

THE 18TH ASIAN SHIPOWNERS' FORUM

Ship Recycling Committee

Report By
Committee Chairman
Mr. Arnold Wang

Tainan
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The 18th ASF Ship Recycling Committee (SRC) Chairman's Report

The 12th interim meeting of the SRC was held in Taipei, on 30th of March 2009. The meeting was attended by delegates from the ASF member associations of Hong Kong, Japan, Chinese Taipei. The committee was hosted by the National Association of Chinese Shipowners and chaired by MR. Arnold Wang, Chairman of the ASF Ship Recycling Committee. The Committee highlighted the following issues:

International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships

The SRC discussed the recent developments on the draft International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships developed by the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC). The Committee (on 30th of March 2009) noted that, in October 2008, MEPC58 approved the text of the draft convention for circulation with a view to it being adopted at a diplomatic conference which will take place in Hong Kong from 11 to 15 May 2009. The Committee supports the adopted convention to-day and urged IMO Member States to ratify it as soon as possible in order to ensure the early availability of compliant recycling capacity. In this respect, the Committee urged all stakeholders to improve recycling capacity and prepare for the Convention regime during the transitional period.

Environmental Concerns

In line with the downturn in the world economy, the cargo volume in the world maritime trade had drastically reduced. In this connection, shipowners are under pressure to

discard their obsolete and less-efficient vessels for recycling. The SRC noted that there is concern that the ship recycling capacity at environmentally sound facilities could potentially fall short in the near future and recognized that careful consideration would be necessary to maintain efficient, safe and environmentally-friendly ship recycling. In this respect, the Committee urged consideration to refocus excess building capacity into environmentally acceptable recycling facilities.

ISO 30000 Issues

The SRC considered that ISO activities in respect of its 30000 series, which mainly deals with the management, operation, audit and third party certification of recycling facilities, could overlap with the activities of the IMO in connection with the development of its draft convention and the associated guidelines. The SRC noted that a number of governments expressed their concern at the MEPC58 that the ISO 3000 series would duplicate some of the provisions in the draft IMO convention and its associated guidelines, and thus would confuse stakeholders. The Committee therefore considered that the possibility of double standards should be avoided in order to facilitate the efficient operation of ship recycling.

Finally, it was confirmed that Asian shipowners, as the major players in the world shipping industry, will continue to discuss the ways in which shipowners can promote safer and more environmentally sound ship recycling.