

2026



Introduction

The Japan Maritime Center (JMC) was established in April 2007 through the merger of the Nippon Kaiji Foundation and the Nippon Kaiun Shinkokai, both of which were established in 1964. In April 2011, we transitioned from a civil law foundation to a public interest incorporated foundation based on the “Act on Authorization of Public Interest Incorporated Association and Public Interest Incorporated Foundation.”

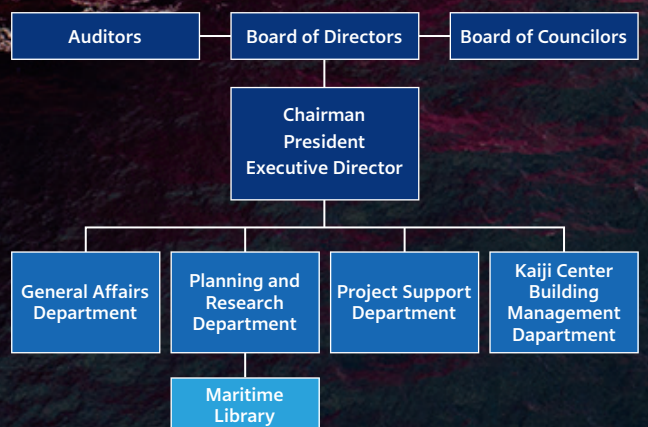
In order to accurately respond to the rapid changes and uncertainties in the international situation and global economy, as well as to various international and technologically innovative issues, the Center conducts activities based on three pillars: various maritime related research and policy proposals, operation of a maritime library, and support for maritime related public interest activities.

Basic Philosophy

- ⊗ To contribute to cooperation and collaboration among the maritime industry, government agencies, and research institutions as a central think tank for the maritime community
- ⊗ To contribute to the development of the maritime industry, which is indispensable to Japan’s economy and society
- ⊗ To contribute to the promotion of public interest projects as a central institution in the maritime field
- ⊗ To contribute to the realization of a safe and secure maritime society
- ⊗ To contribute to the realization of a maritime society in harmony with the environment
- ⊗ To contribute to the international activities of the maritime community
- ⊗ To contribute to raising public awareness and enhance understanding of the importance of maritime affairs



Organization



The activities of the Center are supported by the Japan Shipowners’ Association and the Japan Federation of Pilots’ Associations.



Message from the Chairman

Japan, as an island country surrounded by sea, relies on maritime transport for 99.5% of its imports and exports by volume. The maritime industry, encompassing shipping and shipbuilding, is a pivotal sector which provides the fundamental infrastructure that underpins our economic activities and livelihoods. In that sense, the industry serves our country at the forefront to promote our economic security.

The global maritime industry is facing an increasingly unstable and uncertain environment, with a number of challenges requiring it to undergo unprecedented change. Our maritime industry is also required to respond swiftly and adapt itself to navigate through such challenges.

Since the US and Israeli attacks on Iran at the end of February 2026 and the subsequent retaliatory attacks, shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has been blocked by Iran. As of April 1st, 45 Japan-related ships and 20 Japanese crew members have been forced to remain stranded in the Persian Gulf, creating a critical situation. Furthermore, for Japan, which depends on countries in the Middle East for more than 90% of its imported crude oil, this is an extremely serious situation in terms of the stable supply of energy.

Over the past few years, the maritime industry has repeatedly faced difficult challenges due to rapid deterioration of the international situation and the emergence of geopolitical risks, such as Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and the suspension of navigation through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, and the subsequent detour via the Cape of Good Hope, due to the worsening situation in the Middle East. The industry is now in a more challenging situation than ever before.

On the other hand, regarding decarbonization in the maritime sector, the meeting for adoption of the proposed amendments to MARPOL Annex VI was adjourned last year, and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) is scheduled to resume the deliberations for adoption late this year.

Furthermore, the shortage of maritime human resources in Japan is becoming increasingly severe, making it essential to systematically secure and develop necessary human resources, as well as to provide advanced trainings for highly skilled human resources capable of handling technologies to realize green and digital transformation (GX and DX).

