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Circular Letter No.3823  
6 March 2018

To: All IMO Member States  
United Nations and specialized agencies  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **International Workshop on Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships and  
IMO regulations (Monday, 14 May 2018, at IMO Headquarters, London)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-eighth session (MSC 98) held in June 2017, agreed to include a new agenda item on "Regulatory scoping exercise for the use of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS)" in the agenda for MSC 99, and deliberation on MASS will therefore start at that session, to be held from Wednesday, 16 to Friday, 25 May 2018.

2 In this regard, an "International Workshop on Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships and IMO regulations" has been scheduled to be held on Monday, 14 May 2018, two days before MSC 99, at IMO Headquarters, to progress this important work and facilitate the deliberations under the agenda item. This International Workshop consists of three sessions as follows:

Session 1 – Presentations on R&D of MASS: Each presenter is expected to explain relevant R&D projects and give a view on international regulations and MASS, gained through ongoing projects;

Session 2 – Presentations on regulatory studies: Each presenter is expected to identify issues to be considered in terms of international regulations and MASS, and give views about them; and

Session 3 – Panel discussion: All presenters for sessions 1 and 2 are expected to participate in the panel discussion to deliberate how regulatory issues should be addressed by IMO.

3 The Workshop, organized by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan (MLIT), the National Institute of Maritime, Port and Aviation Technology (MPAT), the National Maritime Research Institute (NMRI) and the Japan Ship Technology Research Association (JSTRA), is scheduled to take place from 1.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. on Monday, 14 May 2018, in the Main Hall of IMO Headquarters, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR. The programme of the workshop is attached. The workshop will be conducted in English only and will be followed by a reception sponsored by JSTRA.

4 Participants are requested to inform the Workshop's Secretariat by Friday, 4 May 2018, of their intended attendance by email to [WS\\_on\\_MASS@nmri.go.jp](mailto:WS_on_MASS@nmri.go.jp), notifying:

- .1 title;
- .2 name;
- .3 position;
- .4 country/organization; and
- .5 email address.

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ANNEX

*International Workshop on*  
**Maritime Autonomous  
Surface Ships and  
IMO regulations**



Monday, 14 May 2018  
From 13:30 to 18:00

**Main Hall, IMO Headquarters, London**



National Maritime  
Research Institute

**Organized by**



Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,  
Transport and Tourism of Japan



Japan Ship Technology  
Research Association

# Programme

**13:00 Registration**

**13:30 Opening address**

**13:35 Keynote speech**

Ms. Heike Deggim  
Director, Maritime Safety Division, IMO

**13:50 Session 1 - R&D on autonomous ships**

Dr. Akihito Hirayama  
Director, Strategic Marketing Division  
Akishima Laboratories (Mitsui Zosen) Inc.

Mr. Carl Magne Rustand  
Business Developer Aftermarket  
Kongsberg Maritime AS

Mr. Bernard Twomey  
Regulatory Development Lead (Marine)  
Rolls-Royce Plc

Dr. Hideyuki Ando  
Senior General Manager, Maritime Technology  
Division, MTI Co., Ltd. (NYK Group)

**15:30 Tea/Coffee break**

**16:00 Session 2 – Regulatory study**

Mr. James Fanshawe CBE  
Chairman, UK Maritime Autonomous Systems  
Regulatory Working Group (MASRWG)

Mr. Per Sønderstrup (SFS)  
Director, Maritime Regulation and Legal  
Affairs, Danish Maritime Authority

Mr. Tomotsugu Noma  
Maritime Bureau  
MLIT

**17:00 Session 3 - Panel discussion**

**Moderator:** Dr. Susumu Ota  
Centre for International Cooperation  
MPAT - NMRI

**Panelist:**  
All presenters in sessions 1 and 2

**17:55 Closing address**

**18:00 Reception sponsored by JSTRA**