

Minutes of the 16th Electronic meeting of National Shipping Board held on 12th May 2021 at 1600 hrs.

Attendees:

Dr. Malini Shankar, Chairperson NSB
Shri Amitabh Kumar, Director General of Shipping
Shri Vikram Singh, Joint Secretary (Ports), MoPSW
Shri P. Rajesh, DIG, Coast Guard
Capt. Sarvpreet Singh, Director Naval Operations, Indian Navy
Shri AbdulganiSerang-NUSI
Shri Amar Singh Thakur-MUI
Shri Anil Devli- INSA
Shri Rahul Modi- CCTA
Shri Shantanu Bhadkamkar-AMTOI
Capt Piyush Sinha
Shri A. Balasubramanian
Shri Ishwar Achanta
Dr. Ajay Sahai, FIEO
Shri Aditya Suklikar- ICCSA
Capt. Sankar Kr. Das, Secretary, NSB

1.0 Granting leave of absence: -

Leave of absence was granted to Capt. Sanjay Prashar, IMF.

- i. Director General of Shipping was represented by Shri Kumar Sanjay Bariar, Additional Director General of Shipping.
- ii. Capt. Sarvpreet Singh, Director Naval Operations, Indian Navy was represented by Cdr Sreejesh K, Indian Navy and Shri Mandeep Randhawa, Indian Navy

The Chairperson welcomed all members to the 16th meeting of NSB. The Chairperson expressed her heartfelt condolences to the families of those who had lost their loved ones due to the COVID-19.

2.0 Minutes of the 15th meeting held on 16th March 2020 of NSB –

The minutes of the 15th meeting had not been drafted by the Secretariat of the NSB and thus could not be circulated. Chairperson asked the Secretariat to draft the same and circulate it to all members.

3.0 The Chairperson said that the Board needed to deliberate on what should be the agenda for the NSB to take up and discuss at the forthcoming meetings. She brought to the attention of the members that when finalizing the agenda for the NSB, members should bear in mind that the Board ought to be looking for futuristic trends and policy actions, rather than be on a responsive, urgency mode - which is best left to the authorities. There were doubtless urgent issues such as crew change and vaccination of seafarers on priority etc. and the Company of Master Mariners of India (CMMI), Unions and others were already looking into arranging vaccinations for seafarers on priority. She was not sure whether NSB would be effective in handling such matters of urgent nature however she was open to suggestions and discussions by the Board. The Ministry had already given directions to the Ports to be prepared and when Ports carry out the vaccination drive in the Ports, it was assumed that Seafarers would also be given priority.

Shri Abdulgani Serang suggested that while there were issues which the Indian Government could do very little about, the Ministry could surely consider designating the Seafarers as 'Frontline Workers'. Shri Vikram Singh brought to the attention that this issue was raised by Shri Abdulgani Serang at the meeting held with the Director General of Shipping where the Secretary Shipping and Additional Secretary were also present. This matter has already been taken up and the Minister has written a letter to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare. Further, the Ports have already been instructed to have vaccination facility at their hospitals. However, the current issue at hand has been shortage of vaccines. The Chairperson was of the view that the current scenario of shortage of vaccines might get sorted out in few days and she requested that when that happens Ports should be instructed to consider vaccinating the seafarers urgently since it is reported that there were cases of Indian seafarers being replaced by foreign seafarers and this would lead to loss of jobs and impact the Indian seafaring community and the country at large. Shri Abdulgani Serang and Shri

Thakur were requested to gather information whether the vaccinations were being carried out at the Ports, how many seafarers were being vaccinated on a daily basis and if there were any cases of seafarers being denied vaccinations at any port. Shri Thakur informed that he was trying to arrange vaccinations for seafarers in New Mumbai location who are above the age of 45+ and was in discussion with the concerned authorities. Further, he would also try to arrange the same in Mumbai location and for the age group of 18 to 44 as well. Capt. Sinha suggested that since the vaccination is given in two doses, priority should be given to those seafarers who would be joining the ship rather than those who have just come on leave. Shri Ishwar Achanta also highlighted that the shore workers/ship staff interface remained an issue due to lack of vaccination for the shore workers, given the PHO's strict instructions not to have contact with those on board ships. It was therefore his suggestion that along with seafarers, shore workers also get priority vaccination. The Chairperson was of the view that each one would see their sector / community being very crucial and it is difficult to consider the requests for prioritization from every sector. She therefore reiterated that data as suggested by her should be gathered and basis data, issues could be taken up by the NSB. Shri Vikram Singh mentioned that the Ministry has already been pursuing this matter and recently the loss that would be caused to the EXIM trade has also been highlighted.

