

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



18 November 2025, Hong Kong

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release 39th Interim Meeting ASA Shipping Policy Committee (SPC)

Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA) held the 39th Interim Meeting of Shipping Policy Committee (SPC) in Hong Kong on 18 November during Hong Kong Maritime Week. Around 30 participants mainly from ASEAN, China, Cook Islands, Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea joined the meeting in person or online.

Following the last meeting in Jakarta in May 2025, SPC members reiterated that it is important to support the principles of free trade, fair competition and market access amid intensified global economic conflicts, the rise of protectionism and unilateralism.

Given that the unfair imposition of port fees would significantly increase transportation costs for vessels trading to the countries concerned, thereby raising inflation and ultimately burdening consumers in the countries, Capt. Masanori Kato, Chair of the SPC, stated, *"it is essential that Asian shipowners continue to encourage governments to uphold a free and fair competitive shipping market and to maintain a rules-based global framework that ensures a level playing field."*

For details on its meeting summary and the SPC Statements adopted, please refer to:

- ANNEX A: Meeting Summary of the 39th Interim Meeting of the Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA) Shipping Policy Committee (SPC)

- ANNEX B: Attendance List



Pictures:
SPC delegates attending the 39th Interim Meeting in person

For media enquiries, kindly contact:

Dylan Ow

Senior Manager

Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA)

Tel : [\(+65\) 6325 4737](tel:+6563254737)

Email : information@asa.org.sg Website

: www.asianshipowners.org

Editor's Note:

The ASA is a voluntary organisation of the shipowners' associations from ASEAN, China, Cook Islands, Hong Kong, Japan and Korea, representing around 50% of the world merchant fleet.*

**The Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations (FASA) consists of associations from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.*

The ASA provides a major platform for Asian shipowners to build consensus on issues of concern to both the Asian and global maritime industries, which is also crucial to world trade, its supply chains and the prosperity of major Asian trading partners.

Between ASA AGM meetings, the ongoing work is carried out by five Standing

Committees:

The Seafarers Committee (SC), the Ship Insurance and Liability Committee (SILC), the Safe Navigation and Environment Committee (SNEC), the Shipping Policy Committee (SPC), and the Ship Recycling Committee (SRC).

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



ANNEX A

18 November 2025, Hong Kong

MEETING SUMMARY

39th Interim Meeting of the Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA) Shipping Policy Committee (SPC)

The 39th Interim Meeting of the ASA SPC was held in Hong Kong on 18 November 2025. The meeting was chaired by Capt. Masanori Kato, Vice President of the Japanese Shipowners' Association, and attended by 20 delegates from ASA member associations of ASEAN, China, the Cook Islands, Hong Kong, Japan, and Korea, as well as 12 observers and guests from ASA Associate Members and related organizations, as listed in the attached attendance sheet.

As in previous meetings, the ASA SPC members reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring full compliance with all applicable competition laws throughout the entire programme, under the diligent guidance of their legal counsel. The meeting summary is as follows:

1. Maritime Issues in the United States

SPC members reiterated that it is important to support the principles of free trade, fair competition, and market access amid intensified global economic conflicts and the rise of protectionism and unilateralism, noting the presentation by the World Shipping Council (WSC) on recent regulatory and legislative developments in the United States, including the USTR Section 301 investigation, the Executive Order titled "Restoring America's Maritime Dominance," and the SHIPS for America Act.

While understanding the initiatives to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the global maritime sector through expansion of U.S. shipbuilding capacity and also welcoming the recent decision to suspend port fees for one year, SPC members reaffirmed that it was essential to continue encouraging the U.S. government to work together with stakeholders to develop solutions that strengthen U.S. shipbuilding and maritime sectors in line with the above principles. This is particularly important given that imposing port fees could significantly increase transportation costs for vessels trading to the United States, raising inflation and ultimately burdening U.S. consumers.

2. Decarbonization of Shipping and Future Insight

Despite the recent decision to postpone the adoption of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Net-Zero Framework (NZF) for at least 12 months, the industry's position remains unchanged: global environmental regulation is essential to accelerate green investment and support the maritime sector's efforts to achieve net-zero GHG emissions by or around 2050. Amid the prolonged uncertainty surrounding future global regulations, SPC members took note with interest of the presentation delivered by Mr Simon Bennett, Deputy Secretary General of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), regarding possible scenarios. In addition, it was agreed that, in collaboration with SNEC, it is important to consider what ASA can do to avoid a chaotic patchwork of overlapping regional and national GHG pricing measures, including the risk of multiple charges for the same emissions, which would have significantly adverse impacts on the shipping business.

