

# ASA SPC

ASA Shipping Policy Committee

c/o Japanese Shipowners' Association  
Kaiun-Building, 6-4 Hirakawa-cho 2-chome  
Chiyoda-ku Tokyo Japan 102-8603  
E-mail : int@jsanet.or.jp  
Tel:+81-3-3264-7180 Fax:+81-3-5226-9166



---

31 March 2021, Tokyo

## MEETING SUMMARY

of

the 33rd Interim Meeting of the Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA)  
Shipping Policy Committee (SPC)

The 33rd Interim Meeting of ASA SPC was held online on 31 March 2021 due to precautionary measures against COVID-19. The meeting was participated in by 31 delegates from ASA member associations of ASEAN, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan and Korea, as per the participants list attached. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10:30 am JST. ASA SPC members were reminded of the importance of full compliance with all applicable competition laws throughout the entire programme and the meeting was conducted with counsel present, as in previous meetings.

The outline of the meeting is as follows:

Before starting the discussion, with regard to the incident of M/V Ever Given in the Suez Canal, which was successfully refloated on 29 March, Mr Takashi Nakashima, Chairman of ASA SPC expressed his profound gratitude to the Suez Canal Authority and all those who had tirelessly worked for the difficult restoration within a week and hoped that the operation of one of the world's most critical waterways would be normalised very soon.

### **1. Ongoing impact of COVID-19 on Shipping Industry**

Various impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as an unexpected surge in demand in the container volume and the ongoing crew change crisis, were discussed. Delegates noted concerns expressed by governments, shipper groups, and others regarding the global congestion issues that have occurred during the pandemic period. Delegates expressed their determination to work with other supply chain stakeholders and continue to make their respective best efforts to mitigate the current supply chain congestion observed in the container trade. As for the crew issue, the Committee noted that although the number has been halved from the worst period last year, 200,000 seafarers were still affected by the crew change crisis, and welcomed the joint call by the UN agencies such as IMO, ILO and WHO issued on 25 March to prioritise seafarers for COVID-19 vaccination.

## **2. Developments of International Maritime Policy**

Broad policy issues such as recent developments in the WTO, protectionist measures taken by Indonesia, the US, and potentially Russia, and the modification of the Panama Canal's booking system were discussed. Delegates reaffirmed the critical importance of the resumption of full maritime negotiations under the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services in order to cope with any protectionist developments, especially at a time when the introduction of a new protectionist policy might be sought in the name of a response to COVID-19. In this connection, Mr Helio Vicente, Senior Advisor (Policy) of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), introduced the ICS Study on Protectionism in Maritime Economics\* published in February 2021, and its conclusion that all countries gain from the reduction of maritime protectionism regardless of their level of economic development was strongly endorsed by Delegates.

With regard to the hike of booking fees and other charges at the Panama Canal, which are to be implemented on 15 April, the Committee urged that the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) provide a longer prior notice period and concrete reasons for the fee increase. These actions were absolutely necessary so that carriers could obtain understanding and a sense of reliability from shippers. Moreover, a further dialogue with the ACP was called for.

\* Please see the following website concerning the detail:

<https://www.ics-shipping.org/current-issue/protectionism-in-maritime-economies-study/>

## **3. Anti-trust Immunity and US Maritime Regulation**

The latest developments concerning the review of the current anti-trust immunity system in a number of jurisdictions including Australia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, and Singapore were reported by Mr Jeffrey Lawrence, Chair of Transportation and Trade at Cozen O'Connor and the SPC's legal counsel. Delegates reconfirmed ASA's long-standing policy that the anti-trust immunity system for cooperative carrier shipping agreements was indispensable for the healthy development of the liner shipping industry and the maintenance of a reliable service to the entire trading community. The Committee commended ASA for its active support of industry efforts to maintain anti-trust exemptions for liner shipping agreements and urged continued activity in this regard.

Mr Lawrence also made a presentation on developments regarding US maritime regulations under the new Biden administration and Delegates agreed to keep watching the developing situation.

## **4. Anti-Corruption Issue**

Ms Cecilia Müller Torbrand, Executive Director of the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) delivered a special lecture concerning the activities of MACN, including its incident reporting system. Delegates greatly appreciated her first-time participation in the SPC meeting and echoed MACN's activities to eliminate all forms of maritime corruption which had long been obstacles to fair trade for shipping companies. It was decided that the SPC would keep this issue as a standing item at the SPC.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 13:00.

