



# AT WORK

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

Each month, a colleague reports on his/her NINA activities. This time, we hear from Assistant Operations Manager, Mark de Bruijn.

**NINA**  
*Blog*

## HOUSEKEEPING

I started working in Nigeria in November 2011. The first time I traveled by car to the NWDM shipyard, I couldn't believe my eyes. There was garbage everywhere, on the road and in the gutters, in all shapes and sizes. Vehicles that break down in the middle of the road are just left there to rust. When I arrived at the NWDM shipyard, I was then amazed at the contrast: everything was clean, organized and well-kept. It's a question of good housekeeping, which for me means having a place for everything and keeping it there. That way you can optimize production and reduce the risk of accidents. Here in Nigeria, the word 'housekeeping' is not yet part of everyone's vocabulary, not out of unwillingness, but ignorance. We're trying to change that. When I see a bunch of welders leaving their things blocking the escape routes out of their work area, I try to explain to them the dangers and the possible consequences of their actions. That's how we're trying to increase awareness. 'Housekeeping' has been included in the 2012 NWDM SHE targets. NWDM is doing its part outside the port area, too: during the monthly 'Sanitation Day' in Warri, we send in our machinery and staff to help out in the community. You have to teach by example!



**Mark de Bruijn is curious about the experiences of Ronald Stegenga (Project Manager in Mombasa, Kenya).** You can read about his experiences in the next issue of NINA At Work. You can also submit your own input by sending an e-mail to [NINA@boskalis.nl](mailto:NINA@boskalis.nl).

## TURN ON YOUR LIGHTS!

Many newer car models come equipped with automotive lighting devices called 'daytime running lamps' that emit a reduced intensity light in the front, and none at all at the rear of the car. However, that can be dangerous in foggy or equally bad weather conditions. At least, that is what Stefan van Keulen experienced during a heavy rainstorm, when he could hardly see the cars in front of him because they did not have their tail lights on. "Without you realizing it, other drivers can hardly see you, because the lighting device 'assumes' it's daytime. My advice would be to stop relying on the lighting device. On a foggy or rainy day, you should always turn on the lights yourself, and, if necessary, the fog lamps too." ■

## REALISTIC DRILLS

The NINA principles have led to more discussion about safety, which also means talking openly about doubts. For example, some of the crew members of the *Crestway* wondered if they would be able to launch the life raft correctly and quickly enough in an emergency.

"We took their concerns to heart and held a realistic drill," says first mate Pavel Avsejenko. "We actually launched the life raft and evacuated the vessel. Normally a safety drill of this kind is kept purely theoretical, so this was unusual. It was the first drill where it was crystal-clear for our entire team what you are supposed to do; we really learned how it's done."



### Raising awareness

The drill had the added benefit of increasing awareness among the 13 crew members. "Everyone now knows how we want to approach NINA and what we want to achieve. It's about taking responsibility for your own safety and looking out for your colleagues' safety as well. On board, teamwork is key and it can only be achieved through mutual trust, which is definitely boosted by these drills. We are proud that our team makes safety a top priority."

*Once a life raft has been inflated, it has to be checked by an expert before it can be used again. A fee is charged for this service. To avoid these charges, the *Crestway's* crew wants Boskalis to purchase life rafts specifically for drills, and vessels can then take turns using these rafts. That way, all of the crews can actually experience what happens during a life saving operation. ■*