

International Initiatives

Second Joint Ministerial Conference of the Paris and Tokyo Memoranda of Understanding on Port State Control



A focus of Transport Canada's Port State Control efforts in 2004 was coordinating and hosting the Second Joint Ministerial Conference, which was held on November 2 and 3 in Vancouver. This international event brought together 150 delegates representing 34 countries and 18 observer countries and marine-related organizations with a vested interest in eliminating sub-standard shipping worldwide.



Group photo of the Heads of Delegation

Under the theme, *Strengthening the Circle of Responsibility*, MOU members from Europe and the Asia-Pacific region gathered to put the finishing touches to a Ministerial Declaration that they would all sign. This document provided the framework for the development and implementation of new standards to promote a wider safety and security culture throughout the entire maritime industry, to protect the global marine environment, and to safeguard crews with respect to their living and working conditions aboard ships.

Also in attendance were representatives from observer countries and observer organizations such as the IMO, the ILO, and the European Commission. In addition, members of a number of other Port State Control regimes participated in the Conference, notably the Black Sea, Caribbean and the Indian Ocean MOUs, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The many parties involved in overseeing maritime activities, including ship owners, flag States, classification societies and port States, form a "Circle of Responsibility". Members of this circle play a major role in enhancing the integrity of the shipping industry and are recognizing, or being pressured to recognize, the need to conduct their business responsibly, to be mutually accountable and to make a joint commitment to minimize any threat to life, property and the marine environment that may result from sub-standard shipping practices. The living and working conditions of seafarers is also of utmost importance and the Ministerial Declaration addressed this issue.



Second Joint Ministerial Conference

During the course of the one-and-a-half day conference, MOU members and observers presented brief statements regarding the importance of Port State Control in their respective countries/organizations. In addition, Marc Grégoire, Assistant Deputy Minister, Safety and Security, made a presentation on the Port State Control regime in Canada, and the chairmen of the Paris and Tokyo MOUs updated the participants on the regimes in their areas of the world.

At the conclusion of the conference, it was agreed that Paris and Tokyo MOU member States would be taking specific steps over the coming years to reach their ultimate objective of eliminating sub-standard vessels:

- Develop and implement an inspection regime based on the new ILO Convention.
- Ensure that single-hulled oil tankers are phased out in the two MOU regions in accordance with international laws and conventions to which members are signatory.
- Conduct further Concentrated Inspection Campaigns.
- Carry out in-depth analysis of ship deficiencies.
- Intensify targeting of high-risk ships. Inspections will be based on a ship's risk profile, with an incentive system being implemented for companies whose ships have a low-risk profile.
- Increase transparency through the publication of detailed information on a regular basis on detained ships, including the names of owners and charterers.
- Enhance regional training programs for Port State Control Officers.
- Increase harmonization between the two MOUs to make sure that precious resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible to concentrate on sub-standard shipping.
- Investigate the feasibility of cost-recovery for the inspection of sub-standard ships that have persistently poor records.



Signing the Ministerial Declaration - DM Louis Ranger (middle) with Richard Schiferli, General Secretary of the Paris MOU Secretariat (left) and Yoshio Sasamura, Secretary of the Tokyo MOU Secretariat (right).