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To: IMO Members
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: Communication received from Japan

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has received the attached information from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan, relating to a seminar on the problem of the global shortage of seafarers and the role of the shipping industry through corporate social responsibility activities, to be held on 11 May 2010 at IMO Headquarters in London.

It would be appreciated if the attached information could be brought to the attention of all delegations attending the eighty-seventh session of the Maritime Safety Committee (12 to 21 May 2010).
SEMINAR ON THE PROBLEM OF THE GLOBAL SHORTAGE OF SEAFARERS
AND THE ROLE OF THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY THROUGH
CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACTIVITIES

1 The growing shortage of seafarers has become an issue of global concern in light of the
recent rapid growth of the maritime industry. It is broadly pointed out that the reason for this
shortfall is that fewer young people are attracted to the seafaring profession and young seafarers
want to move on to shore-based jobs. If this situation continues, the smooth flow of maritime
shipping, which is credited for 90% of the transportation world’s trade, will face a potential crisis.
The negative impact of this situation on the global economy is an issue of major concern.

2 It has become an urgent global matter to consider what governments, the shipping
industry and international organizations should do to secure a sufficient number of young
seafarers to meet the future needs of the shipping industry. In this regard, IMO has already
launched the campaign, called "Go to sea!" as introduced on its website. In particular, in order
for the shipping industry standing at the centre of the problem to secure the necessary quantity
of quality young people who can pursue a lifetime career in the seafaring profession, the
shipping industry as an employment field must become much more attractive and competitive as
compared with other employment fields in the long-term prospect.

3 Therefore it is not enough only to provide allopathic measures such as
education/training and improvement of seafarer’s welfare. The fundamental solution is to
improve the public image and status of the shipping industry by developing a corporate social
responsibility agenda that will attract potential young seafarers to the maritime profession.

4 To provide a forum to address these issues, the Japan International Transport Institute
(JITI) and the Nippon Foundation are organizing a seminar to be held at the IMO Headquarters
on 11 May 2010 under the auspices of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
(MLIT) of Japan and invite delegates to MSC 87 to attend the seminar. The tentative programme
for the seminar is set out below.
PROGRAMME

Date & Time: 11 May 2010, 14:30-20:00 (including time for Reception)
Location: IMO Headquarters, London (Meeting Room 9)
Host: Japan International Transport Institute (JITI) and the Nippon Foundation under the auspices of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan, supported by Round Table of International Shipping Association.

Programme:
14:30 Opening Remarks by Mr Makoto Washizu, President of JITI (5 minutes);
14:35 Special Speech by Mr. Eftihimios Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of IMO, as a Guest of Honour (15 minutes);

Session 1: Prospect for world future Demand/Supply of seafarers and Countermeasures against the Global Shortage of Seafarers (75 minutes)

14:50 Lecture 1: Analysis of world future Demands/Supply of seafarers and potential countermeasures (Mr Makoto WASHIZU, President of JITI) (15 minutes);
15:05 Lecture 2: The expected role of governments in solving the problem (Speaker from a country supplying seafarers) (15 minutes);
15:20 Lecture 3: Introduction of measures taken by the private sector (Speaker nominated by RTISA) (15 minutes);
15:35 Lecture 4: Introduction of the measures taken in the academic field in regards to education and research (Dr. Björn Kjerfve, President of WMU/Head, Academic Program Review Committee (APRC), IAMU) (15 minutes);
15:50 Q&A time (15 minutes);
16:05 Coffee break (15 minutes)

Session 2: How to attract the entrants to shipping Industries through CSR activities? (75 minutes)

16:20 Lecture 5: Importance of CSR activities towards improving the status of Shipping industry focusing on shortage of seafarer (Dr. S. Sakamoto, Professor, Kobe University, Japan) (20 minutes);
16:40 Lecture 6: Introduction of the successful cases of CSR activities (Dr. Robert C. Beckman, Associate Professor, National University of Singapore) (20 minutes);
17:00 Lecture 7: Introduction of an actual experience by shipping industries (Speaker nominated by RTISA) (10 minutes);
17:10 Lecture 8: Introduction of the strategy on CSR by shipping industries (Speaker nominated by RTISA) (10 minutes);
17:20 Q&A time (15 minutes)
17:35 Closing
17:40 Reception