\* \* \*

The ASA Shipping Policy Committee (SPC) is a forum for the members of ASA associations to discuss maritime policy issues such as regulation, taxation, trade policy, customs, canals, infrastructure and the macro economy, and policy public relations.

# ASA SPC

## ASA Shipping Policy Committee

c/o Japanese Shipowners' Association  
Kaiun-Building, 6-4 Hirakawa-cho 2-chome  
Chiyoda-ku Tokyo Japan 102-8603  
E-mail : int@jsanet.or.jp  
Tel:+81-3-3264-7180 Fax:+81-3-5226-9166



---

31 March 2021

The 33rd Interim Meeting of  
the ASA Shipping Policy Committee (SPC)  
via Online on 31 March 2021

### Participants List

#### CHAIRMAN

##### < Japanese Shipowners' Association >

Mr Takashi Nakashima Vice President, Japanese Shipowners' Association

#### MEMBERS

##### < Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Association >

###### < FASA-Indonesia >

Mr Djoni Sutji (Vice Chairman, FASA-Indonesia,  
President Director, PT Indonesia Bulk Carrier)

###### < FASA-Malaysia >

Mr James Ong Khoon Seng (EXCO, Liner Services Representative, AML Shipping Sdn Bhd)  
Mr Adam Azman (FASA- Malaysia)

###### < FASA-Singapore >

Ms Katie Men (Vice President, FASA- Singapore,  
Managing Director, Iseaco Investment Pte Ltd)

###### < FASA-Thailand >

Mr Chanet Phenjati (President, Jutha Maritime Public Co., Ltd.)

###### < Hong Kong Shipowners Association >

Mr Kenny Ye (Chief Operating Officer, Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.)  
Captain Gautam Ramaswamy (Regulatory Affairs Director, Hong Kong Shipowners Association)

**< Japanese Shipowners' Association >**

Mr Keiji Tomoda (Associate Director, Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd.)  
Mr Daisuke Fujihashi (Project Manager, Corporate Planning Division,  
Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.)  
Mr Hiroki Harada (Director, Senior Managing Executive Officer,  
Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha)  
Mr Yoshinari Goto (Deputy General Manager, Corporate Planning Group,  
Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha)

**< Korea Shipowners' Association >**

Mr Jin Ki Park (Chief Container Business Officer / Senior Executive Vice President,  
HMM)  
Mr Kyong Hoon KIM (General Manager, Korea Shipowners' Association)

**< National Association of Chinese Shipowners >**

Mr Y.I. Chang (Chairman, Evergreen Marine Corp.)  
Mr Patrick Tu (President & COO, Yang Ming Marine Transport Corp.)  
Mr C. K. Ong (President, U-Ming Marine Transport Corp.)  
Mr Randy Chen (Vice-Chairman, Wan Hai Lines Ltd.)

**< Associate Member >**

Mr Olivier Straub (Chief Government Affairs Officer, MSC)  
Ms Charmaine Uson (Sales Executive, Waypoint Port Services)

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Ms Cecilia Müller Torbrand (Executive Director, Maritime Anti-Corruption Network)

**ICS SECRETARIAT**

Mr Helio Vicente (Senior Adviser (Policy), International Chamber of Shipping)

**ASA SECRETARIAT**

Mr Yuichi Sonoda (Secretary General, Asian Shipowners' Association)  
Mr Dylan Ow (Technical Manager, Asian Shipowners' Association)

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

Mr Jeffrey Lawrence (Attorney, Cozen O'Connor)

**OBSERVER**

Mr Kenneth Chia (Managing Director, Asia, World Shipping Council)  
Mr Mun Wei Jun (Senior Manager, World Shipping Council)  
Ms Ang Shi En (Senior Executive, World Shipping Council)

**SECRETARIAT**

Mr Masayuki Ito (General Manager, Planning Division, Japanese Shipowners' Association)  
Mr Hiroyuki Yamagami (Deputy General Manager, Planning Division, Japanese Shipowners'  
Association)  
Ms Moe Murakami (Planning Division, Japanese Shipowners' Association)

-----