

Today, June 25th, is the Day of the Seafarer.* The Day of the Seafarer was established in 2010 by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, to express deep gratitude and respect to seafarers who support maritime transport around the world.

For Japan, which relies heavily on overseas resources for many essential goods, seafarers who support international maritime transport are indispensable. Furthermore, domestically, maritime transport accounts for approximately 40% of all transportation, which is supported by seafarers.

Nearly four months have passed since the outbreak of issues in the Persian Gulf, and seafarers on Japanese-related vessels have endured tremendous hardship.

As we approach the Day of the Seafarer on June 25th, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude once again to the seafarers who are carrying out their duties under these high tensions in the Persian Gulf. Furthermore, we would also like to express our sincere gratitude to all seafarers, both overseas and domestically, who are involved in transporting essential goods for the lives of the Japanese people.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism is offering message cards featuring the logo used by the IMO for “Day of the Seafarer” as part of its efforts to convey a message of gratitude to seafarers.

If you are interested, please feel free to use this for your social media posts.

***Regarding “Day of the Seafarer”**

From June 21 to 25, 2010, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conference of the Contracting Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention) was held in Manila, Philippines.

On June 25, an agreement was reached and adopted to amend the Convention. In addition, a resolution was passed to designate June 25, the date of adoption of the amended Convention, as “Day of the Seafarer” each year, with the aim of expressing deep gratitude and respect to seafarers who support maritime transport under challenging circumstances.