

## Preface

It is my privilege to write this introduction to the Proceedings of the 24<sup>th</sup> International Towing Tank Conference. The hosting of the 24<sup>th</sup> ITTC in 2005 in Edinburgh, the last conference in the UK having been held in London in 1963 is particularly befitting as 2005 is a special year for celebrating Britain's links with the sea that has done so much to shape the British culture and history. Throughout the country there are hundreds of events and activities to mark and celebrate the UK's great maritime history and its recent achievements. The UK today boasts having the largest maritime industry in Europe with a turnover of £37 billion with more than 250,000 people employed in the industry.

In recognition of the ITTC's significant role in supporting the development of economical, safe and environmentally friendly marine transportation and offshore oil and gas extraction HRH The Princess Royal will attend the Conference to welcome the delegates to the UK and to greet them in person.

During this conference period ITTC Member Organisations have been providing a sterling service to the shipbuilding industry as the world seaborne trade increased from 24,000 billion tonne miles in 2002 to 27,500 billion tonne miles in 2004 resulting in the world shipbuilding deliveries rising from 33.383 million gross tonnes to 40.171 million gross tonnes in the same period.

The Proceedings include very high quality reports produced by the 24<sup>th</sup> ITTC General and Specialist Committees and the Quality System Group. The Chairman, Secretary and the members of the Committees and Group are to be congratulated on their excellent contributions. On behalf of the members of the 24<sup>th</sup> ITTC Executive Committee I thank all those just mentioned for sparing their time and effort in producing these most valuable reports.

Finally it is my personal pleasure to acknowledge and thank all my colleagues on the Organising Committee who have been unstinting in their efforts to plan and arrange this Conference and those on the Executive Committee for their support.

I hope that you all have a very fruitful time during the conference and enjoy the social programme and your stay with us.



Professor Atilla Incecik  
Chairman, 24th ITTC Executive Committee