To address these challenges, the Japan Maritime Center (JMC) had established the "Maritime Industry Committee" in December 2024, comprising 30 representatives from the industry, governmental bodies, and academia. Members of the committee have actively engaged in discussions on ways to strengthen the competitiveness of Japan's maritime industry.

During the discussion, various maritime-related events took place, including the announcement in April 2025 of measures to impose additional port fees for Chinese-built vessels under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act; the signing of the "Memorandum of Cooperation Regarding Shipbuilding" by Yasushi Kaneko, the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick in October as part of the Japan-U.S. tariff negotiations; the establishment of the Headquarters for Japan's Growth Strategy in November, designating "shipbuilding," "port logistics," and "marine and ocean" as strategic sectors; and the publication of the "Roadmap for Revitalizing the Shipbuilding Industry" in December. Furthermore, the U.S. government announced the "Maritime Action Plan" in February 2026, highlighting the need to pay more attention to future developments in the maritime sector.

Considering these developments, the Maritime Industry Committee held nine meetings, and the "Domestic Shipping Working Group," established under the Committee, also held four meetings, engaging in active and extensive discussions. On March 10th, 2026, the Committee compiled its findings into a document titled "Proposals for the Revitalization of Japan's Maritime Industry." The following day, we presented these proposals directly to the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Yasushi Kaneko, requesting that the government should make a strong commitment to revitalize Japan's maritime industry.

As a core public interest incorporated foundation in the maritime sector, the JMC will continue to actively engage in activities to respond to the changing domestic and international environment. To promote our maritime industry, we will conduct surveys and research using our expertise, work as a platform to facilitate collaboration among stakeholders from the industry, governmental bodies and academia, provide support for maritime-related public interest activities, and operate our maritime library.

In an increasingly unstable international political and economic environment, the JMC will continue to enhance its international activities and promote cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders within the maritime sector to strengthen its competitiveness and to ensure economic security. We will also endeavor to raise public awareness on the importance of the maritime industry.

We look forward to working with you for the benefit of our global industry and society.

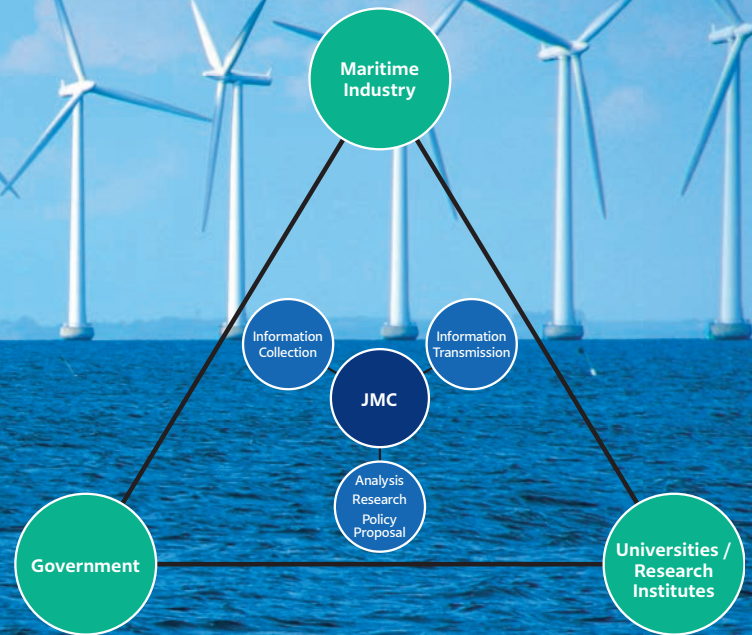


April 2026

Masafumi Shukuri
Chairman, Japan Maritime Center



Platform for collaboration among the industry, government agencies, and research institutions in the Maritime Community



Research Activities through Research Committees

JMC conducts research and study, and makes policy proposals, organizing “Research Group on Shipping Issues,” with the participation of industry, governmental bodies, and academia.

“Research Group on Shipping Issues” has “Board of Research Committees,” which is forum for discussing a basic policy and comprehensive strategy of research and study projects or policy proposals. “Research Group on Shipping Issues” has 5 Standing Committees, in which individual issues are studied and discussed in line with the policy and strategy adopted by the “Board of Research Committees.” In December 2024, we established the “Maritime Industry Committee” which had engaged in extensive discussions, the outcome of which was compiled as “Proposals for the Revitalization of Japan’s Maritime Industry” published in March 2026.

