

NEWS / ASIA

FONASBA featured in Asian Shipowners' Association newsletter

FONASBA engagement has been recognised by **Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA)**, which has dedicated an article to **FONASBA's work in Asia in 2025** highlighting key achievements. Throughout 2026, FONASBA will undertake a **wide range of initiatives** and meetings across Asia in the lead-up to the **Annual General Meeting in October**. The 2026 AGM in **Tokyo** will be a key milestone for strengthen cooperation and set the course for the future of **ship agency** and **shipbroking** at global level.

[READ the full article on ASA's Newsletter →](#)



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JAFSA-FONASBA Promotional Seminar Highlights the Role and Potential of Shimizu Port

JAFSA (Japan Association of Foreign Shipping Agents) conducts annual promotional activities for both JAFSA and FONASBA at regional ports. This year, a seminar was held on 18 November at Shimizu Port (Shizuoka City, Shizuoka Prefecture), one of Japan's Three Great Beautiful Ports¹. Prior to the seminar's commencement, JAFSA Chairman Takazo Iigaki explained JAFSA's founding principles, history, and activities, and invited new members. Participants appeared highly interested in JAFSA's significance and activities. Concurrently, an overview of FONASBA – including its membership, activities, and the FQS – was introduced. Although the presentation was brief, attendees seemed equally intrigued by FONASBA as they were by JAFSA.

The seminar, themed "Creating Beautiful Ports and Towns Through Co-creation", featured a lecture by Mz Keiko Higashi, Representative Director of the Shimizu Port Colour Research Institute, a general incorporated foundation.

Nearby Shimizu Port are factories such as Yazaki Corporation, Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd, Yamaha Corporation, and Kawai Musical Instruments Manufacturing Co., Ltd., from which wire

harnesses, automotive parts, motorcycles, and musical instruments are shipped worldwide. Meanwhile, with the recent increase in visitors to Japan, the port has seen a rise in cruise ship calls as the closest port to Mount Fuji. (53 ships in fiscal year 2023, 81 ships in fiscal year 2024, with 109 ships projected for fiscal year 2025) Although



the 81 ships in FY2024 represent the highest number in Japan, Shimizu Port's global recognition appears low. Shimizu Port initiated its Beautiful Port Creation Plan in 1990. In 1992, the 'Shimizu Port Colour Scheme Promotion Council' was established, comprising academics, port-related com-

panies, citizen representatives, and national, prefectural, and municipal administrative bodies. This council has fostered a collaborative public-private effort. Mz Higashi, who spearheaded this initiative, aimed to create a port space where citizens, port operators, and users unite, mindful of the landscape while considering the region's natural environment and history.

The goal was to harmonize the three functions of logistics, production, and daily life, enabling them to interact and achieve high-level functionality. Considering harmony with Shimizu Port's natural scenery, aqua blue and white were designated as the port's symbolic colours. Beyond merely defining colours, this initiative has driven the development of the entire waterfront space, shaping the Beautiful Port of Shimizu. This public-private partnership has elevated Shimizu

Port to one of Japan's Three Great Beautiful Ports. It is hoped that Shimizu Port will gain recognition alongside the world's three great beautiful ports (Sydney, San Francisco, Rio de Janeiro), and that it may serve as a reference for future port development.

¹ Japan's Three Great Beautiful Ports: Kobe, Nagasaki, Shimizu

OCTOBER 11TH 2026

FONASBA Annual General Meeting Tokyo, Japan 2026

WHERE SHIPPING LEADERS MEET



FONASBA
Annual
Meeting 2026
Save the Date
Tokyo,
11-14 October

Save The Date: 11-14 October 2026 |
FONASBA Annual Meeting.

We are delighted to announce that the FONASBA Annual Meeting 2026 will take place in **Tokyo, Japan**, kindly hosted by our esteemed Japanese members, **JAFSA**. The week will begin with a **Welcome Reception on 11 October 2026**, as we are warmly received by **Mr. Iigaki-san** and his team. This will be followed by three days of

seminars and discussions, culminating in the **FONASBA Council Meeting on 14 October**, and concluding with a traditional **Gala Dinner** celebrating our cooperation and renowned Japanese hospitality. The Tokyo meeting will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues in one of the **world's most dynamic and fascinating cities**. Further details will follow in due course.

Registrations will open on June 1st.

OPEN LETTER

FONASBA Supports Coastal States' Call for Strengthened Maritime Safety and Recognizes the Vital Role of Ship and Port Agents

FONASBA welcomes the **Open Letter** issued by the Coastal States of the **Baltic Sea** and the **North Sea** addressing the growing risks to **Maritime Safety**, including **GNSS** interference, **AIS** manipulation, and the importance of strict compliance with international maritime conventions.



The statement reinforces a key message long supported by FONASBA: **effective maritime safety depends not only on regulation and technology, but also on the competence and accountability of qualified professionals operating at the frontline.**

Ship and port agents operate at the interface between vessels, ports, authorities, and shipowners, and are directly involved in the practical application of **safety, security, and compliance** requirements. As such, **ship agents** are integral stakeholders within the maritime safety ecosystem, contributing daily to the protection of national interests and critical port and maritime infrastructure. Port agents, in particular, represent essential links in national and international safety and certification chains, helping to translate regulatory frameworks into effective operational practice.

FONASBA encourages members to reference this communication in discussions with national authorities and stakeholders when highlighting the strategic value of ship and port agents within national maritime safety architectures.

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