

The Second Asian Shipowners' Forum: Joint Communiqué

Highest rank delegation, comprising 53 leading figures of world shipping circles, from eleven shipowners' associations in the Asian region such as Japan, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, ASEAN and Korea, under the auspices of Korea Shipowners' Association, ensuing the 1st Forum in Tokyo last year, held the 2nd Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF) and its "Four-S Committees", i.e. Committees on Stabilization of Trade, Seamen, Scrapping and Safe Navigation, on 10th May 1993 in Seoul, Korea, have adopted the following joint communiqué, and have reached an agreement to make efforts on an international basis in putting the communiqué into implementation, reconfirming the friendship and cooperation among shipowners in this region.

1. The delegates of all the member associations have shared views that they should respect the principles of open-endedness and transparency in the shipping industry and that they should realize mutual development and coprosperity and coexistence. To this end they have promised their further efforts to stabilize trade by maintaining a trade route order, to reconstruct the ship-scrapping industry, to secure a stable balance of supply and demand and quality improvement of seamen and to assure safe navigation in the world's trade lanes, including at the Strait of Malacca.

2. The delegates of all the member associations have shared views that the ASF should take the lead and that the Four-S committees should be activated in order to solve these problems. And the delegates have also agreed that they shall not spare their cooperation and support and that the chairman of each committee, as part of action programmes, shall convene his committee meeting at least once before the next Forum to review the progress in detail and to establish counter-measures, if necessary.

3. The plenary and functional committee sessions of the 2nd ASF have reached the following agreements through active discussions:

A. Measures for Stabilization of Trade

(1) All the shipowners in the region shall cooperate mutually in order to eliminate excessive competition.

(2) Liner operators shall positively participate in stabilization of trade efforts, not only the pivotal IADA (Intra-Asia Discussion Agreement) but also various trade stabilization agreements for worldwide services, such as Trans-Pacific and Far East/Europe trades, thereby contributing to the stabilization of trade worldwide as well as regional.

(3) Continuing with our examination of trade stability, we have grave concerns over the position in the European Community, where the integration of a single market is in its final stages and the situation in Australia, particularly with respect to its competition policy.

(4) All the tramp and tanker operators, recognizing that it is most essential to attain balance of ship's demand and supply, shall make their efforts in future to realize this.

B. Measures for activation of the ship-scraping industry

(1) Preventing maritime casualties and protecting marine environment are the world shipping's mission. In this regard all the delegates recognize in particular that it is essential to enhance seaworthiness of vessels by promoting scrapping of sub-standard vessels.

(2) Sharing views that the activation of the ship scrapping industry is indispensable to the recovery of the shipping market, all the delegates shall make positive efforts in order to reconstruct the scrapping industry at proper locations.

(3) Each member association shall make a survey to estimate its scrapping needs for the next 5 years and report them to the chairman of the scrapping committee to promote the ship scrapping industry.

C. Measure for stable balance of supply and demand for seamen and their quality improvement

(1) Each member association shall make mutual cooperation in seamen training and stable balance of their supply and demand in future, as the Asian region encompasses both seamen-power importing and supplying countries.

(2) Each member association shall make positive cooperation in exchanging information and materials to improve quality of seamen and to share officers' skills.

D. Measures for assurance of safe navigation of ships

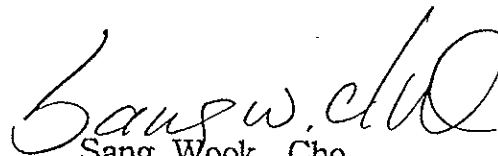
(1) Declaring piracy as a common enemy of human beings, international organizations and governments concerned shall be asked to take various appropriate measures and actions in order to secure safe navigation of ships and to protect marine environment from unforeseen casualties. In this respect, the ASF appreciated considerable improvements made by littoral states such as Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. However, the Forum shall call once again further attention of the governments concerned and IMO to the seriousness of the threat to safe navigation from piracy and submit its forthright document urging them to root out piracy.

(2) In view of the recent successive tanker accidents' not only commercial but also marine-environmental serious consequences, the ASF shall promote elimination of sub-standard vessels and support the comprehensive package for safe navigation to be studied at the IMO.

4. Next Forum

The 3rd ASF shall be held in Beijing, China in May, 1994.

May 10th, 1993



Sang Wook Cho
Chairman

The 2nd Asian Shipowners' Forum

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF THE PART X OF
THE TRADE PRACTICES ACT

The delegates from eleven shipowners' association to the Second Asian Shipowners' Forum,

Having noted that the Australian Government's review of Part X of the Trade Practices Act is a very important matter for the stabilization of rights in the Australian trade,

Recognizing that if shipowners lose the exemptions from anti-trust portions of that Act, it will be a very serious matter for restabilization in the Australian trade,

Recognizing also that community support will be necessary for shipowners to retain those exemptions,

Have agreed as follows;

Resolution No 1

(A) That this Forum accept the suggestion that the Forum make a submission to the Australian Government's review of the Part X of the Trade Practices Act through an appropriate delegation.

That such a submission be drawn up and presented to the Australian Government at an early stage.

(B) That the Chairman of the Forum write to the Australian Government in support of such a submission.

Resolution No 2

That the Asian Shipowners' Forum send delegates to the Maritime Technology Conference in Melbourne in November 1993 to deliver an address explaining the "Four-S" policies of the Forum.

*2nd Asian Shipowners' Forum
10th May 1993 Seoul*