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PRESS RELEASE

TOKYO MOU AGREED TO INCLUDE THE BWM CONVENTION AS A RELEVANT INSTRUMENT AT ITS 27th PSC COMMITTEE MEETING IN AUSTRALIA

Hobart, Australia – The Port State Control Committee, the governing body under the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo MOU*), held its Twenty-Seventh meeting in Hobart, Australia, from 17 to 20 October 2016. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Carlos Fanta, Rear Admiral (retired), Head of Port State Control Division, Directorate of Maritime Safety, Security and Operation, Directorate General of the Maritime Territory and Merchant Marine (DIRECTEMAR) of Chile. The meeting was officially opened by Mr. Stuart Richey, Chairman, Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). In his opening speech, Mr. Richey commended the successful conclusion of the Tokyo MOU and the great achievement made by the Tokyo MOU during the past two decades. Then, he stressed the more and more important role for PSC and the increased scope for PSC. Finally, he enlightened PSC in Australia and the AMSA PSC inspection programme.



Attendance of the meeting

The twenty-seventh meeting of the Port State Control Committee was attended by the member Authorities of Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong (China), Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam; co-operating member Authority of Panama; and observers of Macao (China), the United States Coast Guard, the Black Sea MOU, the Indian Ocean MOU, the Paris MOU and the Viña del Mar Agreement. The member Authorities of Fiji, Indonesia and observers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, the Riyadh MOU, ILO and IMO were unable to attend.

Prior to the Committee meeting, the tenth meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) was convened from 13 to 14 October 2016. The TWG meeting discussed matters relating to PSC technical procedures and guidelines, the Concentrated Inspection Campaigns, information system and information exchange, evaluation of works done by intersessional technical groups and technical co-operation activities.

Decisions of the Committee

Minding that the International Convention for "the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM)" will enter into force on 8 September 2017, the Committee adopted the amendments to the Memorandum for inclusion of the BWM as a relevant instrument. Moreover, for providing necessary guidance on BWM for PSC officers in the region, the Committee established an intersessional group to develop the guidelines for PSCOs on BWM in an appropriate time.

The Committee considered the application for observer status by Samoa. The Committee unanimously agreed to accept Samoa as an observer of the Tokyo MOU in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Memorandum. The Committee considered and approved the planned updates of the PSC Manual. The Committee approved the amendments to the guidelines for PSC officers on Maritime Labour Convention relating to the 2014 Amendments to the Convention. The Committee further approved the new guidelines on CLC 92.

The Committee considered and approved the final report of the CIC in 2015 on Crew Familiarization for Enclosed Space Entry. The Committee received an interim report on the CIC in 2016 on Cargo Securing Arrangements, which is running underway. The Committee confirmed and approved arrangements for the CIC in 2017 on Safety of Navigation, including ECDIS, which will be done jointly with the Paris MOU. The Committee considered and accepted the proposal by the Paris MOU for a joint CIC on MARPOL Annex VI in 2018. Furthermore, the Committee considered and approved amendments to the Policy on joint CICs, which are also harmonized with the Paris MOU.

The Committee noted with satisfaction of effective and successful implementation of the technical co-operation programmes and expressed its appreciation to Authorities for support and co-operation, to the Secretariat for organization and co-ordination of the technical co-operation activities and to the Nippon Foundation for kindly providing the funds.

The Committee was informed of the preparation and progress made for the Third Joint Ministerial Conference of the Paris and Tokyo Memoranda on Port State Control. The

conference will be held in Vancouver, Canada, from 3 to 4 May 2017.

Having served as the Deputy Secretary and the Secretary of the Tokyo MOU Secretariat each for eleven years, Mr. Mitsutoyo Okada resigned from the post at this meeting. The Committee approved the appointment of Mr. Hideo Kubota as the Secretary of the Tokyo MOU Secretariat. The Committee expressed sincere appreciation to Mr. Okada for tremendous contributions to the activities of the MOU since its inception and most excellent guidance and direction to the work of the Secretariat.

Date and place of the next Committee

The twenty-eighth meeting of the Port State Control Committee will be held in the Russian Federation in September 2017.

24 October 2016

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Notes to editors:

* Tokyo MOU was concluded in December 1993 and came into operation in April 1994. At present, Tokyo MOU consists of 20 member Authorities: Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Fiji, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. Panama adheres to the Tokyo MOU as co-operating member Authority. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Macao (China), Samoa (*accepted at the current meeting*), the Solomon Islands, Tonga, the United States Coast Guard, the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization and the Secretariats of the Paris, the Indian Ocean, the Black Sea and the Riyadh Memoranda of Understanding on Port State Control and the Viña del Mar Agreement are associated with the Tokyo MOU as observers.

The Secretariat of the Memorandum is located in Tokyo, Japan. The PSC database system, the Asia-Pacific Computerized Information System (APCIS), was established. The APCIS center is located in Moscow, under the auspices of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation.

Port State Control is a check on visiting foreign ships to verify their compliance with international rules on safety, security, marine environment protection and seafarers living and working conditions. It is a means of enforcing compliance in cases where the owner and flag State have failed in their responsibility to implement or ensure compliance. The port State can require defects to be put right, and detain the ship for this purpose if necessary. It is therefore also a port State's defense against visiting substandard shipping.