



CESS, Committee for Expertise of Shipbuilding Specifics held its annual meeting in Nagoya, Japan on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008 where the member associations, Japan, Europe, China, Korea and U.S.A. gathered and discussed key issues surrounding the global shipbuilding industry.

The discussion was focused on the review of its activities in the past year, what activities will be expected in the year ahead and the current IMO related topics and exchanged views to seek further cooperation in voicing common opinion on those important issues.

The attendants agreed that the activities in the past year contributed to strengthening of its recognition within the maritime sector and that there is a further need to intensify its activities to seek further contribution to the safety and environmental rule making by appealing to the related industries for practical solutions using the expertise of the shipbuilding industry. The member associations contributed with ideas that may further improve and make the CESS activities livelier, and further exchange of views will continue beyond this annual meeting to come to a solution that will achieve such objective.

The intellectual property rights issue was discussed where it was the common recognition of the the member associations was that it is necessary to promote the awareness to related industries of the various opportunities of exposure to unwarranted release of proprietary information being faced by the shipbuilding industry.

The Port State Control activities both in Paris and Tokyo MOU were reviewed, and while the general observation was that the port state control inspection activities were steadily being made as seen in other years, the attendants noticed that the number of defects and detentions were on the increase in the past few years, and the

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attendants thought it worthwhile to bring this to the attention of the shipowners that the ships are being busily used and that such way of usage may lead to such observation of increased detentions and deficiencies. Further observations were that those ships operating under poor conditions are repeated offenders of the MOU, as was found also last year, there are less number of shipyard related detentions showing that the quality of newbuilding ships are improving indicating that the shipowners' responsibility of proper maintenance and upkeep of the ships need to be more targeted, and the role of classification societies need to be looked into in the future.

CESS member associations agreed to support the continuation of the activities and the Chairman was encouraged to report the results of this meeting to JECKU Top Executive Meeting scheduled to take place in Miyazaki, Japan on 5-7 November 2008.

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