

Capital evening for young shipping folk of Beijing

Bob Rust

Not even a record-setting night of Beijing air pollution was able to choke off a first-ever outing last week by the Young Professionals in Shipping Network (YPSN) in mainland China's capital.

For a place that has had no navigable waterways going back a couple of dynasties, Beijing can nevertheless boast a very large maritime sector today. The all-important Chinese state players are present, including the country's biggest shipowner and a host of huge industrial, agricultural and energy charterers. Around these

are clustered every kind of service business, as well as numerous private shipowning and operating start-ups.

So in the middle of the week at the end of a busy day of chartering, lawyering, insuring and financing ships, some 86 professionals of varying degrees of youthfulness gathered at the popular Face Bar near the Workers' Stadium to fight off the airborne particles with moderate doses of life-preserving alcohol.

The Beijing networking event is an offshoot of YPSN gatherings that have already proved popular in Hong Kong and Shanghai,

just as the similarly named YPSN gatherings have done in Athens, Oslo and New York. Credit for the new initiative goes to the generous sponsorship of the Beijing branch of maritime law firm Ince & Co and the labours of organisers Natasha Lippens of Martentas oil-spill consultants, Beijing native Tina Liu of Drewry Research and Murphy Mok of Ince.

Participants left the Face Bar in good spirits but it was impossible to verify whether they made it home in good health, breathing air that rated over 600 on an air-quality scale that is supposed to go from zero to 500.



► **MIXING:** (From left) Maritime lawyers Tian Jiaozhang and Samuel Kuang Shuangli of Dacheng Law Offices, with dry brokers Hamilton Muirhead of SSY and Jan Lasalle Skipper of Wonsild.



► **CLOSE UP:** US diplomat Lawrence Korb (left) and Banchemo Costa research chief Ralph Leszczynski.



► **SMILES:** Matthew Qi Yinliang (left) of ship.sh and Ince Beijing partner Wai Yue Loh.



► **LUCK OF THE DRAW:** (From left) Natasha Lippens of Martentas environmental consultants, maritime lawyer Murphy Mok of Ince & Co and Tina Liu of Drewry Research.

Photos: BOB RUST



► **NETWORKING:** (From left) Flora Tang Yuzi of Ince & Co, Su Chang, Zhang Xuebiao and Han Peixue all of Cosco Bulk, and Murphy Mok of Ince & Co.



► **WARM GREETING:** (From left) Lex Li Jianan of Silkroads Shipping, Ada Liu Di of Dutch heavylift owner Jumbo Shipping and insurance underwriter Li Jia of Huatai.



► **CORNERED:** (From left) Geng Zhou of panamax owner Beikun Shipping and Wu Haixin of China Export-Import Bank.



► **ON HAND:** (From left) Guo Xu and Ajay Ahluwalia of Ince & Co, maritime lawyer Wang Yanchen, and Dennis Zhao Ke of the China Shipowners' Mutual Assurance Association.



► **DRY BROKERS:** Wonsild's Kiki Liu Yang (left) and Bill Ren Bo.



► **STRAPPING:** (From left) Sean Yang Junxiao of Pingan Insurance with shipbrokers Evan Li Zhilin and Robin Lu Bin, both of Maersk Broker.



► **LAUGHS:** Captain Cooper Liu Zhanbo (left) and Billy Zhang Lin of trading platform ValueFix.