



NACC NEWS

THE NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INCORPORATED

Hellenic-/Norwegian-American Annual Joint Shipping Conference

The Changing Dynamics of Shipping: Unprecedented 21st Century Economic and Political Trends Shaping the Industry

For the thirteenth year, the Hellenic-/Norwegian American Joint Shipping Conference won excellent reviews from the full house of delegates participating in the event.

Under the able chairmanship of John Couloucoundis and Per Heidenreich, the full day program was a lively and thought provoking blend of economics and politics.

Panels of internationally renowned speakers presented their ideas and opinions on very timely and relevant issues:

- ◆ Macro Trends in the World Economy
- ◆ Micro Trends in Shipping and Commodities
- ◆ Is Shipping Today a Good Investment?

Luncheon, sponsored by Navios Maritime Holdings Inc., was topped off by a keynote address by Dr. Martin Stopford, Director of Clarksons Research.

The final session of the day was a hugely popular "Mock tanker incident off the coast of New York -- panel discussion and role-play," arranged and moderated by Jim Lawrence of MTI. Panelists filling the roles of the numerous interests involved in such an incident drew on their own experiences to paint a vivid picture of the immediate aftermath of an event.

Topics continued to be explored during the post-conference networking cocktail reception, sponsored by Blank Rome LLP and Jacq. Pierot, Jr. & Sons.

Additional photos from the conference can be found on the [NACC website](#).



Norges Bank Investment Management

Strong equity markets influenced 2006 performance

A sharp rise in international equity markets in 2006 pushed up returns on the portfolios under management by NBIM. Last year was the fourth consecutive year with a double digit percentage rise in equity prices and the return on the equity portfolios was approximately 17 per cent. A rise in international interest rates curbed returns on the fixed income portfolios to just below 2 per cent.

The return on the Government Pension Fund – Global was 7.9 per cent measured in international currency. In 2006, it was 10 years since the Ministry of Finance made the first transfer to what was then called the Government Petroleum Fund. Starting with capital of close to NOK 2 billion, the Fund has increased to NOK 1 784 billion at end-2006. The Fund's average annual real return, after management costs is close to 4.6 per cent.

For Norges Bank's foreign exchange reserves, with a long time horizon and a portfolio of both equities and bonds, the return was 7.3 per cent. Return on the Government Petroleum Insurance Fund, invested only in fixed income instruments, was 2.2 per cent. The total market value of portfolios managed by Norges Bank Investment Management was NOK 2 047 billion at end-2006, of which long-term foreign exchange reserves accounted for NOK 225 billion and the Petroleum Insurance Fund for NOK 15 billion.

In 2006, Norges Bank's Executive Board appointed an advisory council to strengthen the Board's supervision of investment management. The members of the council are: Alan Hodson, former Global Head of Equities in UBS Investment Bank, Jean Frijns, former CEO of ABP Investments, Kenneth G. Lay, Vice President and Treasurer of the World Bank and Tony Watson, former CEO of Hermes Asset Management.
[Norges Bank](#)

BI Stavanger Marketing Students on USA Visit



Marketing students from BI Stavanger are pictured during a visit to Stamford. Norseland's president, John Sullivan, and Marketing Manager, Deanna Finegan (both pictured at left), made a very well received presentation on marketing and distributing high quality Norwegian and other cheeses to the American market.

When a group of seventeen students in the marketing program at BI Stavanger planned a visit to the New York area, Inger Tallaksen, general manager of the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce, was asked to assist in arranging corporate presentations by a number of prominent firms marketing products and services in the USA.

Mrs. Tallaksen accompanied the group on visits with NACC member firms who graciously agreed to meet with the students: Tandberg, DnB NOR, Innovation Norway, Statoil, and Norseland, Incorporated.

From executives of these highly successful firms, the BI students received an excellent overview of business in the US.

DnB NOR Given Aaa Rating by Moody's

The rating agency Moody's Investors Service has raised the long-term rating of DnB NOR Bank from Aa3 to Aaa.

This reflects the agency's introduction of the new rating methodology Joint-Default Analysis ("JDA"), which places greater emphasis on the strength of the Norwegian financial system and DnB NOR's position in the financial market. Aaa is the highest rating possible.

