



## Panama and Japan will strengthen commercial relations



Japan offers to make important investments in Panama, such as in infrastructure for the Metro Line 3 of and in the construction of the tunnel under the Panama Canal. - Japan is the waterway's second largest user and 70% of its maritime fleet sails under the Panama flag.

The President of the Republic, Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, held a meeting July 17, at the Presidential Palace with Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi, during which they talked about the Panama Canal, the increase of commercial relations, the interest of Japanese investment in the country, donations to alleviate the pandemic, the Olympic Games in Tokyo and other regional issues.

Minister Motegi told President Cortizo Cohen that the Japanese Government is interested in increasing investments and strengthening commercial relations between the two countries.

President Cortizo Cohen announced that to strengthen trade and investment relations between both nations, Panama and Japan should appoint a team to study the possibility of increasing exports and strengthening investments with taking advantage of the public-private partnership legislation.

Cortizo Cohen announced that

Panama's Foreign Ministry is organizing a tour to Japan next year, which delegation should be made up of government officials and private sector entrepreneurs. However, he said that to be a success mission, the binational team must be formed and installed before the visit.

"Our country values very much the relationship with Japan and we would like to increase those commercial ties. Japan has been an ally and friend of Panama," the President told the Japanese Foreign Minister and his delegation.

The Japanese Foreign Minister highlighted the importance of the Panama Canal and its expansion for Japanese vessels, since 14% of its fleet transit through the Panamanian waterway and is its second largest customer. Motegi pointed out that Japan values the use of the Canal as an international common goods.

Cortizo Cohen noted that 70% of Japan's commercial fleet sails under the Panamanian flag. "For Panama, Japan is an important partner and we would like this to see relationship strengthened and to continue to grow," said the President.

The Panamanian president took advantage of the Foreign Minister's visit to thank the Japanese people and

government for all the help they have given to Panama since the beginning of the pandemic, such as the 12,000 tablets of the antiviral favipiravir, which according to the president were "very important at the time they arrived" to alleviate those affected by the virus. He also expressed his gratitude for the aid in medical equipment sent by Japan, valued at \$5.6M.

President Cortizo congratulated the Government of Japan for the great challenge of organizing the Olympic games in the midst of a pandemic, recalling that Panama will participate with 10 athletes in various disciplines.

The Japanese Foreign Minister thanked President Cortizo and the First Lady, Yazmín Colón de Cortizo, for their participation, in October 2019, in the protocol ceremony for Emperor Naruhito's enthronement.

"For me and my wife, it was an honor to participate in the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Naruhito," said the President.

Foreign Minister Motegi continued his tour with a visit to the Panama Canal and the day after with a meeting with his Panamanian counterpart, Ms Erika Mouynes.

The Japanese delegation was represented by Foreign Minister Motegi; Owaki Takeshi, Ambassador of Japan in Panama; Okano Masataka, Vice Minister, Director General of Foreign Policy; Hayashi Teiji, Assistant Ambassador to the Minister and Director General of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs; Masamoto Kenichi, Director of the Mexico, Central America and Caribbean Division; and Yoshizawa Miwa, the Minister's interpreter and press officer.

The Panamanian government's delegation was headed by President Cortizo Cohen; Erika Mouynes, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Héctor Alexander, Minister of Economy and Finance; Ramón Martínez, Minister of Commerce and Industry; José Alejandro Rojas, Minister Counselor for Investment Facilitation; Carmen Gisela Vergara, Executive Director of Pro Panama; and Héctor Ortega, Director of the Panama Metro.

## Panama renews maritime transport Agreement with china



The Panama Maritime Authority, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama, have renewed the agreement on maritime transport between the government of the Republic of Panama and the government of the People's Republic of China.

This agreement came into force July 20, 2021, at the end of the renewal process between the panamanian and chinese authorities. However, in order to avoid interrupting its implementation it was considered that from May 17, 2021 until its entry into force, both parties would continue to benefit from its provisions.

The agreement renewal will be extended to five years, up from 3 years, and will strengthen trade relations between the two nations, and Panama Ship Registry's commitment to its users entering ports located in the People's Republic of China.

The renewal of this agreement represents a series of unique advantages for shipowners who have

registered their vessels under the Panamanian flag, such as:

- Appropriate measures to facilitate and expedite maritime transport to avoid unnecessary delays; granting favorable treatment in the collection of tonnage fees based on preferential rates.
- Promote maritime and port development; full and efficient use of the maritime fleet to meet foreign trade demand.
- Ensure the safety of navigation and protection of the environment (including the safety of vessels, crews, passengers and cargo).
- Improve the business relationship and exchange of scientific and technological experiences; and exchange information on international maritime organizations and conventions.
- Include the protection of the maritime environment, the development of marine resources, the observation of the sea, forecasting and warning of natural disasters and research, development

and training on marine maritime issues.

