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Press Release

For immediate release

Asian Shipowners' Association Announces Leadership Transition

The Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA) announces the retirement of Mr Yuichi Sonoda, who has served with distinction as Secretary General and made significant contributions to the Association and the Asian shipping community.



During his tenure, Mr Sonoda played a pivotal role in strengthening ASA's position as the unified voice of Asian shipowners. His leadership steered ASA through an era of transformation marked by challenges in global trade, decarbonization, and maritime regulatory developments. Under his guidance, ASA deepened its collaboration with international bodies such as the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), the Asian Classification Societies (ACS), and the Active Shipbuilding Experts' Federation (ASEF), ensuring that Asian perspectives remain well represented in global maritime discussions.

The ASA expresses its deepest appreciation to Mr Sonoda for his professionalism, tireless efforts, and unwavering commitment to advancing the interests of the Asian maritime industry. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to him for a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement.

The ASA is also pleased to announce that **Mrs Eleanor Keukura Roi, Chairperson of the ASA and Chief Executive Officer of the Cook Islands Ship Owners Association (CISOA)**, will assume the role of **Interim Secretary General** with immediate effect.



Mrs Roi brings with her extensive experience and a strong commitment to regional cooperation, inclusivity, and sustainability in shipping. As ASA's first Chairperson from the Pacific region, she has been a passionate advocate for capacity building and the active participation of emerging maritime nations within Asia. Her appointment as Interim Secretary General ensures continuity in leadership and stability as ASA moves forward with its ongoing initiatives.

The ASA warmly congratulates Mrs Roi on her interim appointment and looks forward to her continued leadership and guidance during this transition period.

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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).