Group chief executive Rune Bjerke is very pleased with the upgrading and points out that it



demonstrates Moody's full recognition of the tremendous growth in the Norwegian economy over the past 10-12 years and the parallel strengthening of the largest Norwegian financial institutions. "An Aaa rating will also improve the DnB NOR Group's access to capital from a number of sources in international markets and bring down funding costs," says Bjerke.
[DnB NOR](#)

Norwegian American Chamber's Upper Midwest Chapter Elects New Officers, Directors

In Minneapolis on January 24 the Upper Midwest Chapter of the Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce elected the following officers and directors for 2007-08. The newly elected president is Jeff Mueller of Minnesota Technology; Eivind Heiberg of Sons of Norway is vice president, John Lund of Sons of Norway is secretary, and Gaute Sandberg of DMS Imaging is treasurer.

Serving as honorary president is Norwegian Consul General Rolf Willy Hansen. Immediate past president Gary Gandrud of Faegre and Benson LLP will continue on the board. We welcome newly elected members to the board: Kermit Nash of Rider Bennett LLP, Mari Anne Ness of Prudential Financial, Geir Tonnessen, Consul of Norway and the return to the board of Karl Rasmussen of Rasmussen Imports.

The Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce promotes and supports business, educational and research development between Norway and the Upper Midwest. In existence since 1968, the chamber specializes in working with emerging and developing companies in the areas of medical technology, bioscience and alternative energies.

To learn more about NACC and the Minneapolis chapter, visit our website at naccusa.org

PICTURED, TOP ~ NACC Upper Midwest Chapter, Minneapolis newly elected officers for 2007-2008. (l to r) Jeff Mueller, President; Gaute Sandberg, Treasurer and John Lund Secretary. (Missing from this photo is Eivind Heiberg, vice president).

BOTTOM ~ The NACC Upper Midwest Chapter has active student participation in chapter events as evidenced by (l to r) Kenneth Ragli of Oslo who is currently majoring in Business Management at Augsburg College and Jason Loewen of the University of Minnesota.



Repair Equipment from 10,000 Miles Away

TANDBERG® has introduced FieldView™, a high-resolution mobile video system that enables remote workers to visually collaborate and troubleshoot field issues with centrally-located experts.

FieldView, a wireless hand-held device, transmits detailed video streams to remote experts who communicate in real-time with the onsite worker. Many industries stand ready to benefit from this type of mobile visual communication solution:

- Manufacturing workers onsite can visually share and illustrate equipment malfunctions with remote experts.
- Construction workers can immediately address a site's structural problems with engineers at headquarters.
- Oil and gas platform workers can walk through repair procedures with a vendor onshore.

Read more at TANDBERG

Continued Strong Growth in Norwegian Economy

For the third successive year, the mainland gross domestic product (GDP) rose by more than 4 per cent in 2006. There was growth in most industries, and especially private service and manufacturing industries contributed to the increase. This entailed a growth in employees of more than 72 000 persons in 2006.

The GDP for mainland Norway rose at a steady pace in the four quarters of 2006. From the third to the fourth quarter, the GDP for mainland Norway grew by 1.2 per cent. Financial services and manufacturing industries were the driving force behind this development.

Total GDP for Norway increased by 2.9 per cent in 2006. Compared with 2005, both oil and gas extraction and ocean transport had a lower production in 2006. In the case of oil and gas extraction, this decrease was caused by some oil platforms that were partly out of operation in 2006.

View full report with tables at [Statistics Norway](#)

Moody's Upgrades Nordea to Aaa

As part of the planned application of its joint default analysis (JDA) methodology and its updated bank financial strength rating (BFSR) methodology, Moody's Investors Service today (26 February 2007) upgraded Nordea Bank AB, Nordea Bank Finland plc, Nordea Bank Norge ASA and Nordea Bank Danmark A/S long-term ratings to Aaa from Aa3.

"The upgrade from Moody's is a recognition of Nordea's strong financial position and we are now one of the highest rated banks in the Nordic region. This will give Nordea access to a broader funding base which will have a positive impact on our funding costs.", says Arne Liljedahl, CFO in Nordea. [Nordea](#)



Photo by Arild Strømmen/Royal Norwegian Embassy.

Foreign Minister Visits the US and Canada

Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre arrived Monday, 26 February on an official visit to Ottawa, for talks with Canadian Foreign Minister Peter McKay. Mr. Gahr Støre was also to meet Minister for Foreign Trade, David Emerson, the President of Parliament, Peter Miliken and other politicians.

