

MAN

In the Name of God,
The Compassionate, the Merciful

Second Expert Meeting on Shipping of D8 Countries

17-18 October 2011 Abuja, Nigeria

Considering the maritime position of the members of D8 and the importance of shipping activities in the transport and commerce of these countries, as well as the special regional characteristics of these States in Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe, Asia and Far East, it is greatly hoped that this commission will be able to achieve its goals through realizing its programs and play a significant role in the development of port and maritime activities and attraction of extensive investments to coastal projects therein. For this purpose, the maritime status of the Islamic Republic of Iran is briefly introduced as follows:

The Islamic Republic of Iran, bordering the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in the south and the Caspian Sea in the north, is located in the Middle East and enjoys a coastline of 5800 kilometers, as well as 90 major and minor commercial ports. The Persian Gulf is known as one of the most important and heavily used sea areas in the world, serving more than 13,000 ocean-going vessels entering via the strategic Strait of Hormuz annually. Each year, more than 7,000 vessels of 1,000 and above call at the Iranian ports.

Shipping is of great importance to Iran's economy and its foreign trade, as more than 91 % of goods bound for import and non-petroleum commodities bound for export, and around 100 percent of oil exports are transported by sea. At present, the Islamic Republic of Iran having the capacity of 137 million tons of commercial ports, has plans under implementation to increase nominal capacity to 200 million tons, container capacity to 7.5 million TEUs in its ports and increase its passenger transportation capacity to 7 million passengers per year. According to UNCTAD's Review of Maritime Transport, 2010, Iranian ports have registered a very fast

growth in recent years, with a yearly growth rate averaging 21 % in the 2000-2008 period.

With respect to its outstanding position in the Middle East as a connection between the countries of Central Asia and Caucasus, and the international high seas, Iran attaches great importance to the trade and transport through its maritime boundaries and close cooperation with the aforementioned States, especially in the field of maritime transportation and facilitation of maritime trade. However, the Caspian Sea has no access to the international high seas, yet it is regarded as a sensitive sea area in terms of maritime safety and protection of the marine environment, due to the broad shipping activities in the area; therefore, Iran is completely committed to the Caspian Sea Environment Program (CEP) and places a high priority upon that.

Being a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 1958, the Islamic Republic of Iran has participated dynamically in its activities and continues to play an active role in the achievement of its objectives. To this end, Iran has acceded to all major conventions and protocols adopted by IMO, including SOLAS, MARPOL, FAL, SAR, STCW, OPRC, CLC, FUND and SUA. Moreover, ratification procedures are underway for other important conventions and protocols. Iran is deeply committed to the implementation of the international rules and regulations, both on board ships under its flag and in the waters under its jurisdiction.

Effective implementation of the requirements of the STCW Convention, 1978 and active participation in 2010 Conference of Parties to the said convention are hallmarks of the Islamic Republic of Iran's activities, so that the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) has evaluated, in July 2010, and has confirmed that Islamic Republic of Iran is giving full and complete effect to the relevant provisions of the STCW Convention.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has played a significant role in the development of the Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (IOMOU), Caspian Sea Environment Program (CEP), Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) and the Global Ballast Water Management Program (GloBallast). Furthermore, Iran by

conclusion of bilateral agreements with other countries has given important consideration to safety and marine environment protection. In this regard, it has signed more than 30 port/maritime cooperation agreements and 40 cases of MOUs on the following subjects: recognition of maritime certificates (21 cases), sister-ship (14 cases) and search and rescue (2 cases) and near-coastal voyages (3 cases). By development of advanced equipment and modern search and rescue facilities, Iran has been able during the past two years, to rescue 1934 persons from the sea and has provided medical services to 340 persons. It has also held four national and regional exercises.

In order to implement the tasks related to FSC and PSC, hundred percent of Iranian-flagged ships are inspected by the FSC officers and as an active member of IOMOU, majority of vessels entering the ports of the country are also inspected. Numbers of foreign ships inspected during the last three years are: 2008 (1271 cases), 2009 (1473 cases), 2010 (1472 cases).

The Islamic Republic of Iran pays special attention to the "human element" and believes that training is necessary for bringing up the qualified manpower and upgrading seafarer's skills. For this purpose, Iran fully supports the activities of the World Maritime University (WMU) and the International Maritime Law Institute and other IMO initiatives in different training projects. Thus, in order to educate well-trained maritime personnel, several Iranian students are dispatched to the WMU each year. So far, about 79 people have graduated from that university and serve as professional in the maritime sector of the country.

Because of the importance of living and working conditions of seafarers at sea for Iran, necessary plans and actions have been taken for accession to the Maritime Labor Convention, 2006, and Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 185. In addition, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been very active in the discussion of fair treatment of seafarers and has submitted some documents to the Legal Committee of the IMO. Also in order to contribute to the realization of IMO goals and honor the human element, and to propagate the maritime culture, in addition to celebrating the World Maritime Day, it has plans to celebrate the "Day of the Seafarer" in June every year.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has an efficient professional and modern maritime administration which attaches great importance to maritime safety, security and marine environment protection. Ports and Maritime Organization administers maritime affairs at national and international level on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the end, this delegation expresses its gratitude to the host of the conference, Nigeria, for its efforts and coordinations in the past year to follow the realization of decisions of the first meeting. We hope that under the assistance lent by the member States of this group, the movement towards the objectives of the commission is expedited and the impacts of these decisions are tangibly observed in the maritime and shipping sector.