Proposals for the Revitalization of Japan’s Maritime Industry (Excerpt)

1. Strengthening the Competitiveness of the Maritime Industry
 - Restructuring of the production systems
 - Securing and developing maritime human resources
 - Achieving equal footing in shipping taxation
2. Economic Security
 - Ensuring freedom and safety of navigation
 - Development and securing shipbuilding and ship-repairing systems to support our national security
 - Reviewing port policies to strengthen port logistics
3. Environmental Measures
 - Establishing international rules towards net-zero GHG emissions
 - Development and deployment of zero-emission ships
4. Collaboration with Local Governments and Communities
 - Initiatives of local governments and communities to support the maritime industry
 - Strengthening the resilience of maritime industry clusters
5. International Cooperation
 - Stable recruitment of foreign human resources
 - Building ties with emerging shipbuilding countries

We promptly analyze the current needs of the maritime community and, by collaborating with stakeholders from the industry, governmental bodies, and academia, conduct research and make policy recommendations. We also actively participate in international conferences to collaborate with domestic and international organizations, and engage in various activities to disseminate our research findings.

- Addressing major challenges faced by the maritime industry
 - Strengthening competitiveness of the maritime industry
 - Enhancing decarbonization of international shipping
 - Promotion of maritime innovation and expanding into new markets
 - Securing and developing maritime human resources
 - Analyzing economic sizes and trends of the maritime industry clusters
 - Addressing issues related to the compensation scheme for damage caused by maritime accidents
- Conduct surveys and research on domestic and international maritime transport
 - Ensuring stable international maritime transport by the Japanese merchant fleet, which plays a vital role for Japan’s economic security
 - Analyzing the trends of domestic and international maritime transport
 - Summarizing the overview of major choke points in international maritime transport
 - Analyzing the trends and development of global supply chains
 - Research on regulations to reduce GHG emissions in international shipping and trends in deployment of alternative fuels

Research Group on Shipping Issues

Board of Research Committees

(Chairperson: Keiji Habara, Research Fellow, The Kobe University)



Research Committees on

- IMO Legal Committee
- International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds
- Maritime Human Resources
- Issues on Marine Environment
- Maritime Industries

Participation in international conferences such as the IMO and collaboration with relevant domestic and international organizations

We have participated in meetings of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPCF), the International Labor Organization (ILO), etc. as members of the Japanese delegation, and held high-level cooperation with these organizations.



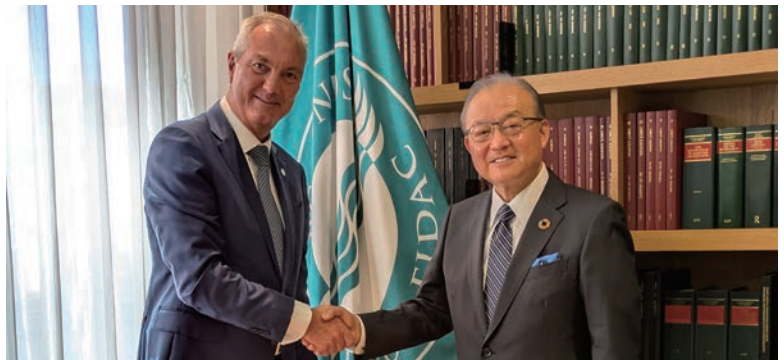
Visiting the President of the World Maritime University Max Mejia (September 2025, World Maritime University)



Visiting the IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez (September 2025, IMO headquarters)



Attending the extraordinary session of MEPC (October 2025, IMO headquarters plenary room)



Visiting the Director of the IOPC Funds Gaute Sivertsen (September 2025, IOPCF Office)

We co-hosted a seminar with the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPCF) in October 2025. We also signed an agreement on academic cooperation with the World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö, Sweden, and are conducting joint research and facilitating communication among researchers.

- JMC makes research about maritime transport and logistics abroad and exchange of information and views about them, actively collaborating with universities, think tanks, and research institutes etc. in Japan.
- JMC promotes understanding of younger generation, forging future of Japan, about maritime and shipping policies.



