

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Ref. T2-OSS/2.7

Circular letter No.3175/Rev.1
1 April 2011

To: All IMO Members
United Nations and Specialized Agencies
Intergovernmental Organizations
Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status
Liberation Movements

Subject: **Navigation in the sea area surrounding Japan in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami of 11 March 2011**

1 Current radiation levels in Japan

1.1 In the wake of the earthquake and tsunami off the eastern coast of Japan on 11 March 2011 and the damage to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan, an updated joint press briefing was issued (1 April 2011) by the World Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization stating that radioactive material from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi Plant is gradually spreading outside Japan into the global atmosphere but at extremely low concentrations that do not present any health or transportation safety hazards. The United Nations Organizations continue to closely monitor the situation and will advise of any changes.

1.2 Japanese authorities confirmed that all international sea ports not damaged by the earthquake and tsunami are operating normally and that no health risk has been detected around the ports, based on the results of measurements of radiation levels by local governments. Further information covering all aspects of the response of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan as well as information regarding the radiation dose in Tokyo Bay can be found on the following websites:

http://www.mlit.go.jp/page/kanbo01_hy_001411.html
http://www.mlit.go.jp/kowan/kowan_fr1_000041.html

1.3 Screening for radiation of passengers arriving from Japan is currently considered unnecessary at airports or seaports around the world.

1.4 Further information is available on the website of the World Health Organization <http://www.who.int/en/>.

2 NAVAREA warnings

2.1 NAVAREA warnings including designated dangerous area around the Plant have been issued by the NAVAREA XI Coordinator (Japan) and also other precautionary warnings have been issued by other NAVAREA Coordinators.

3 Action required

3.1 Member Governments and organizations are invited to bring this circular to the attention of shipowners and shipmasters and advise them to comply with the latest navigational warnings issued by the NAVAREA XI Coordinator (Japan), taking into account further precautionary advice issued by other NAVAREA Coordinators, in the wake of the damage to the Plant.
