



**For Immediate Release**  
12-02-09

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## **ABYC Representative Established in South Africa**

ABYC and CTBi partner to provide a win-win-win for African boatbuilding industry

**November 30, 2009, Annapolis, MD:** ABYC and the Cape Town Boatbuilding and Technology Initiative (CTBi), Cape Town, South Africa, have partnered under a five year agreement to have CTBi represent ABYC's education, training and technical workforce certifications interests on the African continent.

According to a recently signed agreement, CTBi will incorporate ABYC's post secondary school curriculum into their marine technical educational post secondary program primarily to better serve the South African recreational marine industry. CTBi will provide a cadre of ABYC certified instructors and provide properly equipped training facilities. ABYC will supply its standards; standards based curriculum, lesson plans, study guides and texts. Additionally, CTBi will represent ABYC in Africa and use ABYC materials in all technical workforce seminars and conferences, as well as conduct ABYC certification classes and certification testing for the entire marine industry within South Africa, and at their discretion, throughout the African continent. ABYC will continue to process and award all technical workforce certifications and recertifications from its international headquarters in Annapolis, Maryland.

"Many South Africa boat and marine products manufacturers are members of ABYC and regularly use our standards. Prior to this agreement ABYC instructors had to travel to South Africa to conduct training classes and certification testing, which proved to be very expensive for both ABYC and the students, said ABYC's President, Skip Burdon. "So, we are particularly delighted to have reached this agreement to have CTBi represent us and provide ABYC approved technical workforce education, training and certification testing close to our African membership." We are also looking for other interested marine industry non-profits to expand this model around the globe," he concluded.

Mike New, ABYC's Education Director said, "We have worked with CTBi for several years and have developed a very successful relationship with them. We are excited to develop this new working model with CTBi and to see ABYC standards serve the marine industry in this part of the world." concluded New.

CTBi Chief Executive Officer Veda Raubenheimer, said "CTBi is very excited to team up with ABYC to deliver relevant, affordable and quality training to our industry. The ABYC course material is extremely well drafted and thoroughly researched, enabling us to equip our future boat builders with the knowledge needed to contribute to sector growth. We look forward to rolling out the ABYC training in January 2010."

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ABYC offers technical training courses that progress from basic to advanced, and includes eight marine industry workforce certifications for marine technicians and professionals. Currently, ABYC has been developing, writing and updating the safety standards for boatbuilding and repair in the United States for 55 years. ABYC is actively involved with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as well as certification programs for marine technicians. These standards are available on CD-ROM and in printed form.

Membership and general information can be requested by calling (410) 990-4460 or by visiting the ABYC web site at [www.abycinc.org](http://www.abycinc.org). To learn more about how your non-profit organization can become an ABYC education, training and certification testing international representative, contact ABYC's Educational Services Director at 011 410-990-4460 or [mnew@abycinc.org](mailto:mnew@abycinc.org).

The Cape Town Boatbuilding and Technology Initiative (CTBi) is a membership, non-profit entity funded by the City of Cape Town local government and Western Cape Provincial Government Directorates of Economic & Tourism Development, South Africa. CTBi serves as a facilitator between various spheres of the boatbuilding industry including those of manufacturing, exporting and labor training. As well as functioning as a communications hub within the industry, CTBi also fulfills the role of a conduit between the industry and the public sector. Having tackled numerous issues with local and provincial government, CTBi constantly strives to identify and address key challenges that potentially restrict growth and development of the industry. The initiative also identifies new markets and products for the boatbuilding industry and assists in developing a proper regulatory and legislative environment.

CTBi is the voice of South African boatbuilding industry interests around the globe. As such, the CTBi board also discusses changes in and makes change recommendations to the small craft ISO standards and offers constructive written comments to recommended changes in ABYC standards. CTBi is also pivotal in providing the South African marine industry technical workforce with quality education, training and certification opportunities.

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