



60 Years Pursuing Peace for World's Seafarers

Dear all non-domicile special members:

I would like to express my heartfelt greetings to you all during this holiday season, and reflect upon the solidarity that keeps up going throughout the year.

Life as a seafarer can be especially tough around the holidays – you think tenderly of your lovely wife and children but cannot celebrate together with them because you are away at sea. I wish I could do something to ease the loneliness you must feel.

The JSU held its 60th Anniversary during its 66th National Congress, which took place in Hiroshima from November 8-10. I presume that the name “Hiroshima” is familiar to you.

Sixty years ago, during the Pacific War (World War II), which caused severe damage throughout many countries in the Asian region, it is estimated that 62,000 precious Japanese Merchant Seafarers were lost at sea.

The past war served to teach us and our organization a great lesson. Since the founding of our union, we

have pledged to maintain without compromise the following 3 ideals: to stand for world peace, to promote a conflict-free society, and to achieve safety at sea.

It was of great significance that we held JSU's 60th anniversary in Hiroshima.

Now known as the “City of Peace,” it stands as a symbol for the movement to eliminate nuclear weapons from the world.

During the 66th congress, Vincent P. Higoy, JSU International Service Staff, stood as the representative of the 36,000 JSU non-domicile special members. He requested that we come up with a plan concerning how the special member's representative could attend future JSU

National Congresses to give voice to your opinions and requests. Presently, we are planning to hold sincere discussions on this matter in our organization. The congress lasted a



“On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of our founding, I renew our pledge to campaign for the improvement of seafarers' status around the world.”

Capt. Sakae Idemoto
President,
All Japan Seamen's Union

IBF Tokyo Yields Revised Framework

By Katsuji Taki

Assistant General Secretary,
International Affairs &
Seafarers' Section

Revision of the IBF Framework TCC Agreement took place on Oct. 6, 2005 during the IBF Tokyo round.

The JSU – represented by Seiichi Hirayama, secretary of the International Seafarers' Bureau – and IMMAJ – represented by chairman Nobuo Kayahara, held local negotiations concerning revision of the IBF JSU/AMOSUP-IMMAJ CBA and JSU-IMMAJ CA on Oct. 26, 2005.

The parties began by exchanging their respective proposals for the new agreements, each offering some comments and explanations.

The first working group session met on October 27 to discuss the reviewed terms referred by the Local Negotiating Committee. The second and third sessions were held October 28 and 30.

JSU has spared no effort

in achieving our proposals, including wage increases for seafarers.

Revision of the new IBF JSU/AMOSUP-IMMAJ CBA and IBF JSU-IMMAJ CA (for 2006 and 2007) was conducted by the IMMAJ and JSU during the second round of local negotiations, held November 1.

Highlights follow:

• *TCC Increase for IBF model ship (23 crewmen)*

According to the revision of the IBF Framework TCC Agreement, the existing TCC will be increased by 5 percent from Jan. 1, 2006

and again by 5 percent from Jan. 1, 2007.

• *Pension scheme for widows/widowers*

A pension scheme for widows/widowers has been established by the new CBA agreement, which applies to AMOSUP members only.

• *Better medical checks*

Concerning the ordinary medical check conducted prior a seafarer joining his vessel, it is agreed that seafarers shall undergo a higher level medical check.

The management committee responsible for HMC
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mere three days. However, there were active discussions about campaign policy for the following year, and in the end we decided we would seek to improve the status and employment stability of all JSU seafarers, regardless of whether they were domiciled or non-domicile.

I am prepared to work together with you to make these goals a reality. Let us now put them into practice.

During negotiations on November 1, we won approval of a new labor condition, which will take effect Jan. 1, 2006. The JSU requested a 10 percent increase over the previous Total Crew Cost (TCC).

However, it was agreed by both parties concerned that the agreed resolution will take effect over a period of two years. The revision concerned the number of TCCs per vessel, and therefore it will not reflect directly on your salary. However, considering seafarer welfare as we are confident that the

result will offer you drastic improvements in terms of response. Since the economy of the global shipping industry remains quite favorable your role of engaging to ensure ship safety and stable transportation has become more important than expected. I pledge together with you that we will act with pride and confidence when it comes to our individual jobs. The Mariner's Home in Manila, planned by the AMOSUP and JSU, was finished in December. We are holding a ceremony to celebrate its completion on January 23. Filipino Government VIPs will attend, led by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

This facility will be used by seafarers from all over the world and it will contribute to the improvement of their welfare.

