



AT WORK

A SELECTION OF DIFFERENT EXAMPLES FROM THE EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE OF BOSKALIS | AUGUST 2012

Each month, a colleague reports on his NINA activities. This time, we hear from accountant Felmar Nieves.

NINA
blog

SHINY SAFETY SHOES AND HELMETS

"HELP! Someone just fell off the breakwater!" After this cry for help, all communication lines immediately ran hot at the worksite. The Project Manager was called, the SHE-Q Officer, the Medical Clinic and the Port Authority. In the meantime, back at the site of the incident, someone had thrown a safety buoy to the victim to help him swim back to the beach. Less than ten minutes later we heard the sirens of the port police and the ambulance service. On the beach the medical team were attending to the victim, performing cardiac massage and attempting to revive him. By now, the victim was wrapped in a life blanket and four of our colleagues helped the ambulance crew carry the victim into the ambulance.



This scene took place at our site in Pointe Noire in the Republic of Congo. It is not a description of an actual accident, but of a sea rescue/survival drill we organized for our second NINA Awareness Day. To me, it shows how we educate and equip employees to anticipate the worst-case scenario and be ready just in case. The drill ended with a discussion about lessons learned. Everybody was involved, as part of the exercise or as an observer. Everybody included me. And even though I am one of the so-called 'shiny safety shoes and helmets' - the employees who spend most of their time sitting in an office - I am proud to be part of NINA activities. NINA is for everybody!

Felmar Nieves is interested in the experiences of Michel van Oudenaarde, SHE-Q Manager. You can read what Michel had to say in the next issue of NINA At Work.

NINA ON TOUR WITH THE CTD

The CTD's tour of the fleet has given NINA a new boost. During the past year, NINA facilitator Bertus van Remmerden spent a week on board all the ships, cutters and backhoes giving workshops and discussing the work processes with the crew.

Bertus says he always started by talking to the captain and the chief engineer. "That gives you a first impression of the culture on board. NINA requires open communication and that subject often came up during the NINA tour. We spoke about cultural differences. Knowledge of each other's background helps people to understand each other. And that makes communication easier."

Logic

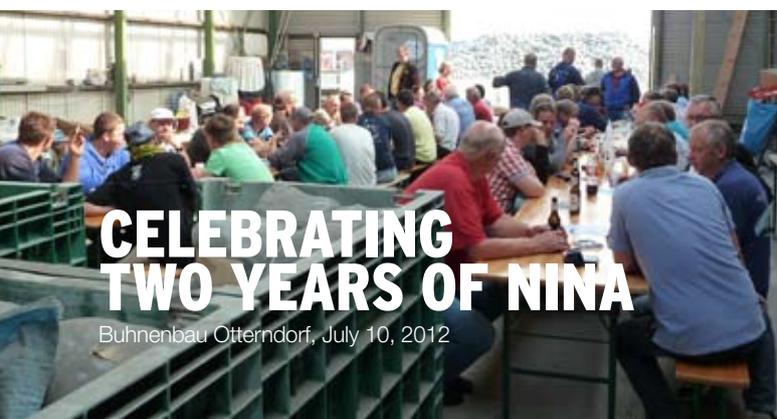
There was also a lot of focus on the Rules. "I demonstrated the logic behind the system, namely that we have to tackle all activities in a uniform manner. Although in some cases this meant a slightly different way of working, everybody soon got the hang of it. The will was there. For instance, during one session, a backhoe suffered a major breakdown in the excavator that had to be resolved immediately. 'Now we have a chance to fill in that TRA with you', was the skipper's response."



Together you see more

Plant Manager Rick Maliepaard is happy with the result. "We want to encourage people to discuss safety with the Values on their minds. A Value such as 'giving feedback' may be experienced as a threat, until you realize that we are all on the same side when it comes to safety. So in an unsafe situation a seaman may stop his own work, but obviously never the entire ship. However, he can put forward arguments that make the captain decide to stop the ship. Everyone is most familiar with the hazards of his own work, but together you see more, which is why openness is so important!"

Looking back, Bertus says it was not always easy for an 'outsider' to start a discussion with the crew. "Personally, I learned a great deal during the past year. I feel quite a 'Dredger Man' now, proud of and grateful for the successful collaboration with the men on board! And last but not least, I would like to make 'accepting feedback' a focal point for the onshore staff." ■



CELEBRATING TWO YEARS OF NINA

Buhnenbau Otterndorf, July 10, 2012