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Circular Letter No.4262
14 April 2020

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from Japan**

The Government of Japan has sent the attached communication, dated 12 April 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

020-7465 6500

EMBASSY OF JAPAN
101-104 PICCADILLY
LONDON
W1J 7JT

His Excellency Kitack Lim
Secretary General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR

Re: Coronavirus and Seafarers' certificates

12 April 2020

Dear Secretary General,

In light of the current situation due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and IMO Circular Letter 4204/Add.5, please find attached the notification from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan containing measures that are taken in relation to the certification of seafarers.

We kindly ask the notification to be circulated to the IMO Member States, Intergovernmental Organizations and Non-governmental Organizations.

Sincerely yours,



Kazuya Nakao
Alternative Permanent Representative of Japan
to the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

31st March 2020**RE: Coronavirus and Seafarers' certificates.**

Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan (MLIT) understands the situation that maritime industry is facing challenges in meeting requirements stipulated in the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978(STCW) as a result of outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19). In particular, taking into account the governmental request on travel restraint, seafarers may experience challenges in completing courses required for the revalidation of Certificates of Competency (COCs), Certificates of Proficiency (COPs) and endorsement, as well as taking medical examinations.

Recognizing the above situation as an emergent condition, MLIT takes the following necessary measures until the difficult condition is improved.

1. COC and COP

Japanese COC and COP, whose expiration is on or after 17th February 2020, is granted to extend the validity regardless of their description.

2. Endorsement of COC

Japanese endorsement recognizing a COC issued by or under the authority of another Party under the regulation I/10 of the STCW Convention, whose expiration is on or after 17th February 2020, is granted to extend the validity regardless of its description provided the issuing Party grants extended validity of the COC.

3. Medical certificate

Japanese medical certificate, which is valid for one year, is granted to extend the validity regardless of its description.

For more information, please contact us at hqt-stcw-coc@mlit.go.jp.

Maritime Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,
Transport and Tourism