Accommodation at the new Mariner's Home will not be free, but the JSU is looking into how to ensure the ¥30 million contributed from the JSU welfare fund is used effectively. I request your understanding and cooperation on this issue.

On New Year's, what kind of hopes and goals do you have? Let us hope that this year will bring all the best for the world's seafarers.

Have a smooth voyage and safe return to your family.

National Congress Marks Milestone, Achievements

By Vincent P. Higoy

JSU International Service Staff

The 66th JSU National Congress (the highest policy making body of the JSU) was held in Hiroshima from Nov. 8-10, 2005 commemorating the JSU's 60th year being the only seafarer trade union in Japan. The JSU was established on Oct. 5, 1945 when remains of the war were still everywhere. Since then, the JSU has overcome many challenges, maintained trade unionism, contributed to the national economy and people's lives by providing sea transportation and food, and made various efforts to improve the status of seafarers as well as to ensure maritime safety.

At the congress, it was reported on the first day that the JSU has been actively involved at the Maritime Session of the International Labor Conference for the ILO Consolidated Maritime Convention. The union has taken several steps, as part of its initiatives for the labor group, in order to make the Convention the bill of rights for seafarers in close collaboration with the ITF. JSU will further strive to promote the prompt ratification of the Convention as well as its earliest possible effectuation.

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Mariners' Home Ready This Month

According to report filed by the building contractor, the six-story JSU-AMOSUP Mariners' Home has already been completed.

The official address of the new JSU-AMOSUP Mariners' Home is 1765 Dr. A. Vazquez corner Julio Nakpil Street, Malate, Manila.

The building features a restaurant on the ground floor together with a kitchen, front desk and baggage room. The second floor features a conference room, while the third and fourth floors can each accommodate 140 beds. The fifth floor has room for up to 30 beds. The sixth floor houses the JSU-Manila Welfare Office and the JSU-AMOSUP Mariners' Home Office.

The Mariners' Home was completed on December 31, and a ceremony to bless the building is being held January 23. (By Agnes Lovingo, Secretary, JSU Manila Welfare Office)

Confined Crews seeking assistance From JSU

By Masanobu Makizoe

Director, Foreign Trades Department

Harbor masters in Japan have different interpretations of security controls implemented by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) after the

SOLAS revision of July 1, 2004.

Japanese private berths are especially likely to confine seafarers to their vessels.

In November 2005, a landing prohibition on foreign crewmen was circulated by the security officer at Nippon Flour Yoko-

hama Mill in Yokohama Port. The ITF inspector who responded to a plea from the crew protested the action. The MLIT subsequently directed that this measure be withdrawn by.

JSU directors concerned with Foreign Trades and General Policy visited the MLIT on November 18 to confirm that new instructions had been given to harbor masters.

Foreign crew are sometimes prohibited from going ashore in Japanese ports even though Japanese crew can do so.

The Ministry and JSU are now trying to resolve these problems.

Please contact the JSU Foreign Trades Dept. if you encounter a problem at a Japanese port (i.e. are not allowed ashore, allowed ashore for a limited time, no transportation is available, etc.).



Congress-

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Another issue was the trial of a seamen's certificate incorporating biometrics.

Technology tests will be carried out this autumn in accordance with ILO Convention No.185 (Seafarers' Identity Documents). The JSU continues its efforts to call for the prompt ratification of the convention, which will protect the rights and privacy of seafarers and remove a financial burden from them.

It is reported that seafarers' right to shore leave is being restricted due to the implementation of the ISPS Code. By closely cooperating with the ITF and dockworker unions, the JSU will continue its efforts to remove any restrictions that disregard the reality of the working and living environment faced by seafarers and those that might limit union activities.

On the second day of the congress, the activities of the Foreign Trades Department

were discussed.

It was first reported that the number of Japanese seafarers on board oceangoing ships and employed by organized companies (including 1,012 personnel working ashore) came to 3,281, down 340 (9.4%) from the same month last year.

One major reason for this drop was the decline in new recruits, which fell to 70 people during the past year. If this trend is maintained, the number of ocean-going Japanese seafarers will certainly shrink below 2,000.

