



Date: February 14, 2017

Place: Kobe City, Japan

Preamble

On February 13 and 14, 2017, the International Port Conference commemorating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Port of Kobe was held in Kobe City attended by more than 100 representatives from 27 ports around the world. The representatives of ports attending the Conference have worked toward shaping the future vision of ports in a globalized society and built a leading platform that would pave the way to working together towards the realization of the vision.

During the two-day Conference, we, the representatives of ports attending the Conference, were able to share vital knowledge and experiences required for future port and city development. The intent of this Joint Declaration is to express the determination of port managers who attended the Conference to continue future-oriented efforts based on the outcome of the Conference and in joint cooperation so that each port will continue to contribute to the harmonious development of the society and the economy.

From the past to the future

We believe that ports will continue to serve as the gateway to the world now and in the future, and to play a vital role in promoting trade at both national and international levels, thus leading to economic growth.

In the future as well, by further invigorating urban economy that has continued to change and by enhancing both space and function of cities and ports, we will contribute to the creation of resilient, environmentally friendly, and smart cities, thus realizing a society where all people can enjoy better lives.

Aiming to develop energetic flow of goods and people

Ports where cargoes are transported from the main route to feeder routes and ports that function as a service point for logistics in each country and area both play an important role as the supply base of basic goods and energy that are indispensable for people's lives. Therefore, we have affirmed through this Conference that mutual cooperation among ports will continue to be the foundation for not only the development of ports but also the co-existence and co-prosperity of nations.

Ports as the hub for interaction of various cultures, economies, and people

The cruise industry that has seen a boom mainly in Europe and the United States is making its foray into the Asian market and is developing cruise strategies focusing on Asian ports as turnaround ports. We have affirmed that port calls made by a cruise ship have a huge economic impact on the port and its vicinity, and significantly contribute to new mutual understanding on a global scale because personal exchange between cruise ship passengers and local people is promoted.

Based on the above, we have affirmed the importance of further promoting flow of people via ports in the future, for which multiple ports work on the improvement of customer satisfaction together with maritime companies.

Ports progressing towards technological innovation in the environmental field

Through this Conference, we have affirmed that it is necessary for us to promote forward-looking environmental projects in ports located in seaside districts where diverse actors are working, thereby contributing to the environmental conservation of local societies and to solving environmental problems, such as by responding to global warming and forming a recycling society for which broad-based efforts from an international perspective are required.

Conservation and redevelopment of seaside districts that support sustainable development of port cities

For the sustainable development of port cities, it is necessary to carry out conservation and redevelopment of seaside districts on a continuous basis while giving consideration to harmony between people's lives and industrial and economic activities. It is also important to utilize the unique environment as well as the historical and cultural resources of the region to introduce new city functions, and to work on promoting tourism and attracting visitors. We have affirmed the need for opinion exchange on a continuous basis in order to share information of advanced case examples in such fields.

Promoting intercommunication and creating new values

In order to realize a better future for ports in a globalized society, we are expected to further develop matters that have been affirmed in this Conference. For this purpose, we hereby declare in the city of Kobe, which is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the opening of its port, that we will make joint efforts in developing young human resources who can contribute to the promotion of flow of goods and people and the reduction of environmental burden, and can build the future of ports in a broad context.

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