



JAPANESE SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

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27 June 2023

Comments by Junichiro Ikeda, President of the JSA concerning the decisive step to entry into force of the Hong Kong Convention

I would like to heartily welcome the fulfilment of the requirements for entry into force of the HKC by the deposits by Bangladesh and Liberia this week.

I would like to express my deepest respect for the tremendous efforts exerted by both countries, as well as the already ratified countries such as India and Panama, and to appreciate the understanding and cooperation by the Japanese government in enabling this achievement, especially by encouraging ratification by Bangladesh through the Japan-Bangladesh Summit Meeting in April 2023 and other channels.

Two years remain until the entry into force and the JSA will have continued its utmost efforts to encourage the contracting states such as Bangladesh and India to swiftly expand the HKC-compliant yards in order to meet the accelerating demand for the recycling of older vessels, replaced by newer greener vessels. We will also continue to recommend to our members and fellow associations to ensure a priority usage of the HKC-compliant yards. To the Japanese government, we will keep calling for public support of the recycling countries, including the development of a TSDF (Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility).

Considering the future after the entry into force, the JSA will continue its regular dialogues with the local stakeholders to ensure the effectiveness of the HKC and a further step forward, aligning technical and social developments. We will devote ourselves to move towards a more excellent circular economy, by obtaining close cooperation with the stakeholders in Japan and all over the world who have run with us to date towards the HKC. The JSA, aiming to respect the effective implementation of the HKC and to ensure safe and environmentally sound ship recycling globally, would also appreciate continued support by the Japanese government, as extensive discussions concerning the consistency with the Basel Convention and EU-SRR will presumably begin before long.

<Background Information and developments to date>

By the deposits to the IMO by Bangladesh and Liberia, the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC) has now met the stipulated

requirements for entry into force and will become effective on 26 June 2025.

*The HKC was adopted at the IMO in 2009 and since then, major ship register countries such as Panama, major ship recycling countries such as India and, of course, Japan have ratified the convention. The Japanese Shipowners' Association (JSA) has vigorously encouraged these countries to accede to the convention to foster safe and green ship recycling. As of the beginning of this month, it was generally observed that the ratification by another major ship recycling country **and** another major ship register country enabled the convention to fulfil the requirements for entry into force.*

The JSA has actively participated in concerned discussions at the IMO and engaged in technical support projects in the recycling countries. We have also played a leading role in the international shipping associations such as the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA) towards the entry into force of the HKC and stayed vocal at the various international seminars for this sake. In addition, the JSA has sent more than 10 delegations to India, China and Bangladesh, major ship recycling nations in Asia, to verify the situation for improvements in each yard and to enhance local authorities' and local yards' understanding on the importance in upgrading their facilities and operations. At the discussions with such local stakeholders, we have repeatedly conveyed our standing policy to recommend the usage of the HKC-compliant yards to our members so as to gain their momentum to improve the yards, then to ratify the convention. In most recent case, a Japanese public and private delegation headed by Keiji Tomoda, Vice President of the JSA visited Dhaka and Chattogram in May 2023 and paved the final way for the ratification of Bangladesh.

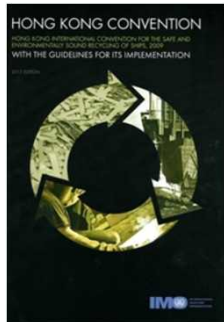
(Attachment – JSA's footprint to date)

Footprint of the JSA

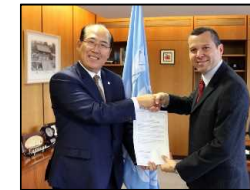
2009



HKC adopted in 2009



2003-2020: JSA visits to China & India (9 times in total)



2016: Panama's Ratification



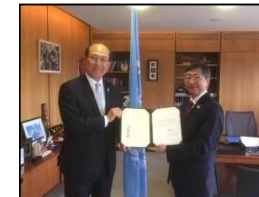
2020: Joined a Seminar hosted by TradeWinds



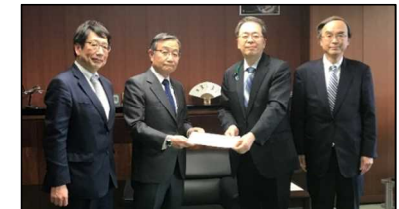
2010: Demolition Experiment in Japan



2018: JSA was invited to an IMO SENSREC Project Meeting in Bangladesh



2019: Japan's Ratification



2022: Handed a letter to Minister, MLIT, calling for support to Bangladesh



2015: First HKC SoC by ClassNK



2019 & 2023: JSA Visits to Bangladesh



2019: India's Ratification



2023: Meeting with Minister, Ministry of Industry, Bangladesh

2023