



JSU holds 81st annual assembly—remotely

Satellite halls at 5 locations linked up to limit risk of COVID-19 infection among attendees

All possible measures taken—social distancing, wearing masks, taking body temperatures, using sanitizers, proper ventilation

The All Japan Seamen's Union (JSU) held its 81st annual assembly on Nov. 11, 2020, linking its main venue at Tokyo International Exhibition Center (Tokyo Big Sight) with five satellite halls in Japan (Hokkaido, Tohoku, Kansai, Chubu and Shikoku, and Kyushu).

The meeting was convened as the novel coronavirus outbreak raged on, and having an overwhelming impact on the entire world. For this reason, the JSU decided to organize it at one location and take all possible measures, urging attendees to social distance, wear masks, sanitize their hands and monitor body temperatures.

Report on the JSU's 81st annual national assembly

The JSU's 81st annual national assembly began at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 11, 2020. Mr. Junzo Suzuki, president of the preparatory committee for the meeting, gave the opening address. Then, Mr. Daisuke Noguchi, president of the credential committee, unveiled results of qualification screenings.

When Mr. Noguchi confirmed the official start of the annual national assembly, Mr. Hiroshi Saito, director of the Kanto Regional Office, was assigned to preside over the assembly. Mr. Nariaki Takamiya, acting director of the Kanto



JSU officers lead a recorded chanting of gambaro three times at the end of the 81st Annual National Assembly, which was held linking six different locations.

Regional Office, and Mr. Raian Morimoto, another acting director of the Kanto Regional Office and director of the Shizuoka Branch, were appointed to report to Mr. Saito.

After their addresses, all executive organization members were confirmed, and members of all committees were then designated.

On behalf of the assembly organizer, Mr. Yasumi Morita, presi-

dent of the JSU, delivered a speech.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is still devastating the world. Even in Japan, a number of people are getting infected every day. In preparation for organizing our annual assembly set forth in the Labor Union Act and our rules and regulations, as such, the Central Executive Board Committee had conducted studies from various angles on how we can help people move,

stay and keep social distances; the technical feasibility of this meeting; among others, making it a top priority to ensure safety for those of you, representatives from across the nation.

"As a consequence, we decided to hold our annual assembly in this manner," Mr. Morita said. "Even though we are in these times of the coronavirus disaster, we must continue to work hard to overcome challenges and realize policies. I hope that those of you who have come to attend this meeting will hold constructive discussions in a serious manner."

After Mr. Morita's speech, the national assembly held discussions on a report on the activities that it carried out in its 75th year and accountings for the year in question. They were both approved by an absolute majority.

Then, Bill 1 was proposed for action policies for the 76th year. Views were exchanged on regional bills that had been submitted to the assembly together with Bill 1. When the assembly promoted a deeper understanding of the regional bills through question-and-answer sessions with attending representatives, the JSU leaders presented their perspectives, leading to an approval for Bill 1 by an absolute majority.

Afterward, the Ocean Going Seafarers, Fisheries and Domestic Seafarers departments met to discuss Bills 2, 3 and 4, respectively.

The departments also unveiled reports on the discussions, which were all approved. The general assembly went on to discuss Bill 5 now, which was plans for a general budget and facility development for the 76th year. When an adoption was encouraged, the bill was approved by an absolute majority.

An election was also held for the members of the Central Executive Board Committee. Mr. Yasumi Morita, president; Mr. Shinichi Tanaka, acting president; Mr. Mitsuharu Matsuura, acting president; Mr. Yoshiyuki Ikeya, General Director, International Affairs; Mr. Kenji Takahashi, General Director, Fisheries Affairs; Mr. Hidehiko Hiraoka, General Director, Domestic Affairs; Mr. Hiroyuki Tachikawa, Policy Bureau; and Mr. Junzo Suzuki, General Director, General Affairs were all re-elected.

At the end of the annual national assembly. Mr. Morita made closing remarks on behalf of the Central Executive Board Committee. Afterwards, the chairman and vice chairmen also gave closing addresses, and Mr. Morita called for playing of a recorded three *gambaro* (Let's work hard) chant—a recording was made in advance for the safety of attendees against COVID-19 infection that could be transmitted by yelling in a crowd—and led to the end of the JSU's 81st annual national assembly.

JSU Officers re-elected at National Assembly



Mr. Yasumi Morita
President



Mr. Shinichi Tanaka
Acting President



Mr. Mitsuharu Matsuura
Acting President



Mr. Yoshiyuki Ikeya
General Director
Int'l Affairs Bureau



Mr. Kenji Takahashi
General Director
Fisheries Affairs Bureau



Mr. Hidehiko Hiraoka
General Director
Domestic Affairs Bureau



Mr. Hiroyuki Tachikawa
General Director
Policy Bureau



Mr. Junzo Suzuki
General Director
General Affairs Bureau

Locations

Tokyo: Tokyo International Exhibition Center (Tokyo Big Sight)

Hokkaido: ANA Crown Plaza Sapporo

Tohoku: JSU Tohoku Regional Office

Kansai: JSU Kansai Regional Office

Chubu & Shikoku: JSU Chu-Shikoku Regional Office

Kyushu Kanmon: Shimomoseki Grand Hotel

On-board Exercises

Actress **Kaoru Yumi** presents the **Nishino Breathing Method**



O-ku—Imagine that you move your body freely as if you were adjusting to the surrounding air.

