July 22, 2025
Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd. ("K" LINE)
Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK Line)
Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL)
The Japanese Shipowners' Association (JSA)

Japanese Shipping Industry Begins Consideration of Donating a New Training Vessel to JMETS

Recognising the critical importance of training and securing highly skilled Japanese seafarers to maintain and further develop maritime transport, which is a vital infrastructure for Japan's economy and daily life, major Japanese ocean-going shipping companies, NYK Line (President: Takaya Soga, Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo), MOL (President: Takeshi Hashimoto, Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo), and "K" LINE (President: Takenori Igarashi, Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo), along with the Japanese Shipowners' Association (JSA) (President: Hitoshi Nagasawa, Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo), have initiated concrete discussions regarding the donation of a large-sized training vessel to the Japan Agency of Maritime Education and Training for Seafarers (JMETS) from the Japanese ocean-going shipping industry.

As identified in the report by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)'s study group on JMETS's medium-term strategy, JMETS has been facing various challenges such as an unstable financial foundation, fewer actual on-board training days due to escalating fuel costs, shortages of instructors and crew, and the issue of accommodating students with varying proficiency levels and qualification goals on the same training vessel. These factors make it challenging for JMETS to provide sufficient on-board training, and additionally JMETS is also facing the issue of aging training vessels and school buildings. Considering these circumstances affecting JMETS, our industry has decided to begin exploring the donation of a large-sized training vessel to actively support the steady progress of JMETS's medium-term reforms based on MLIT's study group report.

The first step will be to examine the concrete specifications for the training vessel and engage in discussions with shipyards, aiming for completion around 2030.

We sincerely hope that JMETS's reforms will progress steadily based on the MLIT study group's report, and that our donation of this training ship will contribute to the healthy and stable development of training and securing highly skilled Japanese seafarers.

Reference:
MLIT Study Group on the Future of JMETS (Japanese only):
https://www.mlit.go.jp/maritime/maritime_fr10_000040.html

Contact:

川崎汽船株式會社
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KAWASAKI KISEN KAISHA, LTD.
Corporate Sustainability, Environment Management, IR and Communication Group

Public Relations Office, Planning Division
The Japanese Shipowners' Association
Email: pub-office@jsanet.or.jp

・ Notes to Editors:

JMETS (Japan Agency of Maritime Education and Training for Seafarers) is Japan's principal institution for seafarer education and training. It operates eight maritime schools and maintains a fleet of five large training vessels nationwide. - https://www.jmets.ac.jp/