3.1 Cyber security – The Chairperson brought to the attention of Shri Vikram Singh that a Committee had been constituted under the Joint Secretary (Shipping) to look into the cyber security. However, the Committee did not have any meetings. Shri Vikram Singh said that he would look into this.

3.2 Shortage of Containers – Shri Shantanu Bhadkamkar said that trade in India is faced with shortage of containers because of which imports and exports are suffering and hence he suggested that manufacturing of containers could be looked so that there is some independence in India in respect of availability of containers. The Chairperson said that earlier, Containers were being manufactured even by some government companies. However, the same was not cost effective and hence was shut down. She suggested that the group should carry out an in depth study on manufacturing of containers and what is the cost of manufacturing and how the same can be made more competitive. Shri Rahul Modi informed the Chairperson that there

is a committee which is working directly under the Minister and considering Bhavnagar as a hub for manufacturing containers. There have been two to three plants that have been set up. It was his view that in the next two to three months India will begin manufacturing of containers. Further, Shri Rahul Modi suggested that NSB could write to the Ministry on container manufacturing and he would be happy to share the detailed report which he has been working on since last few months, highlighting the requirements for developing the container hub.

3.3 Shri Aditya Suklikar brought to the attention of the Board that the Sub-Group on Shipbuilding of Capt. Sinha had submitted a report. Subsequent to that there have been some positive developments from the Ministry wherein boost for Indian built ships has been announced in January 2021. He suggested that this could be revisited in order to map demand and supply, especially in the context of the demand for smaller ships for the last mile. Chairperson requested Shri Suklikar to send in a short note on the subject to look into the matter.

3.4 Manning of Coastal Ships - The Chairperson enquired about the SOP for Manning of Coastal Ships. Shri Devli clarified that norms have been prescribed by the Directorate General of Shipping with respect to manning. However, the problem lies with implementation. Standardization would definitely serve the cause of smaller vessels and a recommendation from NSB would definitely strengthen the thought. Shri Devli and Shri Aditya Suklikar would prepare a note on this and NSB could consider making a recommendation to the Ministry. Shri Adbulgani Serang informed that the MLC ratified by India clearly states that when deciding Manning, the stakeholders should not decide this unilaterally but have a consultative procedure between the shipowners and the seafarers' representatives. He suggested that this should be considered.

3.5 Shri Ishwar Achanta enquired about the status on the points that were raised earlier i.e. (a) India joining the HNS Convention and (b) Position on unseaworthy stateless vessels. Shri Kumar Sanjay Bariar was requested by the Chairperson to check the status on these two issues.

3.6 The Chairperson suggested that NSB could deliberate on possible topics of national interest which could be researched on by the students of IMU and other

institutes. The Maritime India Vision 2030 covered a lot of deliverables and she would try and arrange a brief presentation on the Maritime India Vision 2030 to be given to the Board. The Maritime India Vision 2030 broadly highlights what the Ministry is expecting from the stakeholders. Shri Anil Devli said that INSA has a Research and Training committee and INSA would be happy to get in touch with IMU to work jointly on topics of strategic thinking as and when they come up. Dr. Sahai suggested that one of the topic that could be considered is 'How to build an Indian shipping line of global repute'.

Following points were suggested as agenda for discussion at the meeting of NSB.

Sr. no.	Agenda item	Person responsible to prepare the note
1	Ideas for Research in Maritime Sector	To be discussed at the 17 th meeting of NSB
2	Shipbuilding	Shri Aditya Suklikar
3	Manning of Coastal ships	Shri Anil Devli & Shri Aditya Suklikar
4	HNS Convention – Status on adoption by India	Shri Kumar Sanjay Bariar
5	Issue of Stateless vessels, abandoned vessels	Shri Kumar Sanjay Bariar

4.0 The Chairperson shared the following initiatives that are being taken up by IMU

- a.** Setting up a Centre for Occupation Safety of Seafarers
- b.** Centre for Maritime History and Maritime Archaeology
- c.** Establishing a position in the university for Academia in Industry Interface

5.0 Fixing date of the next meeting:

The 17th meeting of the Board of NSB will be held on 13th July 2021 at 1500 hours. There being no other matter to be discussed, the meeting was closed.

Approved

Dr. Malini Shankar
Chairperson

Place: Mumbai

Date: 13th May, 2021