

Declaration of the Asia Maritime Forum

For the Future Development of Maritime Engineering in Asia

We had a valuable discussion on the future development of maritime engineering among Asian countries at the Asia Maritime Forum on May 22, 2002.

1. Ship and Ocean

Throughout human history, ships have been powerful tools for transportation. Since they have enabled people to transport goods, cultural and technological exchanges among nations have become increasingly more active through the development of marine transportation. The maritime network - with ships traversing the ocean - has functioned as a kind of infrastructure that promotes economy, culture, and technology throughout the world in powerful ways; just as information technology does for us, as well.

In Asian coastal areas, particularly among the island nations, the so-called "Sea Road" was used extensively; just as the "Silk Road" and "Horse Road" were widely used in the continent for long time. These have all certainly played an important role among the particular cultures of Asia.

A growing number of people expect Asian countries to have a greater role in the twenty-first century in shaping cultures, economies, and politics around the world. The reason for this perceived economic potential is not only due to their large populations, but also due to their rich natural environments.

2. Maritime Engineering

It is a well-known fact that one of our future problems will be the difficulty of supplying enough energy and food to nations because of the population explosion all over the globe. Many people consider the oceans to have great potential for helping to solve this problem. Furthermore, continuing human endeavors in ocean transportation, in the utilization of the ocean, and also in the use of its resources are still important for our future. We have to develop an advanced technology for maritime engineering on the basis of a deep understanding of ocean environments.

The amount of maritime transportation around the world is increasing now along with the economic development of Asia. In the borderless market of shipping as well as that of the shipbuilding industry, Asian countries have taken an active part in the world. In order for Asia to continue making significant contributions in this field, it is important for us to make efforts beyond that of individual nations. Actual and potential problems associated with this effort can be solved through international co-operation.

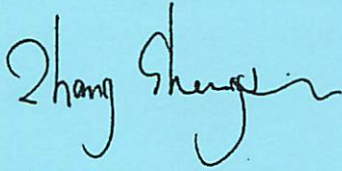
Shipping and naval architecture should not develop independently, but, rather, should be integrated. From an academic point of view, it is important to cooperate with the various associations for maritime engineering, including naval architecture, shipping, ocean engineering, et al.

3. New Association

On the basis of our understanding of the above-mentioned issues, we propose to organize a new association for maritime engineering in Asia. Pacific region. Through the various activities of this new association, we would like to:

- 1) promote the integration of ship and marine technologies.
- 2) exchange scientific information and personnel.
- 3) improve the status of maritime engineers.

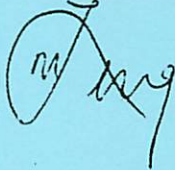
We believe that these goals should be the responsibility of all researchers and engineers of maritime engineering. Finally, we would like to reaffirm once again the continuous efforts made by the various organizations on maritime engineering in Asian countries to foster **good relationships and cooperation.**



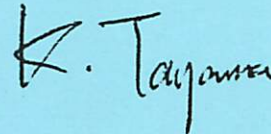
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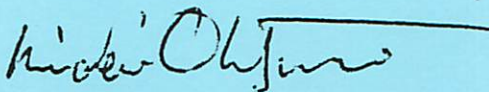
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