Turning to non-domicile special members (foreign seafarers), the number grew 2,969 from the previous year to reach 39,167, (including the fishery sector).

When it came to discussing international activities and activities for non-domicile special members, the JSU reported that based upon ITF policies, the union will promote international activities in cooperation with other ITF affiliates.

Domestically, the union will strengthen its cooperative relationship with dockers' unions, mainly through

ITF's FOC campaign. The JSU will also support ITF Port of Convenience (POC) Campaign.

Concerning the problem of some FOC shipowners to shift their ship registries to Hong Kong in order to avoid ITF agreements, persistent efforts by JSU members have succeeded in raising awareness between the ITF and its affiliates that this is a problem threatening the entire ITF family. JSU will continue its activities to prevent shipowners from avoiding the ITF and JSU.

In the ITF Seafarers' Section meeting in April 2005, with respect to the need to eliminate unfair competition, an ITF Secretariat recommendation was adopted which called upon ITF affiliates to secure the same level of working conditions as ITF agreements for seafarers on board bona fide national flag ships if the seafarers are all non-domicile.

JSU will support ITF political campaigns – the pillars of the ITF's FOC activities – promote activities to make the "genuine link" stipulated in the UN Con-



Seichi Hirayama, secretary, Bureau of International Seafarers, responding to a question.

vention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) an international rule, and target elimination of the FOC system.

FOC owners are intensifying their attacks on ITF policies, such as the negotiating rights of unions in beneficial ownership countries, and increasing their interference in union autonomy. JSU will definitely resist such unjustifiable arguments and intervention by shipowners.

Negotiations aimed at concluding the revised IBF framework agreement, which becomes effective on January 1, began back in June 2005. The JSU represents Asian seafarers on the ITF negotiating team.

After the conclusion of the negotiations, JSU will try to reflect requests from its non-domicile special members in the local negotiations that will follow.

To strengthen JSU's part-

nership with non-domicile special members and meet their needs, it will review the status, recruitment standards, and job responsibility of International Service Staff. JSU will review its system concerning non-domicile special seafarers.

The Mariners' Home in Manila, one of JSU's international welfare activities for seafarers, has been completed and begins operating this month. Although how to manage and operate the facility is still under discussion, the operational cost will be partly covered by the Foreign Seafarers Welfare Fund (Gaikokujin-fukurikin).

At the end of the congress, the JSU pledged to promote various activities based upon its existing policies in order to protect its members' social status and living conditions on board.



Delegates pass a motion at the 66th National Congress

Holiday Greetings From the Heart

To: Elmer Rufino
M/V Century Highway 5

What kind of Christmas can we look forward to this year? I think the same thing as before. You're always away from home but in spite of that we are still hoping that someday we can celebrate it together. Just have faith in GOD.

Nawa'y you're in good health throughout your journey.
Ingat ka, miss you, love you.
Maligayang Pasko, Papa.

Love,
Minda & EJ



Kaiun Awards Announced At Congress

The winners of this year's Kaiun Award, which honors the best photograph and best editorial cartoon submitted by JSU members, were announced during the recent 66th JSU National Congress.

In the photo category, the winner was Takanori Imaura, who submitted "Forced retirement, aged 60."

The photo shows a ferry pulling away from its berth, leaving behind a man, dressed as an officer, who is clutching a bouquet to his breast and waving a bitter-

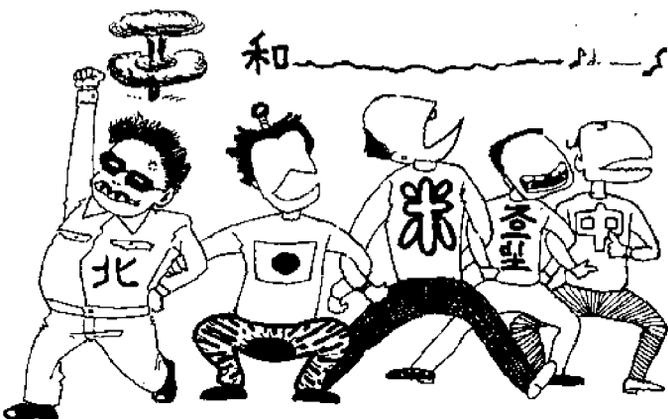
sweet farewell.

