

31st Session of the IMO Assembly **held from 25 Nov to 4 Dec 2019**

The 31st session of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was held in London, UK from 25 November to 4 December 2019. Present were delegates from more than 170 IMO member States including the DPRK and 40-odd governmental or non-governmental organizations.

The IMO Secretary General, in his opening speech, mentioned the latest two year achievements that IMO made in implementation of its strategical directions.

The head of the DPRK delegation delivered a speech in the participants speech meeting on 27 December. His speech was as follows.

“President,
Secretary-General,
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to extend warm congratulations to H.E. Ms. Nomatamba Tambo, on your election into the presidency of the 31st session of the Assembly of IMO. I believe that your excellent presidency will lead to the successful session.

Further, I appreciate the Secretary General and the Secretariat of IMO for their sincere efforts to host this great session.

Our delegation believes that, during the period of review, IMO set forth its vision that it would uphold its leadership role as the global shipping regulator and made considerable successes in realizing this vision.

The mandatory IMO Member States Audit Scheme which served as a reciprocal mechanism for IMO members was conducted smoothly to contribute to the improvement of the maritime governance systems all over the world as well as to the implementation of IMO’s SD 6 on ensuring regulatory effectiveness while the initial strategy on 50 percent reduction of GHG emission from shipping by 2050 was adopted to facilitate the achievement of the UN’s SDG on climate change.

In particular, IMO's efforts to incorporate the countries' maritime technical assistance needs into the UNSDCF illustrate the leading role that IMO did, does and will play in the global maritime development.

President,

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has always appreciated and supported the role of IMO who created an idealistic and impartial cooperation framework for the sustainable shipping development in countries.

During the period under review, we achieved more desirable harmony between the national and IMO maritime standards in course of preparation of the IMO audit to be conducted in our country in 2020. As a result, we enjoyed better cooperation with IMO.

I, on behalf of our Government and myself, would like to take this opportunity to express my heart-felt gratitude to the Secretary General and the other staff of IMO for their consistent close attention to the technical cooperation for our country.

President,

Today cooperation between IMO member States is much more needed than ever before in compliance with the trend of the new generation industrial revolution characterized by communication and connectivity. There, however, have been some undesirable acts to check the national and international maritime development against what IMO aims at.

Despite the efforts of the IMO Secretary General, IMSO Director General and other personages, the communication service for LRIT in our country still remains interrupted, which menaces our ships and seafarers in respect of their navigation and safety.

I strongly insist that the international community should show no tolerance to such acts that dishonor IMO which has been leading the global maritime development based on equality and reciprocity and compromise the UN's wishes for the sustainable development at the maritime sector.

President,

Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPR Korea, set forth in his policy speech at the 1st session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly a task to solidify the material foundations of socialism by

concentrating all national resources on economic construction and to bring about a great upsurge in socialist buildup by taking the self-development for the treasured sword for prosperity.

Under his wise leadership our people have launched out in a body into the grand project of timely achieving the great goals for the economic buildup to work innovational miracles in their performances.

The Government of the DPR Korea will continue to promote the friendly cooperation with the other IMO member States and fulfil its responsibility and obligation to ensure the harmonious development of safe and efficient global shipping.

Thank you.”

Ths Assembly elected its Council members, considered significant agendas and, accordingly, adopted important resolutions including the new IMO Strategic Plans and other measures to ensure maritime safety and marine environmetal protection.