Mr. Støre was also to participate in a roundtable conference -- *Norway and Canada's efforts for Peace and Reconciliation* -- at Carleton University.

On Tuesday Mr. Støre began a US visit, where a packed schedule included meetings with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Security Adviser Stephen Hadley, US Trade Representative Susan Schwab, Senator Richard Lugar, Congressman Charles Rangel and other politicians.

He was also scheduled to deliver a lecture at Georgetown University,

entitled "Meeting Energy Demands and Security Needs – a Transatlantic Perspective."

On Wednesday, Mr. Støre spoke at Harvard. Read his remarks here: [Speech at Harvard](#)

Mr. Støre continued on Thursday with a keynote speech for a luncheon seminar at the MIT Faculty Club in Cambridge.

The aim of the seminar, arranged by Innovation Norway in cooperation with the Norwegian Embassy, was to highlight and strengthen collaboration between academia and industry in Massachusetts and Norway. Particular attention was given to the on-going MIT collaboration with The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and the Norwegian oil and gas industry. *Press Release/NorwayPost*

SAS Closes Sale of Holding in SAS Flight Academy

SAS Group announced on February 12, 2007 that an agreement has been entered to sell all of its shares in Flight Academy AB to STAR Capital Partners.

The transaction has been closed as planned on February 20, 2007. The shares were sold for a total amount of MSEK 750. The capital gain amounts to approximately MSEK 380.

The transaction amount and positive effect on net debt for the SAS Group amount to MSEK 750.

SAS has entered into a service agreement with Flight Academy regarding continued aviation training.

Read more SAS news and watch for special offers at [flysas.com](#)

OSG to Acquire Heidmar Lightering

Overseas Shipholding Group, Inc. (NYSE:OSG) has entered into an agreement in principle to acquire the Heidmar Lightering business from Heidmar Inc., a subsidiary of Morgan Stanley Capital Group Inc. The operation, a fleet of four International Flag Aframax tankers and two U.S. Flag workboats, provides crude oil lightering services to refiners, oil companies and trading companies primarily in the U.S. Gulf. The business manages a portfolio of one-to-three year fixed rate cargo contracts. Under the agreement, OSG will acquire the lightering fleet, which is time chartered-in to one of Heidmar Inc.'s subsidiaries, including a 50% residual interest in two specialized lightering Aframax tankers. The agreement is subject to certain conditions, including entering into definitive documentation. [OSG](#)

New Contract for Kleven Maritime

Kleven Maritimes yard, Myklebust Verft AS in Sande has signed a contract with Aries Offshore AS, to build a platform supply vessel. The type VS 470 MK II is designed by Vik-Sandvik, Fitar. The length is 73,4 meters, breadth is 16,6 meters and the speed is calculated to be 14,5 knots. The accommodation is arranged for up to 34 persons.

"We welcome a new customer and look forward to a fruitful cooperation," says managing director Per Kristian Furø at Myklebust Verft. Aries Offshore Services (former S. Ugelstad Rederi AS) was taken over by new owners two weeks ago.

The contract value is NOK 186 million and delivery will take place in September 2008. Myklebust Verft AS now has 10 vessels in order, at a contract value of NOK 1,9 billion. In addition Myklebust Verft is going to outfit three vessels for Kleven Verft, at a value of NOK 1,4 billion. [MarineNorway](#)

Norwegians Invest in Plains, Ga. Biodiesel Plant



From left to right: Wayne Johnson President, Alterra Bioenergy Corporation; David Garriga, Sumter County Chamber of Commerce; Haakon Korsgaard, Chairman, Olympia Holding; President Jimmy Carter, Mrs. Roselynn Carter; Christian Langaard, Chairman, Euro-Latin Capital; Jill Stuckey, Ga. Director of Alternative Fuels; Boze Godwin, Plains City (Photo: Business Wire)

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Carter welcome new bio-energy plant

At a February 20 groundbreaking ceremony just six blocks from his home, former President Jimmy Carter helped to announce that Alterra Bioenergy Corporation, a biofuel producer and distributor, will build its next plant in his hometown of Plains, Georgia.

"The development of alternative, environmentally responsible energy sources has been a passion of mine since I became a public servant," President Carter said. "The production of alternative fuels, such as biodiesel, is a very important step toward energy independence while at the same time being less harmful to the environment and supporting local farmers."

