



## JAPANESE SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

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### **Comments by Junichiro Ikeda, President, the Japanese Shipowners' Association (JSA) concerning Japan-Bangladesh Summit Meeting held in Tokyo on 26 April**

I would like to extend my profound gratitude and welcome to the fruitful result of the Summit Meeting on 26 April that Prime Minister Kishida expressed his expectation on the accession to the HKC (Hong Kong Convention on Ship Recycling) by Bangladesh at its earliest opportunity and Prime Minister Hasina expressed her intention to make efforts for the early accession to the HKC in 2023. I also heartily welcome the fact that Prime Minister Kishida showed his positive attitude for Japan's support to the development of a TSDF (Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility) in Bangladesh, taking into account Bangladesh's need, and the conclusion of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan and the Ministry of Industries of Bangladesh on the same date to clearly reinforce the accomplishment in the Summit Meeting. I sincerely appreciate the efforts by government officials in both countries to bring such a remarkable result. The JSA firmly believes that the fruits of this Summit will strongly encourage the soonest ratification of the HKC this year by Bangladesh, which had previously announced its intention to do so. We have longed for the early entry into force of the HKC.

The international maritime industry is now accelerating the shift to higher environmental performance ships such as alternative-fuelled vessels, with the utmost efforts towards "GHG net zero". To achieve this goal, it is indispensable for old vessels with lower performance to exit in an appropriate and timely manner. We then believe that the rapid expansion of the ability of the environmentally friendly ship yards in multiple countries such as Bangladesh, world's current top ship recycling nation in volume, in addition to India, which has already ratified the convention, is necessary through the early entry into force of the HKC. The JSA earnestly requests the governments of Japan and Bangladesh to further cooperate towards the same goal.

The JSA in April 2022 requested Mr Saito, Japanese Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism concerning government assistance in the environmental improvement programme in the Bangladeshi ship recycling industry in order to foster its early ratification of the HKC. We greatly appreciate his understanding and support. We will continue to encourage shipowners in Japan and around the world to use the HKC-certified recycling yards. In May 2023, the JSA, headed by Mr Keiji Tomoda, Vice President, will send a government and private sector delegation to Bangladesh to observe local yards and to motivate local concerned parties, both government and private, to develop green yards there and to ratify the HKC very soon.

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