

ASA SPC

ASA Shipping Policy Committee

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ASA
Asian Shipowners' Association

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.

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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.