



ASIAN SHIPOWNERS' FORUM
SEAFARERS COMMITTEE
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17th Interim meeting of the ASF Seafarers Committee
Manila, 19-20 April 2012

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Stop Piracy and Save our Seafarers

There would almost seem to be an unfortunate acceptance, or perhaps fatigue with the issue, of the fact that seafarers and their families are still being severely affected by the threat and danger of piracy. This is not only in the waters off Somalia, where 13 vessels and 197 seafarers are currently being held hostage¹, but also and increasingly in the waters off Benin and Nigeria.

The Seafarers Committee of the Asian Shipowners Forum, which met today in Manila, the Philippines, once again expressed its strong concern at the continuing threat of piracy attacks on commercial shipping. While thanking the navies in the area for their support and the various Governments for their commitment to the eradication of the threat of piracy, the Committee continued to have deep concern about the effects on seafarers and their families of the traumatic and lasting effects of piracy attacks and long periods being held hostage.

Mr. Li Shanmin, the Chairman of the Seafarers Committee, said “The situation continues to be a serious crisis, one that deeply affects the mental health of seafarers and their families as well as the carriage of world trade. We demand, that the threat to our seafarers and their families is not forgotten, and that all possible is done to alleviate the situation”.

The 17th Interim meeting of the ASF Seafarers Committee was hosted by the Filipino Shipowners Association (FSA), and held in Manila, the Philippines, under the chairmanship of Mr. Li Shanmin, Deputy Managing Director of COSCO Manning Cooperation Inc.. Attending the meeting were the ASF Secretary-General and delegates from the shipowner associations in China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and FASA, as represented by the Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia. During the meeting, the Committee also discussed other issues of concern to Asian shipowners.

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The Asian Shipowners' Forum is a voluntary organization of the shipowner associations of Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea and the Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations comprising shipping associations of ASEAN countries. The aims of the ASF are to promote the interests of the Asian shipowning industries. Between annual ASF meetings, the ongoing work is carried out by the five Standing Committees; the Shipping Economics Review Committee, the Seafarers Committee, the Ship Recycling Committee, the Safe Navigation and Environment Committee, and the Ship Insurance and Liability Committee. It has been estimated that ASF owners and managers control and operate nearly 50% of the world's cargo carrying fleet.

¹ Source: IMB Piracy Reporting Centre, 18th April 2012