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PRESS RELEASE

Tokyo MOU welcomes Mexico as its 22nd Full Member at the 30th Anniversary of the Tokyo MOU - 34th Meeting of the Port State Control Committee

Yokohama, Japan – 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 Yokohama, Japan, from 30 October to 2 November 2023 for its 34th annual meeting.

The 34th meeting of the Committee was chaired by Mr. Kenny Crawford, Deputy Chief Executive Technical Advice and Support, Maritime New Zealand. The meeting was officially opened by Mr. Kokuba Konosuke, State Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan. Mr. Kokuba first warmly welcomed all delegates to Yokohama and appreciated the opportunity for Japan to host the Committee meeting in the memorable year of the thirtieth anniversary of the Tokyo MOU. Mr. Kokuba also congratulated and commended the great progress and achievements made by the Tokyo MOU. Furthermore, he stressed the important role of port State control and reaffirmed the commitment of Japan to make continuous contribution and full



The 34th Port State Control Committee



cooperation for the Tokyo MOU activities. Finally, Mr. Kokuba wished the success of the meeting and an enjoyable stay in Japan for all delegates.

Attendance of the meeting

The 34th meeting of the Port State Control Committee was attended by all 21 member Authorities of Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Fiji, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam; a co-operating member Authority of Mexico; and observers of Cambodia, Macao (China), Samoa, Solomon Islands, the United States Coast Guard, the Black Sea MOU, the Indian Ocean MOU, the Mediterranean MoU, the Paris MoU, the Riyadh MOU, the Viña del Mar Agreement, ILO and IMO. The observers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Tonga, the Abuja MOU and the Caribbean MOU were unable to attend.

Prior to the Committee meeting, the 17th meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) was convened on 26 and 27 October 2023. The TWG meeting discussed matters relating to PSC technical procedures and guidelines, the Concentrated Inspection Campaigns, the information system and information exchange, evaluation of work done by intersessional technical groups and technical cooperation activities.

Decisions of the Committee

Upon successful completion of the term for a Co-operating Member Authority, Mexico applied for full membership of the Tokyo MOU. The Committee considered the application by Mexico and the report of a fact-finding mission to Mexico, which confirmed full compliance with the qualitative membership criteria by Mexico. In accordance with provision of the Memorandum, the Committee agreed unanimously to accept Mexico as the 22nd member Authority of the Tokyo MOU.

The Committee celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Tokyo MOU. Taking the opportunity of the 30th Anniversary, the Committee decided to send a letter of appreciation signed officially under the name of the Chair of the Committee and the Secretary to Dr. Sasakawa Yohei, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation for his continuous understanding and support to the activities of the Tokyo MOU.

The Committee considered and adopted amendments to the strategic plan, strategic directions and plan of actions for empowering the Tokyo MOU to meet the new challenges and difficult situations proactively and effectively. The Committee considered and approved the new framework to improve the process consideration and review of the follow-up actions emanating from the 3rd Joint Ministerial Declaration of the Paris and Tokyo Memoranda on Port State Control.

The Committee was informed of the deactivation of the interim measures relating to the COVID-19 pandemic upon the announcement by WHO for downgrading the COVID-19 pandemic from the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The Committee noted that the PSC activities in the region are almost returned to normal, while on the other hand, the

Committee noted an increase in detention rate after the pandemic which may be due to insufficient maintenance of ships during the pandemic. The Committee agreed to continue to monitor and analyze the relevant PSC data in order to evaluate the extended impact and after-effect from the pandemic.

The Committee considered and adopted the guidelines for PSC under the IGC Code and the amendments and revisions of several existing guidelines. The Committee established a new intersessional group with the task to oversee the proactive review and update of procedures and guidelines based on the development and amendments of the relevant instruments.

The Committee considered and approved the report on the Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on STCW in 2022. The Committee was also informed of the status of the joint CIC with the Paris MoU on Fire Safety in 2023. The Committee discussed and approved in principle the arrangement for the joint CIC on Crew Wages and Seafarer Employment Agreement under MLC in 2024.

The Committee was informed that all technical cooperation programmes (i.e. seminars, training courses, expert missions and PSCO exchanges) were resumed in physical style as before. The Committee noted with satisfaction the successful organization of the technical cooperation activities since the last meeting. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Authorities for their support and cooperation, the Secretariat for organization and coordination of the technical cooperation activities and to the Nippon Foundation for its continuous support to the technical cooperation activities.

Date and place of the next Committee

The 35th meeting of the Port State Control Committee is tentatively scheduled to be held in Republic of Korea from 11 to 14 November 2024.

7 November 2023

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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 at the current meeting), 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.