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PRESS RELEASE

THE 25TH MEETING OF THE PORT STATE CONTROL COMMITTEE OF THE TOKYO MOU HELD IN QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

Queenstown, New Zealand – Representatives of the Port State Control Committee, the governing body under the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo MOU), met in Queenstown, New Zealand, from 10 to 13 November 2014 for its Twenty-Fifth meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Abdul Samad Bin Shaik Osman, Principal Assistant Director, Maritime Industry Control Division, Marine Department Malaysia. Mr. David Ledson, Chairman, Maritime New Zealand Board, made a welcome speech and officially declared the opening of the meeting. Mr. Ledson stressed the vital role of port State control for promotion of safer shipping and cleaner seas. Mr. Ledson praised the great achievement and success of the Tokyo MOU during the past twenty years. Furthermore, he highlighted the vision, mission and commitment of the Tokyo MOU. Lastly, he reassured the full cooperation and continuous contribution from New Zealand to the Tokyo MOU.

The Tokyo MOU was concluded in December 1993 and came into operation in April 1994. At present, the Tokyo MOU consists of 19 member Authorities: Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Fiji, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. Peru adheres to the Tokyo MOU as co-operating member Authority. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Macao (China), the Solomon Islands, the United States Coast Guard, the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization and the Secretariats of the Paris, the Indian Ocean and the Black Sea Memoranda of Understanding on Port State Control and the Viña del Mar Agreement are associated with the Tokyo MOU as observers. This twenty-fifth meeting of the Port State Control Committee was attended by the member Authorities of Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam; co-operating member Authority of Peru; and observers of Macao (China), the United States Coast Guard, the Black Sea MOU, the Indian Ocean MOU and the Viña del Mar Agreement. The member Authority of Fiji and observers of the DPR Korea, the Solomon Islands, the Paris MOU, ILO and IMO were unable to attend.

The 25th Committee meeting was preceded by the eighth meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) from 6 to 7 November 2014. The TWG meeting discussed matters relating to PSC technical procedures and guidelines, the Concentrated Inspection Campaigns;

information system and information exchange, evaluation of work done by intersessional technical groups and technical co-operation activities.

The Committee considered the applications for observer status by the Kingdom of Tonga and the Riyadh MOU. In accordance with provision of the Memorandum, the Committee agreed unanimously to accept the Kingdom of Tonga and the Riyadh MOU as the observers.

The Committee noted that the new inspection regime (NIR) has been implemented from 1 January 2014 successfully. The Committee received a preliminary analysis on ship risk profile data for the first eight months of implementation of the NIR. The Committee instructed the intersessional group on NIR to continue the analysis over a longer period. The Committee was informed that the measures against under-performing ships were correct and effective as both the number of under-performing ships published each month and the number of individual ships involved each year were decreased notably.

Taking into consideration that the inspection report should be available onboard ships for two years, the Committee approved a new procedure/time window for verification of rectification of deficiencies for a period of twenty-four months. During the two-year period, all deficiencies that have not been closed are subject to be verified by PSC officers in the region. This procedure will be implemented from 1 January 2015.

The Committee considered the final report of the CIC on Propulsion and Auxiliary Machinery 2013 and approved it. The Committee approved the arrangements for the CIC on Crew Familiarization for Enclosed Space Entry that will be carried out from 1 September to 30 November 2015 with the Paris MOU jointly. The Committee also considered the preliminary arrangements and preparations for CICs in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Port State Control Committee will be held in Malaysia in October 2015.

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