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## Tomorrow's Shipbuilders

*I am pleased to be asked to write a few words to you. As the Chairman of the Ship Repair Section of the Netherlands' Shipbuilding Industry Association (VNSI) and as the Managing Director of KeppelVerolme, I speak daily with others about the wonders of our profession. The trick obviously is to communicate this enthusiasm not only to those who speak our language but also to those who as yet have not been indoctrinated on the many marvels, which our 'industrial sport' enjoys.*

*Yes indeed, we do queue up at the gates of the schools and institutions to hire the most bright and enthusiastic young people to work in the industry. We offer them ships of immense dimensions, the oceans' far-reaching horizons and the complexity of installations. When you analyse a ship as a 'building project' or as a 'process to build' there are so many challenges to be encountered that I feel many young professionals will be enticed to embrace a career in our branch of the industry.*

*I just returned from Brazil for the naming ceremony of a unit completed in our yard in Rotterdam. More than 1,000 people listened to speeches by Mr. Lula, President of Brazil and Mr. Gabrielli, President of Petrobras, allocating a major part of their talk to the need for young engineers and craftsmen in order to maintain the same pace of performance for their country's development programme. Subsequently, in the future they want to be in the position to build units, as was named today, in their own shipyards in their own country.*

*With mixed feelings I digested that message, but at the same time it made me once more aware that we need to become more active, to be more flexible, to integrate the multi-discipline projects we execute. And who can add more to that ambition than new people to the industry, those who will become the shipbuilders of tomorrow. Their open mind can reflect on how it was done in the past and how it could be done better in the future, allowing us to stay ahead in the years to come.*



Harold W.M. Linssen  
Managing Director KeppelVerolme

# Ship Building

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Cover Photo: The cable layer Polar Queen arrives at Damen Shiprepair Rotterdam's premises for a major refit and conversion into one of the most advanced flexlay and subsea construction vessels.

Photo courtesy of Damen Shiprepair Rotterdam.