- Promote the supply of services to Panama-flagged vessels.
- Increase the demand for maritime transport services for export and industrial production.
- Maintain close relations that allow free and unimpeded access of Panama-flagged vessels for cargo traffic to and from China.

The Panama merchant fleet's vessels will maintain the same uninterrupted port tariffs benefits and preferential treatment in the ports of the People's Republic of China, reaffirming the status of "most favored nation".

This agreement on maritime transport is based on equality, mutual benefit, freedom of navigation and the principle of non-discrimination for Panama-flagged vessels operating in Chinese ports.



## AMP holds Annual Meeting with Recognized Organizations (ROs) and Recognized Security Organizations (RSOs)



The Panama Maritime Authority that administers the Panama Ship Registry, held its annual meeting with the Recognized Organizations (ROs) and Recognized Protection Organizations (RPOs) responsible for the certification and regulatory services of Panama's fleet.

The reunion --held both in person and virtually-- was attended by the 31 ROs and RSOs regional and operations managers from different countries in the Americas, Europe and Asia, who work with the Panamanian Administration. The meeting's objective was to keep the certification and regulatory services processes aligned with national and international regulations.

The meeting addressed the statistics of the fleet behavior and performance in the different Memoranda of Understanding (PSC MoU); the requirements related to the MLC Convention (2006) and the obligation to maintain the financial guarantees in force and valid on board required by the different Codes and Conventions of the

IMO/ILO; the measures related to the control and monitoring of the existing fleet, as well as the processes related to due diligence and surveillance of the fleet. In addition to the International Safety Management Code (ISM), the civil liability of the Panamanian fleet and information related to statutory certificates, such as:

- Certificate of Insurance or other financial security relating to Civil Liability arising out of Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (BCC).
- Certificate of Insurance or other financial security in respect of Wreck Removal (WRC).
- Certificate of Insurance or other financial security in respect of Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC).
- Certificate of Insurance or other financial guarantee in respect of liabilities for death or injury to passengers.

The Director General of the Merchant Marine, Rafael Cigarruista, explained the Reengineering and Modernization Program of the Panamanian Ship Registry, highlighting the advances in technology, statistical data of value for the participants, in terms of fleet conformation, type of vessels and division between new and existing vessels. The head of the Ship Registry also provided data on incidents and maritime accidents, which is a priority issue for this administration.

Representatives of Class NK, ABS and DNV made presentations on cybersecurity, decarbonization, alternative fuels and future technologies.

The Panamanian Administration observes a strict compliance of international standards, working closely with the ROs and RSOs.

## The Panama Maritime Authority held meeting on the Ship Registry Re-engineering



The Panama Maritime Authority (AMP) which is, through the Directorate General of Merchant Marine, responsible for managing the world's largest fleet, held a virtual and face-to-face meeting attended by more than 140 people directly related to the Ship Registry activities.

The conversation focused on the industry legal topics, the Registry's re-engineering, depuration of the fleet, flagging requirements, due diligence, and other issues aiming at maintaining Panama leader in ship registration and being more competitive and efficient to respond to the international market's demand.

"The objective of the meeting is to bring national and international actors, including the 53 private consulates of the Merchant Marine and Segumar's regional offices, to understand and see the Panama Ship Registry's techniques and methodologies that we are presently implementing," said Rafael Cigarruista, AMP's General Director of Merchant Marine.

Law firms' senior executives were pleased with the meeting that took in consideration their comments as it will contribute positively to a better and closer relationship with the institution since both parties have the same objective of increasing the fleet, provide

greater customer satisfaction and generate more income to Panama.

The event was also attended by the AMP's General Secretary, Elvia Bustavino, the AMP's General Director of the Public Registry of Ship Ownership, Volney Guinard, the AMP's Legal Counsel, Raúl Gutiérrez, representatives of the Panama Maritime Law Association (PMLA), Panama Chamber of Shipping, Panama Shipowners Association, among others.





## Panama signs the Gulf of Guinea Declaration

Panama has signed the Declaration of the Gulf of Guinea, a document calling for further action, through a wide range of collective efforts, to urgently put an end to piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and provide security for its seafarers.

The Declaration was drafted in response to growing concerns about attacks in the region. It has been signed by maritime industry organizations, including flag state administrations, shipowners, charterers and shipping associations.

Panama as a flag state and a country committed to the seafarers' welfare on board its vessels, signed the

commitment and joined the coalition to stop the threat posed by piracy to the maritime industry, through concrete actions such as:

- Supporting concretely anti-piracy law enforcement.
- Facilitating the implementation of effective onboard measures, within the region.
- Improving capabilities in the use of technology and exchange of relevant information among anti-piracy law enforcement agencies.