The following O-gai, O-ten, O-kyo and O-chi are a set of exercises, collectively called O-ku. It means that you move your body freely as if you were adjusting to the surrounding air. You can do O-ku with your natural breathing. O-ku helps you train your body to be able to cope flexibly with anything.

応涯 O-gai—As if reaching to the horizon

Do O-gai by relaxing your arms so they reach as far-right and left as possible. Always keep your arms relaxed, and wave them so gently as to be able to feel air movements. It can help ease your stiff shoulders.

1. Relax your whole body with your legs apart shoulder-width.



5. While breathing in through your nose, this time, turn your body around slightly to your right. Raise your left arm chest high.



2. While breathing in through your nose, twist your body around slightly to your left. Raise your right arm chest high.



6. While breathing out through your mouth, keep your left arm chest high and wave horizontally to your left as if you were throwing away your hand.



3. While breathing out through your mouth, keep your right arm chest high and wave horizontally to your right as if you were throwing away your hand.



7. Relax your shoulders and arms. When you wave your left arm to your left, let it down naturally.



4. When doing so (3,4), look at your fingertips. When you wave your arm to your right, let it down naturally.



8. Repeat a set of movements 2 through 7 some 20 times, and return to your starting position.



応天 O-ten—Imagine that energy flows from earth to the sky.

When doing O-ten, imagine that you raise your arms freely to the sky. Have your feet firmly on earth, relax your body. Breathe and move your arm as if energy flow from earth to the sky through your body accordingly. Fully relax your shoulders so as not to move the axis of your body. O-ten boosts blood circulation and is good for people having a cold constitution and/or suffering from insomnia.

1. Relax your whole body with your legs apart shoulder-width.



2. While relaxing your knees and breathing in through your nose, twist your body to your right.



3. Breathe out through your mouth and raise your right arm above along your median line (the axis of your body).(2-4)



4. When you raise your arm, look at your fingertips. Relax your knees and lower your right arm.



5. While breathing in through your nose, twist your body to your left.



6. Breathe out through your mouth and raise your left arm above along your median line (the axis of your body) (5-7)



7. When you do it(6-7), pay attention to relaxing your shoulders and arms. Then, lower your left arm.



8. Repeat a set of movements 2 through 7 some 20 times, and return to your starting position.



応響 O-kyo—Imagine that air waves generated from your arms will travel endlessly.

When doing O-kyo, imagine that when you look back and move your arms to your back, air waves generated from your arms will travel endlessly. Try to have your belly button face far back as possible so that your shoulders are relaxed when looking back. O-kyo is effective for people suffering from backaches.

1. Relax your whole body with your legs apart shoulder-width.



2. While inhaling through your nose, twist your body slightly to your left. Raise your right arm chest high.



3. While exhaling through your mouth, keep your right arm chest high and move your right arm all the way to your back.(3,4)



4. When doing so (4, 4'), look at your fingertips.



4'. This is how you look from your back when you are in Movement 4.



5. While breathing in through your nose, twist your body this time slightly to your right. Raise your left arm chest high.



6. While exhaling through your mouth, keep your left arm chest high.



7. Move your left arm all the way to your back.

8. Repeat a set of movements 2 through 7 some 20 times, and return to your starting position.



応地 O-chi—Imagine that energy flows naturally from sky to the earth.

When doing O-chi, lower your arms straight down along your median line once they are raised. While feeling the weight of your hands, imagine that energy flows naturally from sky to the earth through your body. Pay attention not to bend yourself forward. Relax your arms and shoulders. O-chi helps you get rid of fatigue and give your entire body full of energy.

1. Relax your whole body with your legs apart shoulder-width.



2. While breathing in through your nose and twisting your body to your right, raise your right arm.



3. When raising your right arm, twist it so that your palm face inside. When you do this, look at your fingertips.



4. While breathing out through your mouth, have your right arm straight down in between your thighs along your median line (the axis of your body).



5. While breathing in through your nose and this time twisting your body to your left, raise your left arm.



6. When raising your left arm, twist it so that your palm faces inside. When you do this, pay attention to relaxing your shoulders.



7. While breathing out through your mouth, have your left arm straight down in between your thighs along your median line (the axis of your body).



8. Repeat a set of movements 2 through 7 some 20 times, and return to your starting position.



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VOICES from SEAFARERS

**Officers and crew of MV MALTO HOPE**

After fulfilling months of safe stay on board, we finally made it to sign off. This pandemic is so cruel, we were locked into critical condition in maintaining not to be infected. This crew change has happened with the aid of our company's worldwide resources. Thank you so much for everything.

