

**MoU Signing ceremony between the  
“Maria Tsakos” Foundation and ClassNK  
29<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**Speech by Mr. Noboru Ueda,  
Chairman & President of ClassNK**

Dear Captain Panagiotis Tsakos, Founder of the Tsakos Group,

Dear Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, Chairman of the “Maria Tsakos” Foundation,

Distinguished guests,

I am Noboru Ueda, Chairman and President of ClassNK.

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for being invited to participate in the significant and valuable activities of Maria Tsakos Foundation. This Foundation’s philosophy and projects are worthy of tremendous praise for their contributions to the future of the maritime industry.

I am very glad that today we are signing an MoU to establish and commit to co-operate on maritime research projects between the Maria Tsakos Foundation and ClassNK. It is also my great pleasure to note that we have committed and are already a part of the ongoing S.H.I.P.S. Project.

As everyone here is no doubt aware, seaborne trade plays a key role in the world economy. It is truly an indispensable activity, and seafarers play an essential role throughout the industry. In that sense, I am pleased that our first joint project is in a field that will certainly contribute to making their working conditions safer and more secure.

As one of the world’s largest classification societies, ClassNK has served as a global regulator in accordance with its own rules and international regulations throughout our 114-year history. However, we recognize that the expected role of classification societies has expanded from that of a regulator to also that of an innovator in the industry.

In order to adequately address industry demands, ClassNK has stepped up its contribution to R&D. In fact, we are involved in joint projects with numerous industry players such as shipowners, shipbuilders, marine suppliers, and academic institutions.

Again, I would like to express my gratitude for having been invited by the “Maria Tsakos” Foundation to take part in this meaningful collaboration. I firmly believe that the “Maria Tsakos” Foundation and ClassNK will be able to build a strong partnership and work towards a better future for the maritime history.

Thank you very much.

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