- Working to improve transparency among law enforcement agencies.

The issue of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea has been a significant problem over the last decade. Therefore, the signatories of this declaration believe that the number of pirate attacks and attempted kidnappings of seafarers can be reduced by at least 80% by the end of 2023. The Panama Ship Registry always stands ready to support agreements and actions to ensure the protection of its fleet.



Panama joins the BIMCO efforts and other stakeholders signing the

## Declaration of the Gulf of Guinea against piracy



## AMP participates in workshop on Vessel Registration in Panama

The Panama Maritime Authority has participated in the third workshop on Vessel Registration in Panama, organized by the United States Embassy during which the Control and Monitoring Section of the Directorate General of Merchant Marine, presented the Due Diligence process and the other necessary measures to register a vessel in the Panama Ship Registry.

For the Panama Maritime Authority, regent of the Registry, international compliance is a priority and special consideration for the ships wanting to join the Panamanian fleet.

The specific points were discussed during the presentation:

- Aspects and factors taken into consideration when performing the analysis and due diligence. Polygons established to monitor the area of Iran and those established to monitor the North Korean region. The parameters of slowdown and shutdown alerts and how these alerts are addressed.
- Monitoring of polygons established to monitor the merchant fleet that could be supporting fishing without a fishing license; with the purpose of mitigating, discouraging and

avoiding the fleet incurring in the scourge of illegal fishing.

- Monitoring process to the vessels through the LRIT, that verifies the vessels keep reporting their positions continuously every 6 hours, called "Yellow Card Process".

The Panamanian Administration, in order to maintain the highest standards in terms of compliance with international standards, performs a due diligence process to all vessels wanting to register in the Panama Ship Registry and to ensure that no vessel is involved or listed in international sanctions.



## Legal certainty and Sustainable growth

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*Figures from January to December, 2020 / Source: Panama Maritime Authority Data base*



## Panama authorities meet with Carnival executives



The Panama Ship Registry has an important group of passenger vessels in its fleet. In particular, 18 Carnival cruise ships fly the Panamanian flag.

It is essential for the Panama Maritime Authority responsible for the Registry, strengthening the good relationship with this company and collaborating, as the reactivation of cruise ship activities takes place, for

the safe operations of the cruise ships.

Panama currently has 42 cruise ships in its fleet, that represent more than 3.4M GT.



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## Panama publishes Checklist to assist its fleet upon arrival in Australian ports



**NEW**

# MMC-393

Merchant Marine Circular

***Australian Port Pre-arrival checklist for  
Panama flagged vessels***

 Panama Ship Registry

 @ShipPanama

 #SteeringYourWay

The Panama Maritime Authority, being a responsible Administration, has announced in its Merchant Marine Circular (MMC 393) that it strives to continuously improve and maintain a good reputation and, therefore, has elaborated a checklist to help its customers find possible weaknesses that would result in the detention of their vessels by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

This checklist must be sent 96 hours before the vessel arrives at any Australian port, to the email [psc@amp.gob.pa](mailto:psc@amp.gob.pa).

For voyages of less than 96 hours, the checklist should be sent at least 24 hours prior to arrival at the port.

The use of this checklist is mandatory for all Panamanian vessels prior to their arrival at Australian ports and must be signed by their Master and his designee ashore.

Circular MMC 393 aims at implementing additional assessment requirements to minimize the detentions of Panama-flagged vessels calling at Australian ports and that may be subject to Port State Control inspections.

For further details: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/australian-port-pre-arrival-checklist-for-panama-flagged-vessels/>



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## Special Tripartite Committee of the Maritime Labor Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC) April meeting

The MLC Special Tripartite Committee's fourth meeting was held last April.

The Committee is composed of two representatives appointed by the government of each Member that has ratified the Convention and representatives of shipowners and seafarers designated by the Governing Body, following consultations with the Joint Maritime Commission of the International Labor Organization (ILO), the only tripartite body within the United Nations.

The Special Tripartite Committee's mandate is to reviewing continually the application of the Convention and advising the Governing Body or, through the Governing Body, the International Labor Conference on maritime matters; considering proposals for amendments to the Convention; and answering queries from those States Parties that do not have representative organizations of seafarers and shipowners.

The fourth meeting was divided into two parts, the first was held virtually, while the second part is scheduled for April 2022 and is expected to be held in person at the headquarters of the International Labor Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

This meeting's first part focused on the exchange of information from Member States on the applicability of the Convention in the face of the Covid-19 Pandemic during the year 2020, with emphasis on the study made by the World Maritime University on working hours, rest hours and their impact on work on board. And in addition, on the International Maritime Organization's request to form a joint committee on the development of guidelines for port State and flag State authorities on how to deal with cases of abandonment of seafarers, the use of electronic documents based on the requirements of the Convention, and the revision of maritime labor instruments.