The new plant's location will place it at the epicenter of the oil seed production belt for the eastern United States. The plant will be producing biodiesel fuel from regional soybean, peanut, and cotton crops, as well as creating a market for a new area winter crop – rapeseed, the source of canola oil.

President Carter stated that he is looking forward to making his family farm crop production available for the purpose of producing biofuels.

Norwegian investors join in groundbreaking ceremony

Also participating in the groundbreaking ceremony were Alterra Bioenergy investors, Haakon Korsgaard and Christian Langaard.

"Norway has always been quite forward-thinking about the environment, and we're thrilled to invest in an American company that has the same mindset," said Christian Langaard.

Haakon Korsgaard set forth that "Bioenergy is all about our future and our children's future. Biodiesel will significantly benefit the environment, reducing dependency on foreign oil and creating jobs in the farming sector. Without a doubt, biofuels are the best choice for our environment."

The plant is expected to be in production by November 2007 and will provide approximately 25 jobs to the region. [Alterra Bioenergy](#)

Statoil Cutting Carbon Emissions with Pemex

Statoil and the Mexican state oil company Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex) have signed a deal to reduce carbon emissions from the Tres Hermanos oil field in Mexico.

The onshore field lies in the Tampico-Misantla basin on Mexico's east coast. Oil has been produced here for over 100 years. Now Statoil's Norwegian continental shelf (NCS) experience is being transferred to the Mexican oil field.

The aim is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by two million tonnes of carbon equivalent from the Tres Hermanos field by 2018 through reduced flaring.

Statoil has world-leading expertise "Operations with strict environmental and emissions requirements on the NCS make Statoil world-leading in this area," says Per Øivind Johansen, who heads business development based on the Kyoto Protocol in the Technology & Projects (T&P) business area. "This is expertise we want to use elsewhere in the world."

Statoil is hoping that the Tres Hermanos project will receive

United Nations approval according to the clean development mechanism (CDM) in the Kyoto Protocol.

The CDM initiative gives a country the option of investing in emission-reducing measures in another country. The investor country can then use the emissions reduction from such projects to fulfill its own Kyoto commitments.

The deal with Pemex involves Statoil purchasing carbon quotas for future emission reductions from Tres Hermanos.

Instead of burning gas that is produced together with oil, gas will be separated into methane and natural gas liquids (ethane, propane and butane). These products are sold in the market. This is possible since Statoil pays for the emissions certificates that are issued. Pemex thereby gets a new source of income. "The project is an important contributor to Statoil and Norway meeting its emissions targets," says Mr. Johansen.

Statoil and Pemex are now working with similar emission-reducing projects. [Statoil](#)

Business Booming at Wilh. Wilhelmsen

The Wilh. Wilhelmsen ASA (WW) industrial maritime group delivered a record performance in 2006. A sales gain of roughly USD 83 million for the Dockwise heavy transport company made a strong contribution to results for both the fourth quarter and the full year.

"We're gaining the benefits of operating more rationally and efficiently as well as exploiting synergies between the companies in the WW group," says Ingar Skaug, group CEO at WW. "Good market conditions are also contributing to our expansion. High fleet utilization and good cargo availability characterized 2006."

WW's net operating profit for the fourth quarter of 2006 came to USD 165 million, compared with USD 67 million in the same period of

2005. Total operating income was USD 683 million, up from USD 608 million the year before. Profit before taxes came to USD 130 million, compared with USD 21million.

Net operating profit for 2006 was USD 368 million, compared with USD 232 million the year before, while total operating income rose from USD 2.2 billion to USD 2.5 billion. Profit before taxes was USD 268 million, compared with USD 209 million for 2005.

An active role will be maintained by WW and its partners in the newbuilding sector in order to maintain their market shares and renew the fleet. They are due to take delivery of 44 new car carriers from February 2007 until 2011. Eight of these will be for WW.

[Wilh. Wilhelmsen Group](#)

Oil Boom for Finnmark County

Business association Petro Arctic expects massive investments in the Hammerfest region after Hydro's recent petroleum find in the area.

The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD) confirmed on February 28 that Hydro had found oil and gas in the so-called Nucula drilling 45 kilometers north of the North Cape.

Local interests have now begun to calculate what a new oil project in the area can mean, financial daily *Dagens Næringsliv* reports.