**Signing off crewmembers of MV TSUSHIMA**

Christmas season is fast approaching. We wish and pray this on-going pandemic will disappear in order to restore our daily lives to normal in land and at sea. Everybody is encouraged to keep a safe environment and be healthy.

**Signing off crewmembers of MV GARDENIA K**

This is a surprise. We are glad to be a part of crew change in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Likewise we are grateful to our company and we wish all the best to the joining crew to have safe navigation in all their voyages.

**Officers and crew of MV INABA**

The end of the contract has come. Crew change is real. We are humbly thankful to our company's ingenuity and to the authorities who care for us to sign off. Thank you and always think of safety.

**Signing off crewmembers of MV EASTERN HOPE**

At last, there is a crew change. We're blessed and cherish our company's means in getting us off the ship safely on the midst of pandemic. We wish everybody to be safe and in good health.

**Signing off crewmembers of MV BORACAY ISLAND**

This crew change has occurred with the swift support of our company making us home to join our families safely on the forthcoming Christmas season. Thank you and Merry Christmas to all.

IMO welcomes UN resolution on key worker seafarers

The United Nations General Assembly has called on UN Member States to designate seafarers and other marine personnel as key workers and to implement relevant measures to allow stranded seafarers to be repatriated and others to join ships, and to ensure access to medical care.

In a resolution on international cooperation to address challenges faced by seafarers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to support global supply chains—adopted on December 1—the United Nations recognizes the need for an urgent and concrete response from

all stakeholders, including the private sector, to resolve the situation of seafarers stranded at sea and/or unable to join ships because of national travel restrictions introduced across the globe as a result of the pandemic.

The resolution also encourages governments and relevant stakeholders to implement IMO-recognized protocols to ensure safe ship crew changes and travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby allowing stranded seafarers to be repatriated and others to join ships, taking into account essential preventive measures taken by port states against COVID-19.

Welcoming the adoption of the

resolution, International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary-General Kitack Lim said, "Sadly, hundreds of thousands of seafarers, who are vital to maintaining supply chains, remain stranded at sea for months beyond their contracted time. This is causing immense strain, fatigue and exhaustion and is unsustainable. I hope that this call to action will result in positive momentum to resolve the crew change crisis."

Mr. Lim added, "I am grateful to those countries who have already taken steps to designate seafarers as key workers and to all UN agencies and industry partners who have been working tirelessly to find

ways to resolve the difficult situation. This is a human rights issue. Seafarers' lives are being made impossible through the crew change difficulties and this can only have a detrimental effect on ship safety and on the supply chain, the longer the situation continues."

The UN resolution calls on international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including workers and employers organizations, to support governments, upon their request, in the design and implementation of their responses and policies aimed at ensuring the integrity and increasing the resilience of global supply chains, decent working and living

conditions and human rights of seafarers.

Vaccination for seafarers

Noting recent positive news regarding the development of vaccines against COVID-19, Mr. Lim said the key worker designation should ensure seafarers and maritime workers receive priority vaccination, to allow them to work and maintain vital global supply chains.

"I hope that the key worker designation will ensure that seafarers can be vaccinated expeditiously. This will go some way to resolving the ongoing crew change crisis," Mr. Lim said. (Source: IMO)

Japan pushes ahead with ammonia as a shipping fuel of the future

Japan is planning to introduce ammonia as fuel into the shipping industry and make it commercially available in the late 2020s as part of its efforts to go carbon-neutral by 2050.

The solution was examined at today's meeting of the fuel ammonia council, which was established back in October. The council is made up of representatives from the public and private sectors to solve technical and other supply-

chain hurdles to the introduction and expansion of using ammonia as a fuel.

The council also wants to introduce ammonia into the fuel mix for thermal power generation.

"Ammonia is expected to be introduced as fuels on a commercial basis for thermal power generation and shipping in the late 2020s, and it is expected to be used for a significant amount by around 2030," Ryo Minami, director-general of

oil, gas and mineral resources at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, told the council meeting.

Ammonia joins renewable energy sources like solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and biomass, as it doesn't emit CO₂ even when burned.

Being already mainly used for fertilizer applications, it has an international trading infrastructure in place, however, there still a need for

some technical issues to be resolved, including safe pressurization, liquefaction and combustion before it can become widely used as a fuel.

Ammonia can be stored in higher temperatures in a liquid form under atmospheric pressure.

However, it is less energy-dense than oil, meaning ships will consume up to five times as much fuel by volume. Ammonia production would have to rise by 440 million tonnes—more than treble current

production—requiring 750 gigawatts of renewable energy, according to the International Chamber of Shipping.

Green ammonia has been identified as one of the most promising low-emission fuels, with the IEA predicting that its use for shipping will reach 130m tons by 2070, twice as much as was used worldwide for fertilizer production in 2019. (Source: World Maritime News)