

The President
AUSTA
6/31 Hereford Street
Glebe NSW 2037

Re report on STI Annual Conference at Quebec City Jan 28th to Feb 1st 2016

Dear Commander Moss

It is with great pleasure that I can file the following report. As you are aware, this year was the first year either myself, or the Windeward Bound Trust has been able to attend an STI conference, as the usual November timeframe has previously conflicted with our ship's sailing program.

I arrived at Quebec City not having any preconceived ideas of what to expect, or for that matter, exactly what benefits we could expect to glean. I did, however, have an open mind as to what I might experience, and was determined to participate to the fullest.

Having worked for a longish period in the conference industry prior to, and during the construction of our ship, I was rather used to that type of conference where 400 or so people sat in a single audience and were talked AT by a variety of keynote speakers.

I was delighted to find that STI had a far more vibrant and inclusive approach, with a structure of "hands on" workshops and discussion groups, together with intimate looks at key areas of other organisations experiences and methodologies.

If there was any issue at all, it was that there were so many interesting and inspirational workshops to attend, occasionally all at once, so that it was sometimes challenging to make the necessary decisions. That was a very pleasant challenge to have!

I won't list all of the salient program points here, however as an operator, I learned a great deal that is already proving invaluable to our organisation, and made close connections with several organisations that parallel our operations and have similar size vessels and Trainee demographic.

As a result, We have already begun to formulate changes to our fund raising

programs and methodology, have fast tracked our new junior program, have embraced the beginning of what will be a comprehensive educational component of our youth development voyages, aligning many of our voyage activities to subjects that have a more limited appeal as classroom subjects, and, thanks to a new liason with The Tasmanian Parks Service, we have now included Environmental and Climate Change studies into our existing programs.

I was also surprised, and warmed, by the genuine interest and receptiveness of all the other delegates, and the friendliness and support of all the STI “crew”. A number of delegates sought me out and held me in lengthy and positive discussion on all manner of issues that affected both organisations. We have also begun to discuss cross-crewing opportunities with the “Spirit of Bermuda” organisation, and the S.A.L.T.S organisation of British Columbia

I thoroughly enjoyed, and was positively buoyed, by the experience, it was my first time in north America, and indeed Canada, and it was a joy to visit such an historic city as Quebec City, the perfect venue for an organisation of Tall Ship operators who carry on a centuries old tradition, albeit with a modern psychological approach, to the development of young people.

The entire conference was well thought out, and I thought, impeccably managed. It was great to meet the other delegates and officials and put faces to the names I have heard previously. It was indeed heartwarming to have confirmed the enormity of our industry on a world wide basis, and to gain a sense of pride at the role our organisation, however small, and for that matter AUSTA, plays in it.

I am extremely grateful to STI, and to AUSTA, for the provision of the Bursary, it made it possible for me to be there, and our organisation, our ship, and the present and future young people of Tasmania and Australia will be the long term beneficiaries. It was an extremely valuable experience, Thank you!

Kind regards

Captain Sarah Parry
Master and Managing Trustee
The Windeward Bound Trust