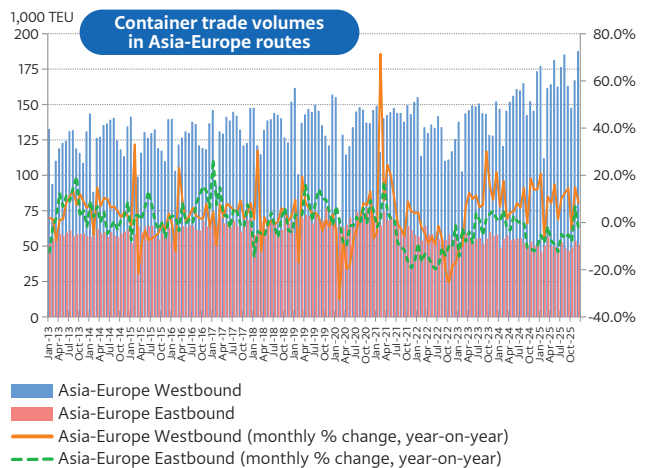
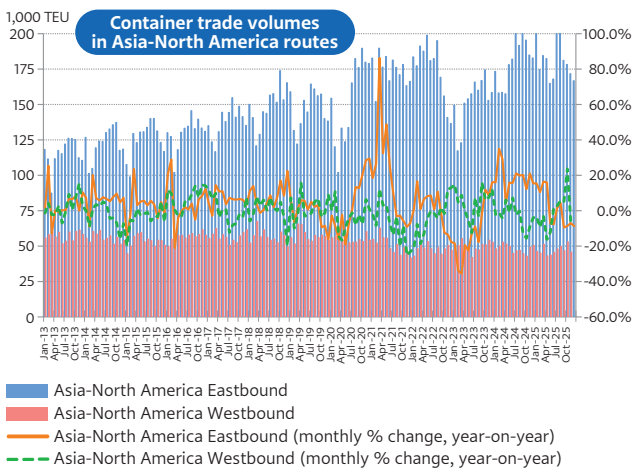
JMC & IOPC Funds Joint Seminar (October 2025, Tokyo)

Publication of the import and export statistics Container import and export statistics released



We collect data and information related to international maritime container trade in major trading routes, including Asia to North America and Asia to Europe routes, and publish monthly reports on key statistics.

- Trends in Containerized Cargo Movement between Japan, Asia and the U.S.
- Trends in Containerized Cargo Movement between Japan, Asia and Europe
- Trends in Japan-China Container Routes and Intra-Asia Container Routes



Information Transmission

Maritime Nation Forum

A series of Maritime Forum were held to raise public awareness and gain wider understanding of the maritime industry, inviting speakers and panelists to discuss outstanding issues.

The 36th Maritime Nation Forum in Nagasaki 2025
-Future Prospects for Revitalizing and Strengthening the Maritime Cluster: Aiming for Nagasaki's Development Based on Carbon Neutrality Initiatives- (November 2025, venue in Nagasaki Prefecture with online streaming)



The 37th Maritime Nation Forum in Tokyo 2026
-Future Prospects for the Revitalization of the Maritime Industry- (March 2026, venue in Tokyo with online streaming)



JMC Maritime Seminar

A series of JMC Maritime Seminar were held to discuss and find solutions to promote the development of the maritime industry, under various topics related to the challenges faced by the industry.

Part 12. Towards Green Transformation and Digitalization of Global Supply Chains: Activities in Singapore, South Korea, China, and Japan, and Strengthening Cooperation in Shipping and Ports (April 2025)



Part 13. Rising Geopolitical Risks and Ensuring Stable Maritime Transport—Part 1 (December 2025)



(Only events held in 2025 are listed)

Home page <https://www.jpmac.or.jp>

The website provides a variety of maritime-related information in a timely manner. JMC also operates a portal site for maritime human resource development and maritime education.



About the Logo

As a core think tank in the maritime community, the Japan Maritime Center is constantly reviewing to improve its activities to contribute to the development of the maritime industry, which is indispensable to Japan's economy and society. Based on this idea, we asked an artist, Ms. Aki Fueda, to visualize our ideas and hopes into a logo. Ms. Fueda explains that "image of waves and sky is expressed in the letters M and C, which comes after the first letter J. The upward slope imprinted in the letter C represents our hope that good fortune will prevail for the betterment of the industry."

