SSAP Project makes presentation, does PR at IMO's NCSR1

To operate ships safely and efficiently, it is important to integrate and make effective use of various data on hulls, engines, navigation, meteorological & hydrographic conditions and others. Today, however, data barriers among different manufacturers, systems and types of equipment keep operators from integrating information.

For this reason, the Japan Ship Machinery and Equipment Association (JSMEA) set up a dedicated organization in fiscal 2012 (April 2012-March 2013) to discuss the consolidation of various information. Based upon the achievements made by the Shipboard LAN Project, another in-house unit, the Smart Ship Application Platform (SSAP) Project is designed to develop information infrastructure on board vessels and between ships and overland facilities to allow for the integration of information among different types of equipment and build a prototype system. The project is also responsible for testing to verify the prototype on board ships and at overland facilities toward the usefulness of information integration. In addition, The SSAP Project intends to have international standards established for the system to enhance the global competitiveness of the Japanese maritime industry.

The SSAP Project, which is made up of 26 enterprises and nine observers, is working on research projects jointly with Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK). It also receives support from ClassNK's "Joint R&D with Industry" scheme.

Currently, the tests are being conducted with help from MOL Ferry Co., Ltd. and Asahi Tanker Co., Ltd.—on board the former's ferry, Sunflower Shiretoko, and the latter's tanker newbuilding, Shin Kyokutou Maru. The SSAP Project has registered its testbed with the e-Navigation Portal (URL: http://www.e-navigation.net/index.php?page=ssap-smart-ship-application-platform) to keep pace with the portal, which is a related project led jointly by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

To unveil the achievements made so far by the SSAP Project and accelerate the establishment of the international standards, Mr. Hideyuki Ando, leader of the SSAP Project and general manager of Monohakobi Technology Institute Co., Ltd. (MTI)'s Information Group, gave a presentation and conducted public relations activities during the first meeting of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR1), which was convened at the organization's headquarters in London on June 30, 2014.

In the future, the SSAP Project will use results of the tests to come up with requirements needed to consolidate onboard information, discuss ways to make effective use of integrated information and promote the establishment of the international standards.