The Panamanian Government delegation was comprised by the Director General of Merchant Marine and the Director General of Seafarers, both with right to speak and vote, their technical advisors and a representative of the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development.

The Panamanian Government representatives intervened in the plenary sessions (tripartite), as well as in governmental sessions (governments only), presenting the applicability of the agreement and the measures adopted on board Panama-flagged vessels during the most crucial months of the

Pandemic in terms of employment agreements, seafarer certifications, manning levels, submission of statistics on occupational accidents affecting the physical and mental health of crew members, as well as the issuance of electronic documents such as the declaration of maritime labor compliance Part I issued by the Administration and the maritime labor certificates that has been delegated to Recognized and Authorized Organizations, using IMO guidelines as a guide (FAL. 5 /Circ.39/Rev.2).

A series of resolution were adopted at the end of the meeting, as non-binding recommendations, aiming at encouraging the Convention Member States to respect seafarers' rights, States' cooperation for the effective application and control of the standards of the Convention, the seafarers' vaccinations against COVID-19 to avoid disturbances in the supply chain, being considered "Key Workers", because 90% of world trade is transported by sea.



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## Working meeting with Segumar-Miami



Teamwork, communication and work coordination are necessary to maintain the efficiency of the Panamanian Registry, under the responsibility of the Panama Maritime Authority. Complying with that purpose, the Director General of Merchant Marine, Rafael Cigarruista, held a working meeting with international office of Segumar-Miami's technical staff.

The analysis of current fleet statistics, improvement of customer service and the importance of timely response were the main topics of the reunion during which future actions were planned to benefit users' operations.

This meeting is part of the institution's follow-up program carried out virtually and in person with its different international offices. The objective being of working in coordination to maintain the current fleet and attract new clients to the Ship Registry.

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## Merchant Marine Circular - June 2021

Title	Number	Update
Crew Dispensations due to Article VIII of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended.	<b>MMC-175</b>	Junio 2021
Authorized Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) transiting High Risk Areas (online application).	<b>MMC-245</b>	Junio 2021
Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) - Authorized Recognized Organizations.	<b>MMC-255</b>	Junio 2021
Authorized service providers for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear.	<b>MMC-258</b>	Junio 2021
Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC). Certification Process.	<b>MMC-269</b>	Junio 2021
Security Measures sailing in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG).	<b>MMC-327</b>	Junio 2021
List of Approved P&I Clubs/ Insurers – MLC.	<b>MMC-352</b>	Junio 2021
Chief Cook Dispensation Letter - (MLC 2006).	<b>MMC-385</b>	Junio 2021
Australian Port Pre-arrival checklist for Panama flagged vessels.	<b>MMC-393</b>	Junio 2021
Marine Evacuation System (MES) Procedure.	<b>MMC-394</b>	Junio 2021

## Merchant Marine Notice - June 2021

Title	Number	Release
Flag annual safety inspection for vessels transiting through Panama with destination in the United States	<b>MMN-14/2021</b>	Junio 2021
Traffic separation schemes and associated routing measures (Off the coast of Norway, Slupska Bank & Off Ushant)	<b>MMN-15/2021</b>	Junio 2021

## Merchant Marine Circular - Julio 2021

Title	Number	Update
Issuance of Tonnage Certificates	<b>MMC-67</b>	Julio 2021
Approval of the use of Viking Liferaft Type S30	<b>MMC-194</b>	Julio 2021
List of Approved P&I Clubs / Insurers.	<b>MMC-202</b>	Julio 2021
High Risk Areas (HRA) and precautionary zones.	<b>MMC-230</b>	Julio 2021
Authorized service providers for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear.	<b>MMC-258</b>	Julio 2021
Control of the Issuance of Statutory Certificates Report and Administrative Fee imposed by the Republic of Panama to the Recognized Organizations and Recognized Security Organizations duly authorized by the Panama Maritime Authority.	<b>MMC-324</b>	Julio 2021
List of Approved P&I Clubs / Insurers - MLC.	<b>MMC-352</b>	Julio 2021
Use of Electronic Certificates onboard.	<b>MMC-355</b>	Julio 2021
Technical E-Certificates onboard.	<b>MMC-368</b>	Julio 2021
IGF Code.	<b>MMC-395</b>	Julio 2021

## Merchant Marine Notice - Julio 2021

Title	Number	Release
Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) 2021 - The Tokyo and Paris MOUs on Ship's stability in general	<b>MMN-16/2021</b>	Junio 2021





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## 24/7



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