



Press Release

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

Further to our joint industry submission letter to the Asian government leaders on crew changes in COVID-19 for calling upon leadership actions to saving some 400,000 stranded seafarers that urgently needed to be relieved, ASA coordinated another letter to the Thailand authorities (co-sponsored by 16 other international associations).

The letter was sent separately on the 26 October 2020 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Transport, Marine Department of Thailand and the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) which is the main governing body managing Thailand's COVID-19 response and chaired by the Prime Minister.



The ASA Secretary General, Yuchi Sonoda made his statement, "This is our second letter to Asian Leaders to save our seafarers. We are very much concerned that the interruption to the flow of global trade could have devastating consequences for the recovery phase of COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to the immediate involvement of the Thailand authorities to enable crew changes to happen."

The letters to the Thailand authorities are our follow-up calling for leadership actions and we will be communicating with other Asian governments for the same aspect. The letters to the Thailand authorities are 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.