Potential investment in four Barents Sea regional projects could reach NOK 100 billion

Petro Arctic, formerly the Snøhvit business association, estimates - on the basis of information from operators - that the potential investment in the Barents Sea region on four different projects could reach NOK 100 billion (USD 16.3 billion).

Besides the development of the Nucula find, there is the development of the nearby Goliath field find, the development of the oil zone in the Snøhvit gas field and the redoubling of the gas production capacity of Snøhvit.

[E24 / Aftenposten English Web Desk](#)

For an excellent overview of developments in the Arctic ...

Read the informed and insightful statement of Norway and Russia, as members of the Arctic Council, in the recent issue of News of Norway.

The Arctic Council, comprising Norway, USA, Canada, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Russia, is a forum for cooperation on the whole range of sustainable development issues, from the economy and the environment to meeting the social needs of people living in the North. Russia handed over the chair to Norway at the Ministerial session in Salekhard in October 2006. [News of Norway](#)

Plans for a Scandinavian Center in Southern Florida

The Norwegian Seamen's Church in Miami has started fundraising for a church - a Scandinavian center - in southern Florida. The fundraising committee plans to raise two million dollars. The Seamen's Church has been a home for Scandinavians in Florida for 130 years without having a place of its own. Last year marked 25 years lease in the Port of Miami.

"This is the right time for the Seamen's Church to build a church of its own in the tourist and shipping state of Florida. Our vision for the new church is that people coming there experience the "good homecoming", and that the church and its staff help people define themselves as part of the Christian fellowship", Secretary General of The Seamen's Church Kjell-Bertel Nyland says.

The fundraising committee is headed by Olaf L. Halvorsen in close cooperation with Honorary Consul General in Miami Trond S. Jensen and chairman of the Church's Council Arild Kirkeby.

"Scandinavians living here and friends and associates all over the world sympathize with the cause. We appreciate all donations, small or large. Any amount can be sent directly to our bank account 0037 0239 9054", Honorary Consul General Trond S. Jensen says. Donors may also send a check to:

Norwegian Seamen's Church/
Scandinavian Center, c/o 7280 SW
138th St, Palmetto Bay, FL
33158-1200.

The Norwegian Consulate General in Houston provides consular services in Florida in cooperation with the honorary consul general in Miami and honorary consuls in Tampa, Jacksonville and Pensacola. During his recent visit to Miami, Consul General Svein Holst Andreassen gave his full support to the fundraising activity. "A new Scandinavian center in the Fort Lauderdale area will be a great gathering place for all Scandinavians in southern Florida. Norwegian consulates all over the world work in close cooperation with The Seamen's Church and we appreciate that cooperation very much", Consul General Holst Andreassen says.

Danish Minister of Culture Mr. Brian Mikkelsen has also given his strong support to a Scandinavian Center in southern Florida. "It will give South Florida Scandinavians an opportunity to develop their cultural ties with their homeland and to strengthen their relations to fellow Scandinavians. It is encouraging that this idea has been fostered by the Norwegian Seamen's Church for the benefit of all Scandinavians", Mr. Mikkelsen says. [News of Norway](#)

BW Offshore and APL Arendal to join forces

The Boards of Directors of APL ASA in Arendal and BW Offshore Limited have agreed to recommend to their shareholders a combination of the two companies, creating a major force in the global FPSO market with a strong platform for future growth.

The new company will have a strong market position, bringing together leading track records and project execution capabilities with a strong technology edge. As an example, in the promising growth area of the Gulf of Mexico, APL's turret technology and BW Offshore's recent track record in developing the first FPSO for the region will create a winning team for future projects there.

"By combining forces, we are creating a strong international FPSO company with a very capable Norwegian-based management that is well positioned to capture the growth opportunity we see in the market. The winners in the booming FPSO market will be those who can demonstrate a strong track record, execution capacity and a technological edge. We are very enthusiastic about what our two companies can become by joining forces," say William A. Smith and Andreas Sohmen-Pao, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of APL and BW Offshore respectively, in a joint statement.