His back is turned to the viewer as he says good-bye to the ship and to the industry he has served for 43 years. According to the photographer, the ship's wake was "a white trail of tears."

"Disharmony" (pictured) was the winner in the cartoon category. It was drawn by Shigehiro Nakahara.

The cartoon refers to the opening of the fourth round of Group of Six discussions in Seoul aimed at eliminating North Korea's nuclear arsenal.

Blind as bats, Japan, the United States, South Korea and China sing a jolly song of peace while North Korea's Kim Jong Il indulges his nuclear fantasies.



To: Apt. Jose B. Orquinaza
Forestal Pacifico

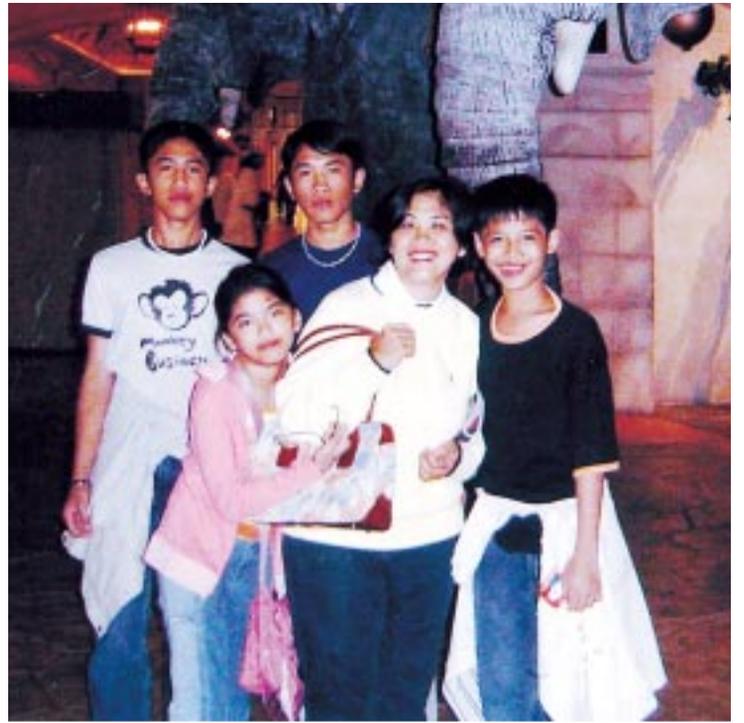
"For a Great Person"

It has been five months since you left for another eight-month contract. It's surprising how time passed so quickly, though we are missing you a lot. The reason is because your family has accepted your career as a seaman, which keeps you always away from home.

Whew! Thanks a lot for the great compensation you are getting from this kind of job, which other families envy considering the buying power of the peso in the market today. We are proud of you as an "OFW", which they now call "New Heroes."

Seriously, we really appreciate your determination in continuing your career. It is said that "great power comes with great responsibility." We are aware of the risk that you take the moment you step foot on board the ship and are also thankful that you are always taken care of by our CREATOR.

We understand that it is not easy to be on the other



side of the world and missing your loved ones here, but we know that it is how you grow and love us even more and becoming a better person. In fact, despite your absence, we can still feel your warm love in your own way of letting your love be realized.

Always remember that we love you and the time will come when you will spend the rest of your fruitful life here with us.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Love,
Emalyn & Children

Member's Voice: Thanks & Praise



2/O Firoz N. Modak
Indian
Crown Emerald

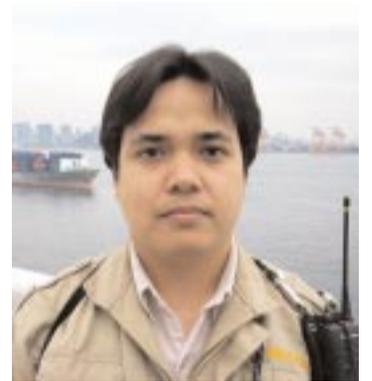
Regarding the work of the JSU, actually this is my first time joining a Japanese beneficiary owned vessel and I really don't know anything about the union.

During my stay here onboard, we were visited by

a Filipino JSU representative three times and very impressed with the kind of concern the JSU imparts to its foreign members like me.

