



TOKYO MOU SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

TOKYO MOU CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY DURING ITS 29TH COMMITTEE MEETING IN HANGZHOU, CHINA

Hangzhou, China – 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 29th meeting in Hangzhou, China, from 5 to 8 November 2018.

The 29th meeting of the Committee 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. Xu Ruqing, Director General, Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) of China. In his opening speech, Mr. Xu first welcomed all delegates to Hangzhou and congratulated the Tokyo MOU on its 25th anniversary. Mr. Xu further commended the Tokyo MOU on its great success and significant achievements during the past 25 years. He stressed the active role played and remarkable efforts made by China MSA to the activities of the Tokyo MOU. Finally, he reaffirmed the continuous co-operation and support from China MSA to the Tokyo MOU.



Attendance of the meeting

The 29th meeting of the Port State Control Committee was attended by the member Authorities of Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Fiji, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam; a co-operating member Authority of Panama; and observers of Macao (China), the United States Coast Guard, the Black Sea MOU, the Caribbean MOU, the Indian Ocean MOU, the Paris MoU, the Riyadh MOU, the Viña del Mar Agreement and ILO. The member Authorities of Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines and observers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and IMO were unable to attend.

Prior to the Committee meeting, the 12th meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) was convened from 1 to 2 November 2018. The TWG meeting discussed matters relating to PSC technical procedures and guidelines, the Concentrated Inspection Campaigns, the information system and information exchange, evaluation of works done by intersessional technical groups and technical co-operation activities.

Decisions of the Committee

The Port State Control Committee celebrated its 25th anniversary of the Tokyo MOU, since signature of the Memorandum on 1 December, 1993 in Tokyo. The Committee noted the significant achievements and ongoing development of activities of the Tokyo MOU during the past 25 years and reaffirmed its commitment to future advancement. The Committee expressed the deepest appreciation to the Nippon Foundation for its generous and continuous support to the Tokyo MOU technical co-operation activities. The Committee recognized the most valuable contribution made by Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation and expressed sincere gratitude.

Anticipating the new maximum limits of Sulphur in ships fuel oil from 1 January, 2020, the Committee, noting the Paris MoU approach, agreed to the use of a "Letter of Warning" from 1 January 2019 to encourage timely compliance with Regulation 14 of MARPOL Annex VI.

The Committee considered the application for co-operating member status by Mexico and the application for observer status by the Abuja MOU. In accordance with provision of the Memorandum, the Committee unanimously agreed to accept Mexico as a co-operating member Authority. The Committee also agreed to accept the Abuja MOU as an observer of the Tokyo MOU.

The Committee reviewed and agreed on the follow-up actions relating to harmonization of PSC and safety of cargoes emanating from the Ministerial Declaration, "Safeguard Responsible and Sustainable Shipping" adopted at the Third Joint Ministerial Conference of the Paris and Tokyo Memoranda on Port State Control, held in Vancouver, Canada, from 3 to 4 May 2017. As part of this response, the Committee agreed to an education programme for the shipment of bulk cargoes and development of guidelines.

The Committee considered and approved the final report of the CIC in 2017 on Safety of Navigation. This report will be available on Tokyo MOU web-site in the near future. The Committee also considered and approved the general arrangements and preparations for the

joint CIC with the Paris MoU on Emergency Systems and Procedures to be carried out in 2019. The Committee considered possible topics for future CICs and agreed to accept the proposal by the Paris MoU for carrying out a CIC on Stability in General in 2020. The Committee further considered and approved the amendments to the policy on joint CIC, which is harmonized with that of the Paris MoU.

The Committee noted with satisfaction effective and successful implementation of the technical co-operation programmes. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Authorities for their 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 elected Mr. Alex Schultz-Altmann, Manager, Ship Inspection and Registration, Ship Safety Division, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, as the Chair and Mr. Kenny Crawford, Deputy Director, Maritime Systems Assurance, Maritime New Zealand, as the Vice-Chair of the Committee for the next three meetings.

The Committee acknowledged the excellent efforts of the on-going Chair, Mr. Carlos Fanta, and wished him well for the future.

Date and place of the next Committee

The 30th meeting of the Port State Control Committee will be held in Majuro, the Marshall Islands from 14 to 17 October 2019.

12 November 2018

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Notes to editors:

* Tokyo MOU was signed 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. Mexico (*accepted at the current meeting*) and Panama adheres to the Tokyo MOU as co-operating member Authorities. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Macao (China), Samoa, 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, the Riyadh, the Caribbean and the Abuja (*accepted at the current meeting*) 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 (PSC) 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 and PSC is the second defense for ensuring safety, security, marine environment protection and seafarers living and working conditions.