

## Chirag Bahri – ISWAN - MPHRP

Mr. Bahri began his shipping career in India in 2004, after he graduated as a Marine Engineer from Tolani Maritime Institute (affiliated with Birla Institute of Technology & Science). He has worked on bulk carriers, oil tankers, and chemical tankers in different capacities and currently holds a Chief Engineer's License.

His life took a dramatic turn when his vessel was hijacked by Somali pirates for eight months in 2010– a traumatic experience for him and his family. After returning from captivity in January 2011, he decided to focus on the welfare of seafarers, particularly helping their families to cope with piracy hijacking situations. As MPHRP Regional Director for India and South Asia, Mr Bahri provides guidance to seafarers, their families, as well as industry, including manning agents and shipping companies in the region. He also coordinates with other regional partners to assist those seafarers and their families that are affected by piracy. MPHRP has organised counselling sessions and other medical and rehabilitation assistance for families affected by piracy and for Seafarers when they returned home. Mr Bahri has attended many local and international meetings related to piracy and spoken extensively about this topic, his ordeal as well as the work and activities of MPHRP in the region. MPHRP was also awarded with Seafarer Welfare award by Sailor Today in March 2013 at Mumbai and with Safety at Sea award in London in 2014.

Mr Bahri has been recently bestowed with Dr Dierk Lindemann Welfare Personality of the Year award by Honourable Secretary General of IMO in London during an event hosted by ISWAN.