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PRESS RELEASE

TOKYO MOU HELD THE 33RD PORT STATE CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING IN LIMA, PERU, WITH HYBRID PARTICIPATION

Lima, Peru – 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 33rd meeting in Lima, Peru, from 14 to 17 November 2022 in hybrid mode with physical and remote participation.

The 33rd 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 Vice Admiral Cesar Ernesto Colunge Pinto, Director General, General Directorate of Captaincies and Coast Guards. Vice Admiral Colunge welcomed all delegates to Peru and highlighted that the meeting in Peru was originally planned to be held in September 2021, which was later postponed by one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and is finally realized now in the hybrid mode. Vice Admiral Colunge commended the great success and significant achievements by the Tokyo MOU under the leadership of the Port State Control Committee and the actions and measures taken by the Tokyo MOU to combat the impact of the COVID-19 circumstances. Vice Admiral Colunge further confirmed the continuous cooperation and support from Peruvian Authority to the Tokyo MOU. In closing, he wished success of the Committee meeting.



Attendance of the meeting

The 33rd meeting of the Port State Control Committee was attended by 20 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 and Viet Nam; a co-operating member Authority of Mexico; and observers of Cambodia, Macao (China), Samoa, Tonga, the United States Coast Guard, the Black Sea MOU, the Indian Ocean MOU, the Paris MoU, the Viña del Mar Agreement (represented by Chile), ILO and IMO. The member Authority of Vanuatu, observers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Solomon Islands, the Abuja MOU, the Caribbean MOU and the Riyadh MOU were unable to attend.

Prior to the Committee meeting, the 16th meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) from 10 to 11 November 2022 was also convened with hybrid participation. 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 co-operation activities.

Decisions of the Committee

The Committee agreed unanimously to accept the Mediterranean MOU as an observer of the Tokyo MOU. For facilitating Tokyo MOU in playing a more active role among regional PSC regimes, the Committee approved the proposal for obtaining observer status at the Abuja MOU, the Black Sea MOU and the Mediterranean MOU. The Committee considered and agreed to the arrangement for Mexico to apply for full membership taking into account of its satisfactory progress during the 4 years activities as Co-operating Member Authority.

The Committee considered and adopted amendments to the Memorandum to include the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (Bunkers 2001) as a relevant instrument under the Tokyo MOU. The amendment will take effect on 1 January 2024.

The Committee considered and adopted PSC guidelines for inspection of fixed fire-extinguishing system, guidelines for the use of electronic certificates and the guidelines for PSCOs for onboard blackout test, as well as amendments to other guidelines.

The Committee decided to consider amendments to the strategic plan and actions for addressing new challenges and relevant countermeasures. The Committee was informed of the progress on preparation and development of arrangements for carrying out PSC on fishing vessels made by the intersessional group on fishing vessel.

The Committee considered and approved the report on the CIC on Stability in General in 2021. The Committee noted the smooth proceeding in the joint CIC with the Paris MoU on STCW in 2022. The Committee confirmed the arrangement for the joint CIC on Fire Safety in 2023. The Committee further considered preparations for the joint CIC on Crew Wages and Seafarer Employment Agreement under MLC in 2024 and on BWM in 2025.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the increase of technical cooperation activities (i.e. seminars, training courses and expert missions). 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 34th meeting of the Port State Control Committee is tentatively scheduled to be held in Japan from 30 October to 2 November 2023.

21 November 2022

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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 21 member Authorities: 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. Mexico adheres to the Tokyo MOU as a co-operating member Authority. 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 (accepted at the current meeting), 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.