



JAPANESE SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

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25 May 2023

JSA Delegation to Bangladesh – To Encourage Green Ship Recycling 18 to 22 May 2023

*Confirmed Bangladeshi policy to conclude HKC (Hong Kong Convention) early this year
and
Recognised raised awareness by local yard owners towards upgrading themselves*

The Japanese Shipowners' Association (JSA) sent its delegation to Bangladesh from 18 to 22 May. The delegation was headed by Mr Keiji Tomoda, Vice President, and comprised 4 four JSA member companies ("K" Line, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, NS United Kaiun and NYK Line), the Maritime Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, ClassNK and experts. For the JSA, it was its third visit to Bangladesh.

In Dhaka, the delegation met H.E. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, Minister for Industries; H.E. Kamal Ahmed Mojumder, State Minister; Ms Zakia Sultana, Secretary to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; H.E. Kiminori Iwama, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh; H.E. Espen Rikter-Svendsen, Ambassador of Norway to Bangladesh; and Mr Tomohide Ichiguchi, Chief Representative of the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) Bangladesh Office. Mr Tomoda presented the JSA's footprint to date towards the early entry into effect of the HKC, including our lobbying to major ship recycling nations and ship registering nations, and urged the utmost importance of Bangladeshi ratification, which is the key to HKC's entry into force, and their acceleration in yard upgrading works.

At the meeting with the Ministry of Industries, both government representatives reconfirmed the importance of cooperation in ship recycling based on the Joint Statement of the Japan-Bangladesh Summit Meeting held in Tokyo on 26 April 2023 and the Cooperative Memorandum on Ship Recycling, concluded on that occasion. The Bangladeshi side replied that they intended to conclude their domestic procedures for the HKC ratification by next month at the earliest. They also requested Japan's earliest support concerning the TSDF (Treatment Storage Disposal Facility) project.

The delegation also went to Chittogram (Chittagong), which is a well-known ship recycling base in Bangladesh, participated in a dialogue meeting with the BSBRA (Bangladesh Ship Breakers and Recyclers Association) and visited six recycling yards there. Mr Tomoda repeated his arguments that the ratification by Bangladesh, which was the number-one country in ship recycling, would

enable the HKC to enter into force, thus surely contributing to the environmental conservation of the world and leading to mutual benefits for shipowners and recyclers. His arguments were well received there.

It was perceived that local ship recyclers had deepened their awareness on the significance of the ratification of the HKC and management of yards, which satisfies the treaty requirements, and many recyclers had shown their serious attitude to listen to shipowners' suggestions and to swiftly react to them. The delegation felt steady steps had been made by local recyclers, especially those who owned multiple yards, towards upgrading works. In the meantime, the local recyclers also urged the Japanese side to financially support the TSDF project and to increase the number of vessels to be released in Bangladesh. In addition, they explained their problem in financing to upgrade their facilities.

Concerning our "Challenge to Net Zero by 2050", Mr Tomoda expressed the JSA's expectations on the rapid expansion of the HKC SoC yards in Bangladesh in order to receive old vessels which were replaced by new green vessels, and promised to recommend our members and international colleagues to use such yards as part of our effort to secure sufficient HKC-compliant yards in multiple countries. The delegation observed the current situation at the sites regarding labour safety and environmental protection and suggested to the recyclers that "attainment in safety and reliability" would be the key to be a selected yard, which was well received.

The JSA will continue to hold regular dialogues with ship recyclers in parallel to intergovernmental meetings in order to encourage the earliest ratification by Bangladesh and the expansion of the HKC-compliant yards. We will also deepen the official and private cooperation with Norway in order to widen the circle, involving international shipping organisations to support the effort by Bangladesh.



Meeting with DOI: From the front, 8th person clockwise is Minister Humayun (grey jacket, white shirt without tie)



Meeting with Norwegian Ambassador: Front row, from the left, 3rd person, Mr Tomoda (JSA/with light red tie), Ambassador Rikter-Svendsen, Mr Yoshida (MLIT/with light grey tie)



PHP Yard



SN Yard