3. Global Competition Law Developments in Liner Shipping

Mr Robert K. Magovern of Cozen O'Connor, serving as SPC's legal counsel, presented his report on recent developments regarding review of anti-trust immunity system for shipping agreement in jurisdictions such as Hong Kong and Malaysia. Based on ASA's longstanding policy that the systems remain indispensable, despite the expiry of the consortia regulations in the EU and the U.K., for the sound development of the liner shipping industry as well as improvement in scheduling and better-quality services provided to their customers, it was reconfirmed that, SPC, in collaboration with ICS, WSC and local associations, continue to take necessary actions to advocate for necessity in maintaining anti-trust immunity systems around for healthy development of global trade.

4. Canal Developments and ASA's Possible Actions

SPC members took note of the recent developments at both the Panama and Suez Canals, as reported by the Secretariat. In light of the water shortage in Panama and the intensified geopolitical tensions in the Red Sea, the strategic importance of both canals for maintaining the smooth flow of international maritime transport was recognised and the Secretariat was therefore instructed to continue seeking regular communication with both authorities, similar to the dialogue held with the Suez Canal Authority during the 38th SPC Interim Meeting in March 2025, in order to encourage the authorities to provide safe, fair, reliable and predictable transit services for Canal users.

* * *

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



ANNEX B

18 November, Hong Kong

The 39th Interim Meeting of ASA Shipping Policy Committee (SPC) on 18 November 2025

Participants List

*** Online participants**

CHAIRMAN

Capt Masanori Kato Vice President, Japanese Shipowners' Association

MEMBERS

< Chinese Shipowners' Association (CSA) >

Mr Hui Chen*	Executive Deputy Secretary General, CSA
Mr Duo Zhang*	Deputy Secretary General, CSA
Ms Shenzhou Wang*	International Cooperation Department, CSA
Ms Wenxin Zhang*	International Cooperation Department, CSA

< The Cook Islands Ship Owners Association (CISOA) >

Ms Eleanor Keukura Roi	CEO, CISOA
Ms Tahira Viviani	Executive Officer, CISOA

< FASA-Malaysia (MASA) >

Mr Mohd Helmi Zaharudin*	General Manager, MASA
--------------------------	-----------------------

< FASA-Singapore (SSA) >

Ms Caroline Yang	Chief Executive, Hong Lam Marine
Capt Kunal Nakra*	Council Member, SSA
	General Manager for Safety Governance and Performance at Swire Shipping Pte Ltd

< Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA)>

Mr Kenneth Lam	Treasurer, Executive Committee Member, HKSOA
	CEO, SeaKapital
Ms Sandy Chan	Managing Director, HKSOA
Capt Nittin Handa	Director (Regulatory Affairs), HKSOA

< Japanese Shipowners' Association (JSA) >

Mr Atsushi Takenoshita*	Corporate Officer, in charge of Corporate Planning, Research, General Manager of Corporate Planning Group, Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd.
-------------------------	--

Ms Kumiko Iwasa	Member of International Sub-Committee, JSA Project General Manager, Corporate Planning Group, Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd.
Mr Akira Nakajima*	Chair of International Sub-Committee, JSA Senior Lead, Corporate Planning Division, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd
Mr Keiichi Tada*	Executive Secretary to the JSA President Assistant Manager, Corporate Planning Division, NYK Line

< Korea Shipowners' Association (KSA) >

Mr Jung Yub Lee*	Executive Vice President (Head of Container Business Unit), HMM co., Ltd.
------------------	--

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr Brendan Williams	Head of Planning, Special Assistant to EVP, Interasia Lines
Mr Daniel Ng	Reginal Director - APAC, Vanguard-Tech
Mr Paul Lin*	Deputy Managing Director, the Hong Kong Branch, WAN HAI LINES LTD.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Mr Simon Bennett	Deputy Secretary General, International Chamber of Shipping
Mr Sunil Krishnakumar	General Manager Singapore branch, International Chamber of Shipping
Ms Rachel Noronha	Head of Shipping Policy, International Chamber of Shipping
Mr Kenneth Chia	Managing Director Asia, World Shipping Council
Ms Tamekia Flack	Director, US Government Relations, World Shipping Council
Mr Jeremy Greenwood	Director of Cross-Functional Policy, World Shipping Council
Ms Shi En Ang	Senior Manager, World Shipping Council

ASA SECRETARIAT

Ms Eleanor Keukura Roi	Chairperson and Interim Secretary General, ASA
------------------------	--

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr Robert Magovern*	SPC Legal Counsel /Vice-Chair Transportation & Trade, Cozen O'Connor
---------------------	--

SECRETARIAT

Mr Kengo Nakamura	General Manager, Planning Division, JSA
Mr Daijiro Mizushima	Manager, Planning Division, JSA
Mr Hikaru Nagata	Deputy Manager, Planning Division, JSA
