

MR KOJI SEKIMIZU



DOB: 3 December 1952

Secretary-General Emeritus, International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Chancellor Emeritus, World Maritime University (WMU).

Honorary Chairman of the Consortium of International Maritime Heritage (CIMH).

Special Advisor to the President of Kobe University, Japan.

Senior Advisor, Maritime and Port Authority Academy (MPAA), Singapore.

Distinguished Visiting Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) – Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).

Academic Background

March 1975 – Graduated with a Bachelor's degree in engineering from the Engineering Faculty of Osaka University.

March 1977 - Obtained a Master's degree in engineering from the Post-graduate School of Osaka University.

Work experience and major achievements

April 1977 - entered the Ministry of Transport of Japan (MOT) and was appointed as a Ship Inspector in the Nagasaki district branch of Kyushu Maritime Bureau.

April 1979 - moved to the Headquarters of MOT and acted as the officer in charge of IMO regulations in the Safety Planning Section of Ship Bureau.

April 1982 - promoted to Deputy Director of the Environment Division, MOT.

April 1984 - moved to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and appointed as Deputy Director, Second International Organizations Division, Economic Bureau, in charge of OECD related issues.

September 1986 - he was appointed as Deputy Director, Safety Standards Division, Maritime Technology and Safety Bureau, MOT.

2 July 1989 - he joined IMO as Technical Officer in the Sub-Division for Technology, Maritime Safety Division of IMO.

1992 - promoted to and appointed as Head of the Technology Section, IMO. After this, he worked in the Maritime Safety Division until October 1997. During this period, he performed among other things secretariat functions to the MSC Working Group on SOLAS amendments dealing with new fire protection measures for passenger ships in the wake of the Scandinavian Star incident and the MEPC/BCH Working Group on Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships, which developed the framework of MARPOL Annex VI adopted at the Marine Pollution Conference in 1997.

October 1997 - promoted to Senior Deputy Director of the Marine Environment Division, IMO.

August 2000 - appointed as Director of the Marine Environment Division, IMO. He led the Marine Environment Division in discharging its responsibilities to support the work of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in dealing with the phasing-out schedule of the single-hull tankers in the aftermath of the Erika(1999) and Prestige(2002) incidents and handled a number of emerging new environmental issues including harmful anti-fouling paints, ballast water management, ship recycling, particularly sensitive sea areas(PSSAs) and greenhouse gas emissions from ships.

January 2004 - appointed as Director of Maritime Safety Division, IMO, and contributed to the activities of IMO in preparation, adoption and implementation of international rules and regulations including:

- Implementation of the International Ship and Port Facilities Security (ISPS) Code;
- Development of the Long-range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) System;
- Development of the Goal Based Standards; and
- The comprehensive review of the 1978 Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) for Seafarers. Among the activities related to the effort to protect vital shipping lanes, he made major contributions to the creation of the Cooperative Mechanism established by the three littoral States in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore; and the adoption of the Djibouti Code of Conduct for anti-piracy activities in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

28 June 2011 - elected Secretary-General of IMO by the 106th session of the IMO Council and, having been approved by the 27th session of IMO Assembly, appointed, on 1 December 2011, the seventh elected Secretary-General of IMO by the 107th session of the Council for the initial period starting from 1 January 2012. Owing to personal reasons and his determination to provide full support to his wife in dealing with her health problems, he decided not to seek reappointment and retired from the service of IMO in the fullness of his four-year term on 31 December 2015.

During his tenure of the Secretary-General, he took a bold initiative on the Review and Reform which has led to the increased transparency, innovation and changes in the Organization through:

- restructuring of the Organization's sub-committees;
- comprehensive examination of the Organization's long-term financial sustainability and the adoption of firm budgetary policies; and
- significant improvements in the financial sustainability of the World Maritime University including the creation of the Endowment Fund.

In the legislative fields, he promoted the adoption of the Cape Town Agreement, IGF Code, Polar code and amendments to SOLAS and other Conventions to enforce Mandatory IMO Member States Audit Scheme and promoted the early

entry into force and global implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention.

In other fields of activities of IMO, he took a strong leadership in dealing with piracy, including convening of the High-level Segment of the Maritime Safety Committee, the promotion of regional cooperation among signatory States to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, the setting up of the Djibouti Regional Training Centre and the provision of support to the countries of western Africa on anti-piracy measures and secured inter-agency collaboration for the development of appropriate response to humanitarian crisis generated by unsafe mixed migration by sea. He also encouraged Member Governments to promote Maritime Heritages and initiated actions to establish the IMO Maritime Ambassadors Scheme.

IMO Assembly adopted Resolution A 1094(29) on the Appreciation of the Services to the Organization of Mr Koji Sekimizu on 2 December 2015 and designated him as Secretary-General Emeritus of the International Maritime Organization with effect from 1 January 2016.

IMO Council at this 115th session, in recognition of his outstanding and exemplary service as WMU Chancellor, accorded him, as from 1 January 2016, the title of WMU Chancellor Emeritus.

Post-retirement engagements

2016 - designated as Honorary Chairman of Consortium of International Maritime Heritage (CIMH).

2016 - appointed as Special Advisor to the President and Special Professor of Kobe University, Japan.

2016 - appointed as Distinguished Visiting Fellow of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) – Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).

2016 – appointed Senior Advisor, Maritime and Port Authority Academy (MPAA), Singapore.

2017 - established his personal institution, “Ariake Global” in Fukuoka, Japan, for the promotion of maritime heritages and the study of maritime industries and Maritime Governance.

Awards and Honours

2012

1. Golden Anchor Award for Lifetime Achievements, Turkey.
2. Doctor Honoris Causa of Batumi State Maritime Academy, Georgia.
3. Honorary Member of International Federation of Ship Masters' Associations (IFSMA).

2013

4. Halert C. Shepherd Award: Lifetime achievements for maritime safety, marine environmental protection and maritime security by American Chamber of Shipping, United States of America.

2014

5. Order of Maritime Merit, France.
6. Honorary Doctor of Science, Odessa National Maritime Academy, Ukraine.
7. Doctor Honoris Causa of Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy, Bulgaria.
8. Fellow, Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA).
9. Honorary Member of Master Mariners Association, Gdynia, Poland.

2015

10. Key of Panama, Panama City.
11. Order of Sikatuna, Grand Cross, Golden Distinction, the Philippines.
12. Order of Peruvian Cross for Naval Merit, Peru.
13. Order of Bernardo O'Higgins, Grand Officer, Chile.
14. Order of Ivorian Merit, Ivory Coast.
15. Monja Blanca Medal, Guatemala.
16. Order of Naval Merit, Grand Officer, Brazil.
17. Distinguished Public Service Award, United States Coast Guard.
18. Honorary Doctorate of Business, Plymouth University, United Kingdom.
19. Doctor Honoris Causa, International Maritime University of Panama.
20. Honorary Worker of Russian Maritime Register of Shipping, Russian Federation.

2016

21. Honorary Citizen, City of Malmö, Sweden.
22. Doctor of Science in Maritime Affairs, Honoris Causa, World Maritime University (WMU).

2017

23. International Maritime Prize 2016, IMO.

Personal and Other Matters

Married and has a daughter and a son, and two granddaughters. He plays golf and his interests include playing the guitar, composing songs and preserving traditional Japanese house made of wood and gardens.

Member of the Japan Society of Naval Architects and Ocean Engineers, the Japan Society for Nautical Research and the Alumni Society of Naval Architects of Osaka University, "Kousi Zosen Kai".

(10 September 2018)