For practical purposes, BW Offshore will be the acquiring entity. The combination will be executed as a voluntary offer in which APL shareholders are offered a choice between cash settlement based on a price of NOK 85.00 per APL share or 3.0249 BW Offshore shares per APL share. The offer will in aggregate be limited to maximum 40 percent cash settlement. This means that if cash settlement is chosen for more than 40 percent of the accepted shares, a pro rata adjustment will be made so that the settlement in sum consists of 40 percent cash and 60 percent BW Offshore shares. [MarineNorway](#)

US Military Orders Kongsberg Weapons Control System

Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace has received an order



valued at approximately MNOK 300 from the US Army for the delivery of the Protector weapons control system.

The principle underlying Kongsberg's weapons control system Protector is that a soldier can operate an exterior weapon from inside an armored personnel carrier, thus

remaining protected from enemy fire. Kongsberg has also received



an order worth approximately MNOK 110 for upgrades of previously delivered Protector weapons control systems to the US Army. [Kongsberg](#)

On Skis Towards The North Pole

Norwegian adventurer and grandmother Liv Arnesen (53) will make a new attempt at reaching the North Pole on skis, this time from Canada. In early March, Arnesen and her companion Ann Bancroft from the US will begin the 900 km trek from Ward Hunt Island to the North Pole. They will use an estimated 80 days on the trip, and will each pull 130 kilos of supplies on their sleighs.

Two years ago the two attempted to reach the North Pole, but that time from Russian shores. That expedition had to be aborted, after Russian authorities reportedly refused permission for a helicopter to fly vital supplies to the expedition, and the two had to be brought out of the ice.

"Already then I decided I was not going to give up," Arnesen says to *Aftenposten*. "I have to reach the North Pole before the ice melts!"

Recipients of the NACC Achievement Award



In 2001 Liv Arnesen and Ann Bancroft were presented with the NACC Achievement Award in recognition and admiration of becoming the first women to cross the Antarctic landmass, achieving the longest ski trek ever by women. (*Aftenposten/Norway Post*) naccusa.org



Odin Gives Way to Government.no

The Norwegian government website has been thoroughly remade and improved to make it easier to find relevant government information. In mid February, Minister of Government administration and reform, Ms Heide Grande Røys, officially buried the old web portal *Odin.no* and opened the new portal *Regjeringen.no*.

Our aim is to make this a meeting place for the government, the different ministries and an active and knowledge-seeking population, the minister proclaimed. She promised that the new web portal is based on new technology, far better accessibility and a structure adjusted to meet the interests and terms of the public.

In searching for government information, you will no longer be met initially by a long list of parliament proposals and other complicated government documents. The documents appearing on

your search list will to a much larger extent be based on relevance. The front pages are going to be more informative, the news priorities better and it will be easier to find the right background information.

For the first time, all ministries will have front pages in the Sami language in addition to the two official Norwegian languages Bokmål and Nynorsk, as well as English. All basic information will be available in each language. Consideration is made for the special needs of the visually impaired and dyslectics. Synthetic speech is available in Bokmål and Norwegian as well as in English.

It is my hope and belief that this reconditioning of our web portal will contribute to the strengthening of the democratic process, by enabling easier access for everyone to documents upon which political decisions and current political discussions are based, Ms Grande Røys says. Government.no

Academy Award to Norwegian Toril Kove

She now lives in Canada, but Toril Kove had a long list of people in Norway to thank as she grasped the first Oscar won by a Norwegian since Thor Heyerdahl's *Kon Tiki* snatched the award for best documentary in 1952.

It was the second time Kove had been nominated for one of the prestigious Academy Awards, and she won for her direction of a short animated film called "The Danish Poet" ("Den danske dikteren").

The film is about a Danish poet who gets a bad case of writer's block and travels to Norway to seek inspiration from his idol, the Nobel Prize-winning author Sigrid Undset.

"I want to thank the National Film Board of Canada and all the supporters in Norway for helping us make this film," Kove said in her acceptance speech. High on her list of those she wanted to thank was the Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann,

who narrated the film. "It was really amazing of her to participate in this," Kove said.

She thanked the Academy "for this wonderful award, it's such an honor," and for the Academy's continuing support for the animated short category.

Kove is originally from Hamar, but has been living in Montreal. She was also nominated for an Oscar in 2000 for another short film, "My Grandmother Ironed the King's Shirts."

"The Danish Poet" premiered at the Berlin Film Festival last February and has since won several other international prizes. It was produced by Lise Fearnley of the Norwegian company Mikrofilm AS, in cooperation with the National Film Board of Canada. Aftenposten