I have served aboard many types of vessels but have never seen a union putting so much attention into asking about seafarers' conditions onboard like the JSU has. What I am trying to point out is that the JSU is really doing a very good job taking care of its members. I can feel that I can tell everything to the JSU. That is my honest feeling.

Concerning the upgrading of our leave pay benefits, I would like to say is that the JSU is really heading down the right track. I applaud the JSU for its hard work upgrading our benefits.



3/O Augusto Narito
Filipino
M/V Hakone

I am very thankful to the JSU for helping seafarers regardless of their nationality.

On the issue of free access to e-mail, I wish that all companies were required to provide this benefit to all crewmembers.

I think it is very important to establish such a system since it would allow seafarers to contact their families even when vessels are at sea. This is especially true during the holiday season, when we are away from home during Christmas and New Year's.

For the type of vessel like my present vessel, a containership, normally we don't have too much time to spend to call our family. Putting a computer with e-mail access on board is a very good idea.

I just hope that our union, the JSU, will continue its efforts to improve our welfare and well-being.

Regarding IMO training, it would be beneficial for us seafarers if the proposed increase was given to us directly since IMO training is not given onboard and most manning agencies already have such facilities in place.

Estimated at US\$25 per month per crewmember, that amount would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Moreover, seafarers often have to shoulder the costs associated with training that the manning agencies cannot provide.

This is simply my view. A fact that deserves to be



Capt. J. Legaspina
Filipino
M/V Golden Nova

examined carefully. It would be fair if the windfall was given to seafarers to pay for seminars and other training.

LETTER from HEADQUARTERS



To all JSU non-domicile special members: "Happy New Year." I offer best wishes to those of you seeing in the New Year in stormy weather, under a sultry sun on the equator, or anywhere else in the Seven Seas.

We, the JSU International Seafarers Bureau, the headquarters that helps improve your working conditions, protect your rights and raise the status of seafarers, has many challenges this year.

First, there will be inspections to ensure the new agreement for 2006-07 is understood and being applied properly.

The agreement for 2006-07 was decided in local negotiations between JSU and IMMAJ after the IBF framework was agreed between ITF and JNG last October. There are many new items whose application must be checked. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Second, it was decided at the National Congress last November that JSU reinforce its solidarity with non-domicile special members. We are looking into a new system by which your voices can be heard more clearly at the National Congress. We also seek to reinforce education promotion activities for you members. Substantiality increasing the content of the JSU Maritime Journal is possible for the time being, but the major challenge is ensuring that every JSU member vessel receives copies of the JMJ.

We will also try to reinforce special members' solidarity with other ITF affiliate unions this year.

Thank you,
Seiichi Hirayama
Secretary,
Bureau of International
Seafarers

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Send inquiries to the attention
of Mr. Masanobu Makizoe,
Director, Foreign Trades Dept.

A Seafarer's Heart Is a Lonely Heart

Noriko Hashimoto, president, National Women's Association for Mariners (WAM; Zenkoku-Kaiyu-Fujinkai), addressed the 66th JSU National Congress. This is what she had to say:

There is no way to comprehend the destruction experienced by Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, without visiting the atomic bomb dome and peace memorial museum.

I heard that citizens of present-day Hiroshima City make poetry expressing "a wish for peace," an idea they will pass on to future generations.

I offer my warmest congratulations to this 66th National Congress, which celebrates the 60th anniversary of the JSU, and which is being held in this city dedicated to world peace.

Our women's society, understanding the activity of the JSU, would like to become a good partner in future. Individual voices might not reach the halls of the Diet, but if we develop the whole country, and approach issues as an organization, then petitions written in the words of one housewife will be heard within the Diet, and will be able to help the JSU.

To give you an idea about what goes on in the women's sector, I will describe what



Noriko Hashimoto
President,
National Women's
Association for Mariners

goes on at my local Misaki branch office.

The "Maru Ship" system was adopted in the fishery sector, and most of the crew are now Indonesians. They come to Japan two days before the next voyage and begin preparations to leave for the open sea. Most cannot understand the Japanese language, and they are not familiar with Japanese foods.

When most of the crews were Japanese, we used to give them miso soup for lunch, but the Indonesian crewmen cannot eat it. Then an officer from a local women's society discovered how to make chicken soup. It was a short period of time, three days, but we were able

to improve them home-made chicken soup.

