

**Minutes of the 2nd Electronic Meeting of the National Shipping Board
held on Tuesday, 5th May 2020 at 1400 hours.**

Attendees:

Dr. Malini Shankar, Chairperson NSB
Shri Kumar Sanjay Bariar, Additional DG
Shri Satinder Pal Singh, JS Shipping
Shri Abdul Gani Serang-NUSI
Shri Amar Singh Thakur-MUI
Shri Anil Devli- INSA
Shri Suklikar- ICCSA
Capt Sanjay Prashar- IMF
Shri Rahul Modi- CCTA
Shri Shantanu Bhadkamkar-AMTOI
Capt Piyush Sinha
Shri Balasubramanian
Shri Ishwar Achanta
Mr. Ajay Sahai , FIEO
Capt. Sankar Kr. Das
Mr. Kshetra Nath Milli

1. Granting leave of absence – All members were present for the meeting. The Director General of Shipping was represented by Shri Kumar Sanjay Bariar, Additional Director General of Shipping.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 1st meeting of the NSB – *Members had gone through the minutes of the 1st meeting of NSB held on 28th April 2020 and had no comments to offer. The Chair informed the members that in case someone had any further comments, the same could be brought to her notice. Since there were no comments, the minutes were approved.*

3. Institution of the NSB Secretariat and update on administrative issues such as office premises, website activation, taking charge of the Twitter

handle, What'sApp group, and any other administrative matters which require discussions of the members -

a. Capt. S. K. Das informed all members that NSB has a temporary office premises at Ballard Estate. However, the same is not up to the mark. He suggested that a permanent office for NSB was required. Capt. Piyush Sinha was of the opinion that the NSB office in Mumbai was not as per the stature and needed to be looked into. Since majority members of the Board were from Mumbai, The Chair was of the view that NSB office should be in Mumbai and without much of investment going into it. Mr. Satinder Pal Singh said that he would discuss this with the DG Shipping and keep the Chair informed.

b. Capt. Das informed the members that DGS has issued an order assigning the manpower for the NSB. He informed the members that there was a requirement of a clerical staff with experience in shorthand. The Chair thanked the DG for issuing the order so promptly and the requirement of clerical staff would be discussed with the DG .

c. On website activation, Capt. Das informed all the members that Mr. Milli was in touch with the NIC consultants and currently the audit of website was in progress. Mr. Milli would get the website working as soon as possible.

d. Capt. Das informed the members about the budget allocation for 20-21. The Chair requested to forward the budget to her and she will go through the same.

4. Update by Group leaders of the composition of the work groups as well as the agenda for each of the work group for the approval of the chairperson -

a. Shipping Policy - JS Shipping informed that a Working Group comprising Shri Bala Subramanian, Shri Ishwar Achanta, Shri Anil Devli, and Shri Rahul Modi has been constituted. A Google group and a WhatsApp for the

Working Group have also been created to facilitate exchange of ideas. The Working Group proposes to initially work on a policy for increasing Indian tonnage, while making Indian shipping more competitive, and while keeping in mind the interests of the trade and shipbuilding.

b. Increase in Indian Tonnage - This point was covered by JS Shipping as above.

c. Multimodal Transportation – Mr. Shantanu Bhadkamkar informed that the draft Multimodal Transportation 2020 is already there and this was considered as the starting point by him to build up on. There were already three members including himself on the group and he was trying to get two more persons in the group and requested the Chairperson for her suggestion. The Chair suggested that he could consider someone from the Railways from the traffic side. The agenda for the group was already drawn and circulated to the members for suggestion. The Chair requested Mr. Bhadkamkar to forward the same on email as she had not received it. Mr. Anil Devli suggested that FIEO be asked to participate in this group since the subject was relevant to the members of the FIEO. Dr. Sahai agreed to nominate a representative to this group.

d. Increase in Employment of Seafarers and Welfare of Seafarers – Mr. Abdul Gani Serang brought to the attention of the members that in order to have a wholesome approach, he was considering a total of 6 members for his group instead of 5. He requested the Chairperson to consider his request of 6 members in the group. The Chair asked the other members if they had any objection. Since there was no objection, The Chair approved 6 members for the working group on the combined topic of increase in Employment of Seafarers and Welfare of Seafarers. The group had drawn up 18 points on how to increase employment of seafarers and welfare of seafarers. However, with the recent situation where many of the seafarers are currently without employment, the discussion could not move forward. Capt Sanjay Prashar brought to the attention of all present that there were some small companies

which were collapsing due to which many had lost their jobs. Salaries were not being paid to staff on board which also was a big concern. A document was prepared on this and sent to the Chair and he requested her to see what could be done. The Chair said that she would forward the document to DG Shipping as well. The concern on the seafarers stuck abroad was also brought out and JSS assured that MoS and DGS was currently trying to do all that they could to get the seafarers back. It was also suggested that e-library was a good option where all could be given access to documents. The Chair agreed and said that the e-library should contain all documents and be kept updated at all time.

e. Review of Merchant Shipping Act - Mr A Balasubramanian informed that he was currently in touch with a few members of NSB to be part of his group. He said that he would take inputs from the other sub-committee as well such as Coastal, Multimodal Transportation and Increase in Employment of Seafarers and Welfare of Seafarers. The agenda for this group was being drawn and had sought comments from all. He further requested JSS to help him. JSS said that he was willing to assist in whatever way possible. He further brought to his attention that the Ministry was also considering having a separate Act for Coastal shipping. The Chair suggested that assistance could also be sought from Mr. Ash Mohammad from DGS who would be familiar on this. The Chair suggested that comments of stakeholders should also be sought. The JS Shipping mentioned that the Ministry was considering carving out separate legislation for Coastal Shipping.

f. Promote Ship Building in India - Capt Sinha said that he had identified two members and was deliberating on who could be other members on the group. He said that he wanted to add Mr. Atreya Sawant and Mr. Abhay Joshi who had experience in India and outside India respectively. He said that he would further take guidance of the chair in this respect and proceed.

g. Coastal Shipping Promotion – Mr. Rahul Modi was currently identifying members for the group. The document on coastal shipping which was currently available would be used to further develop the issues. Capt. Prashar highlighted that under Coastal shipping, Seafarers certification also is an issue and should be included. This was accepted by the Chair.

5. Fixing date of the next meeting – The third meeting of the NSB will be held on Tuesday, 12th May 2020 at 1500 hours.

6. Any other item - In conclusion, the Chair said that it is important for the maritime industry to establish a connection with the Maritime States. While the DGS was bringing out circulars / regulations, it would be fruitful to enhance co-ordination between the DGS and the coastal state. She also mentioned that in this context an attempt had been made to create a maritime cluster in Goa and some progress on this had been made during her tenure alongwith the CS of the State of Goa. Currently, this project is being handled by Capt. Behl of DGS and she requested to obtain an update on the same. She said that this project should also be a part of the agenda of the NSB as it could be a pilot project with great scope for replication. The members unanimously agreed with the proposal and the same was adopted as part of the agenda and scope of the NSB.

The Chair said that each committee should finalise the framework of its committee and the same could be discussed at the next meeting.

There being no other matter to be discussed, the meeting was closed.

Dr. Malini Shankar
Chairperson

Place : Mumbai

Date: 05/05/2020