carriage of goods by sea: namely, the Hague Rules, the Hague-Visby Rules and the Hamburg Rules. Furthermore, the *new UN Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea*, known as the "Rotterdam Rules" which had been prepared under the auspices of United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), after many years of deliberations, was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2008. The Convention was opened for signature by States at a signing ceremony in the city of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on the 23 September 2009. As of January 2011, 23 countries have signed the Convention but no country has ratified it yet. The Convention requires 20 ratifications to enter into force.

Unlike the existing transport Conventions, the Rotterdam Rules has a very wide scope of application and propose to apply to all contracts for international carriage of goods by sea, as well as multimodal transport including an international sea leg.

The Rotterdam Rules have given rise to considerable discussions and controversy. There has been a lot of lobbying taking place by industry representatives. While carrier representatives express strong support, other interests including shippers, freight forwarders, terminal operators, etc. express serious opposition.

Keeping view that traders in Pakistan are not quite familiar with the "Rotterdam Rules". IMMTA Pakistan, is organizing a one day National Conference at Karachi on Tuesday 29-03-2011 at the Marriott Hotel.

International experts from Pakistan and abroad will address the Conference and there shall be ample opportunity for participants to interact with expert Speakers during the Conference. Experts will debate whether or not it would be in the interest of Pakistan to ratify this Convention.

Please reserve your place (available on first come-first service) for the Conference as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

For further information concerning the conference, please contact *Mr. Mohsin A. Ansari* of IMMTA Karachi at:

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Titles of any papers desired to be presented at the Conference, should be conveyed to IMMTA Pakistan office by e-mail latest by 25-02-2010.

Please complete your registration for the Conference latest by 15-03-2011 to avoid disappointment. Please find attached a Conference Registration Form.

We will be looking forward to seeing you at this Conference.

Best regards,

Captain Raffat Zaheer

IMMTA Country Representative for Pakistan

IMMTA Honorary Secretary Geneva

International Multimodal Transport Association (IMMTA Pakistan)