



Asian Shipowners' Forum Ship Recycling Committee

c/o National Association of Chinese Shipowners
Rm. 508, 5th Fl. No. 10
Chung King S. Rd. Sec. 1
Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C
E-mail: nacs@ms39.hinet.net
Tel: +886-2-2311-0239 Fax: +886-2-2311-6924

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Joint Statement

Adopted

at the 9th Interim Meeting of Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF)
Ship Recycling Committee (SRC)

The 9th Interim Meeting of the ASF SRC was held in Taipei on 6 March 2006. The meeting was attended by ten representatives from the ASF member associations of China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong and Japan. The attendance list is attached.

The Committee was hosted by the National Association of Chinese Shipowners and chaired by Dr. Frank F. H. Lu, Chairman of the ASF Ship Recycling Committee.

1. During its intensive discussions of recent developments concerning ship recycling activities, SRC noted that the volume of ships recycled in the last several years was much less than expected, mainly due to the steady shipping market. However, considering factors such as the phase-out of single hull tankers and the age profiles of existing ships, it is assumed that the number of ships to be withdrawn from the market will increase in the near future. The committee, reaffirming the significance of the smooth ship recycling of such obsolete ships, emphasized the necessity of maintaining a sufficient ship recycling capacity in the world.

2. SRC, on the other hand, recognized again the growing concerns of environmental, occupational, health and safety risks related to ship recycling, and reaffirmed the need to promote an environmentally sound ship recycling. With the aim of preventing the

contraction of the world ship recycling capacity, a cautious and prudent step-by-step approach to improve safety and environment levels of the ship recycling industry must be pursued, taking into account particular characteristics of the ship recycling and international shipping industries.

3. Sharing a view that the above-mentioned approach will be achieved by establishing a 'new' legally binding instrument which is globally applicable to the shipping, ship building, ship machinery and ship recycling industries, SRC expressed its fullest support for the work of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) towards the establishment of the International Convention on Ship Recycling. At the fifty-fourth session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 54) of IMO to be convened in March this year, in-depth discussions on the convention will start and fruitful and steady progress of deliberation is expected.

4. The committee confirmed that, Asian shipowners, as some of the leading players in the world shipping industry, will contribute to the substantial development of the ship recycling convention at IMO through their respective governments, cooperating with other stakeholders such as shipbuilders, ship equipment manufacturers and ship recyclers, for the establishment of an effective and practical convention.
