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PRESS RELEASE

30th Anniversary of the Tokyo MOU

The Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo MOU) celebrated its 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Memorandum and published the commemorative booklet '30 years of Tokyo MOU' which has been uploaded on the website of the Tokyo MOU.

The Memorandum was adopted in Tokyo, Japan on 1 December 1993 by 18 maritime Authorities in the Asia-Pacific region. The representatives from ILO, IMO and Paris MoU also signed as Witness to the signatures. The Memorandum came into operation with 11 Authorities in 1994. Since then, the number of member Authorities has doubled. On Monday, 31 October, Mexico was accepted as the 22nd member Authority of the Tokyo MOU. As for the number of inspections per year, it has increased by four times for 30 years. On the other hand, the detention rate has gradually decreased over the years which proves the effectiveness of the Memorandum. During the 30 years, 'Casualty rate', which is the number of casualties per number of ships call on ports in Asia-Pacific region, has also steadily decreased and shows the correlation with the detention rate. Over all these years, the Tokyo MOU has proven to be of great value in eliminating substandard shipping in the region.

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Notes to editors:

* The Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Asia-Pacific Region, known as the Tokyo MOU, was signed among eighteen maritime Authorities in the region on 1 December 1993 and came into operation on 1 April 1994. At present, Tokyo MOU consists of 22 member Authorities: Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Fiji, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mexico (obtained full membership on 30 October 2023), New Zealand, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Macao (China), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, the United States Coast Guard, the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization and the Secretariats of the Abuja, the Black Sea, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, the Paris 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 (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.