E-mail Magazine

This monthly newsletter provides information on the research and study activities of the Japan Maritime Center, announcements from the Maritime Library, recommended new books, and lectures on how to look up maritime materials.



✉ Sign up for our e-mail magazine

<https://www.jpmac.or.jp/etc/mail-magazine.html>





We provide subsidies to organizations that carry out activities recognized as making a significant contribution to the public interest in the maritime field, including securing and developing maritime human resources, maritime public relations, navigation safety, pilot training, and maritime law.



Comité Maritime International (CMI)
Tokyo Conference



Marine Engineer Seminar



Seminar on Pathways to Careers at Sea



Sea cadets



Air ambulance service by helicopter at sea



Safety Instructions for Mini-Boats

Subsidized organizations in FY2026

- Seamen's Employment Center of Japan
- Maritime Academy Foundation
- The Association for Promoting Safety and Sanitation for Seafarers
- The Maritime Human Resource Institute, Japan
- The Japan Association of Marine Safety
- Japan Maritime Public Relation Center
- Japan Sea Cadet Federation
- Japanese Maritime Law Association
- Tokyo Wan Association for Marine Safety

- The Kobe Marine Casualty Prevention Institute
- Seibu Association for Preventing Marine Casualty
- Ise Wan Association for Marine Safety
- Nihonkai Association for Marine Safety
- The Setonaikai Association for Marine Safety
- Marine Rescue Japan
- Japan Coast Guard Foundation
- Marine Accident Inquiry and Safety Investigation Association

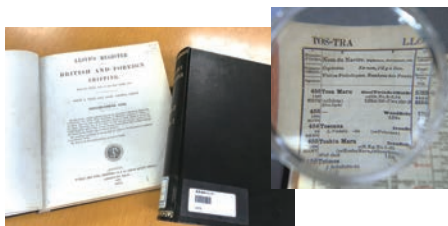


Maritime Library

Maritime Library, established in June 1974, is one of the major maritime libraries in Asia open to the public. JMC administrates the library, upgrading its functions, and enhancing user's convenience.

Main Items in the Collection

- JMC collects reference books and key publications on maritime affairs ranging from the mid-19th century to the present.
- Containerisation International (1977-2017)
- Containerisation International Yearbook (1972-2012)
- Fairplay (1984-2018)
- Lloyd's List (1961-)
- Lloyd's Register of Shipping, Register of Ships (1876-)
- Shipping Statistics Yearbook (Bremen 1966-)
- Nihon Senmeiroku (Japan Register of Ships) (1890-1998)



Lloyd's Register

We also send out messages via X (Twitter).



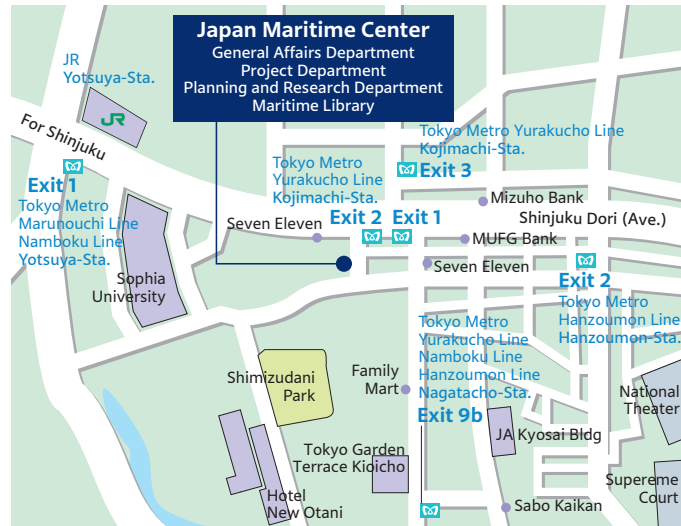
Our library holds themed exhibitions of its collection. (The exhibitions are changed three or four times a year.)



The Library provides an enquiry service by e-mail in English. Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) is also available via JMC's Website.

<https://www.jpmac.or.jp/library/>





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