After serving the men, an Indonesian seafarer brought back his empty bowl and said "was delicious" in broken Japanese. He added: "Thank you for tomorrow, mom." We mothers were very pleased with the words, and even though it was a simple thing, the exchange between us and the foreign seafarers began at that point.

We also hear their gratitude when we bring clothes for work which our children no longer wear, as well as clothes for their women back home. The bosun divides the clothing equally before the voyage starts. When the day arrives for them to leave for the fishing grounds, they wave to us as the ships leave the quay.

We, the Women's Association for Mariners, hope that Japanese officers and these foreign crewmen can establish good relationships and improve their communication on board, even if it is only a little bit at a time. With these thoughts we continue to make our soup.

The heart of a seaman who works apart from his family is the heart of a lonely man no matter what his nationality. I think the JSU must move forward and create a peaceful working environment, seeking to one heart for the world.

The National Women's Association for Mariners is here to help you as you pursue this noble goal.

IBF-

(Continued From Page 1) will be established in order to decide examination details and to develop guidelines for implementation.

• Paid leave

Paid leave will be increased from 7 to 8 days. Leave pay and subsistence allowance shall also be increased as appropriate.

• E-Mail access

As long as safety of navigation is not affected, and with the permission of the master, free e-mail access will be provided to all crews. This access shall be operated in accordance with the guidelines set down by each company.

• IMO training

IMO training activities, and their cost, shall be revised. A committee for IMO training will be set up by both parties; it will assess the current state of such training and submit its recommendations.

• Death/disability compensation

The compensation rate for death or disability on the job will be increased by 5% from Jan. 1, 2006, and by a further 5% from Jan. 1, 2007.

• Food allowance

A committee will be set up to assess food allowances and offer recommendations.

Subject to the above revisions, provisions of the existing CBA and CA agreement shall be amended where necessary. This revision will be effective from Jan. 1, 2006.

Bayside Fun: Let's Go to Odaiba!

Odaiba is a popular waterfront area reached by the Yurikamome Line, a computer-controlled train that runs between Shimbashi Station and Ariake Station.

Decks Tokyo Beach is a commercial complex featuring Daiba Little Hong Kong and Tokyo Joypolis, an amusement park operated by SEGA. Next to it is Aqua City Odaiba and a 13-screen movie complex, Mediage.

The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation allows visitors to see the very latest in technology. Palette Town is a large complex with shops, amusement facilities, restaurants, and a 115-meter Ferris wheel.

Mega Web is a theme park featuring Toyota vehicles (you can test drive the cars). Venus Fort is a theme park for women, featuring an artificial sky that changes with the passage of time.

Things to see:

Beach - This beach is

artificial. You can walk along the shore, enjoy the view, sun bathe, or have a picnic. Entry is free.

The following activities are prohibited: fireworks; swimming; boating; barbecues; fishing; and throwing your garbage around.

Fuji TV studio - Fuji TV studio is now Tokyo's No. 1 sightseeing spot. You can get a panoramic view of Tokyo Bay from the studio's huge sphere (entry: ¥500). You can also visit the TV studio.

Decks Tokyo Beach - Decks Tokyo has two sections: Sea Side Mall and Island Mall. Inside are boutiques, restaurants, and FM radio studios. There is also Little Hong Kong - enter here and you are no longer in Japan, but the back streets of Hong Kong. Buy a souvenir or have some good Chinese food.

There is also a place called Microbrewery Beer. Daiba beer is Decks Tokyo's original, German-style beer.

Joypolis - A huge video game arcade (entry: ¥500). Dark and noisy and a good option when the weather outside is cold or rainy.

Aqua City - Similar to

Decks Tokyo Beach, but this place is designed as barrier free and by and large, restaurants in here are modestly priced (for Odaiba!) and some even welcome little kids.

Venus Fort - The place is done up in Renaissance style and the fountain is a "must see." Fashion and cosmetic shops, cafes and restaurants are also worth a look. Think of your wife!

Access to Odaiba:

1. Take JR Yamanote Line to Shimbashi Station. The entrance to the Yurikamome monorail is close to the Ginza exit - look for the seagull signs. Take the Yurikamome monorail to Odaiba Kaihin Koen Station (¥310).
2. If your vessel is berthed at Odaiba, board the Yurikamome monorail at Telecom Center Station and go to Odaiba Kaihin Koen Station (¥240).

