



***Press Release***

**LETTER TO ASIAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS ON CREW CHANGES IN COVID-19  
TIMES – SAVE OUR SEAFARERS, CALL FOR ACTION**

In response to saving some 400,000 stranded seafarers who needed to be relieved and this number rises with every week that passes, a joint industry submission, coordinated by ASA (co-sponsored by 16 other international associations) was sent to the Philippines authorities to call upon leadership actions.

We acknowledge that all stakeholders in the industry, as well as the IMO, ILO and many countries have been working ceaselessly over the past months to enable crew changes to happen. While we welcome all these actions, we consider it is now time for the immediate involvement of the Heads of States and Governments.



The 30th ASA Chairman, Mr Tadaaki Naito, fully supported this initiative and made his statement, “The current situation is a humanitarian crisis that must be solved to protect seafarers that have been stranded on ships for far too long, we are therefore writing to Asian governments at the highest political level in order to call for urgent action nationally and in partnership with other countries in the world.”

The letter to the Philippines is our first step calling for leadership actions and we will be communicating with other Asian governments for the same aspect. The letter to the Philippines authorities is annexed as reference.

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***Editor's Note:***

*The Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA) is a voluntary organization of the shipowner associations of Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and the Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations comprising shipping associations of ASEAN countries. The aims of the ASA are to promote the interests of Asian shipowners. Between annual ASA 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). It has been estimated that ASA shipowners and managers control and operate around 50% of the world's cargo carrying fleet.*